



A Legislative Report from Rep. Barbara Boyd

9th District of Ohio • Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, University Heights and Parts of Cleveland



Barbara Boyd
State Representative

Dear Constituents,

Amidst unprecedented economic times, the Ohio General Assembly passed a balanced two-year state budget on July 13, 2009 that will help our state recover from the national recession. It was a difficult process, but all parties worked tirelessly for a resolution. It has also historically been the most difficult budget to pass in the House and Senate that I have experienced in my tenure as a State Representative. I am pleased that we crafted a budget that was approved by the House and Senate and signed by Governor Ted Strickland on July 17, 2009.

These are challenging and unique times. In this unpredictable economic climate, there are no easy answers. Families across Ohio are struggling, and the state has fewer resources available to meet greater needs. But we are preparing for a brighter tomorrow by prioritizing education and job creation – crucial components to position us for recovery once the national recession lifts.

The comprehensive education reform plan found in the budget will replace a broken funding system with one based on student needs. It focuses on evidence from successful schools around the country and incorporates the key elements of quality education. These include things like all-day kindergarten, smaller classes, improved teacher quality, and greater fiscal accountability for school districts. By investing in education, we will help prepare our children for the challenges of 21st century global economy.

The national recession has prompted some very tough decisions in the budget; however we were able to soften the impact to libraries by restoring two-thirds of the funds that were originally proposed to be cut. It is important to note that even after this difficult budget, Ohio's library system will remain the top state-funded library system per capita in the United States.

Health care coverage for Ohio families was also extended. The budget significantly lowers the amount an insurance company can charge a patient with a pre-existing condition so that more people can receive the care they need without devastating their pocketbooks. We will be looking to the United States Senate and House to continue to help shape our health care reform and initiatives.

We believe this budget supports Ohio and her citizens by leveraging our resources and creating opportunities for tomorrow. If you have ideas or suggestions for how to further strengthen Ohio please feel free to contact my office. Together we can ensure a brighter future for our state.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyd
State Representative

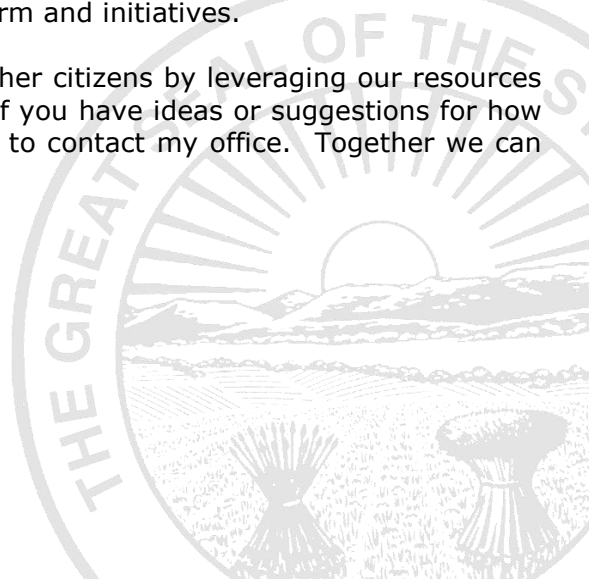
CONTACT

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district09@ohr.state.oh.us



How To Contact Representative Barbara Boyd

You have several options if you would like to contact Representative Boyd. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions and will do everything we can to help you. We also welcome invitations to speak to your group or organization.



Via Telephone (Columbus Office)

Direct Phone: (614) 644-5079

Toll-Free Messaging System:
(800) 282-0253

Direct Fax: (614) 719-0009

District Phone/Fax Line:
(216) 371-3888



Via Electronic Mail (E-Mail)

To contact the office via e-mail,
please use the following address:
district09@ohr.state.oh.us

Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)



Hon. Barbara Boyd
State Representative, 9th District
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Help is Available to Prevent Foreclosures

Important Contact Numbers to Save

Foreclosures are a devastating threat to our families and our communities. You work hard and make sacrifices to achieve the American Dream of homeownership. But the unexpected—job loss, death of a spouse, illness, divorce, or rising mortgage payments—can threaten that dream. There is help available, however. Below are some phone numbers of groups and organizations that may be able to help you.

United Way Services First Call For Help 216-436-2000 or 2-1-1

Foreclosure Prevention Program of Cuyahoga County 216-443-8182

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland 216-458-4663

ESOP, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People 216-361-0718

Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Cleveland 216-378-9042

Minneapolis-based Homeowners Preservation Foundation 1-888-9954673

Housing Advocated Emergency Assistance 216-431-7400

Community Housing Solutions 216-231-5815

Court of Common Pleas Foreclosure Mediation Program 216-443-8726

Ohio's Save the Dream Hotline 1-888-404-4674



SAVE THE
dream
OHIO'S FORECLOSURE
PREVENTION EFFORT

IMPORTANT TIP:

Contact your mortgage loan servicer at the first sign that you may have difficulty in making your mortgage payment. Explain your circumstances and ask to participate in a workout resolution. Even if the foreclosure process has started, it is not too late to reach out to your servicer.

Ohio House Passes Balanced Budget

Investing in Ohio's Future through Job Creation and Educational Excellence



It was a difficult process, but Ohio now has a balanced state budget. This two-year framework positions Ohio for both a short- and long-term economic recovery because it invests

in job creation and education. Both of these important tools allow Ohio to leverage resources and create a brighter future.

We have protected Ohio's commitment to affordable college tuition by limiting potential tuition increases to just 3.5 percent. We have also made many painful and unpopular spending cuts, but we have done so in a way that reduces the size of government while still protecting our most vulnerable Ohioans.

The national economic downturn has hurt states all across the country. Ohio faced similar challenges but we were able to provide a balanced budget that reduces spending, protects vital services and prioritizes education and job creation to help move Ohio's economy forward.

Highlights of Budget Priorities

• **JOB CREATION AND MOVING OHIO FORWARD**

While maintaining vital services for many vulnerable Ohioans was our first priority, we are also prioritizing job creation. We cannot move Ohio forward without a keen focus on making sure our economy is growing. This budget provides incentives for job creation efforts such as the new markets tax credit to encourage investments into low income areas. Additional efforts include a film tax credit, a sporting event incentive, a technology investment tax credit and an expansion of the job creation and job retention tax credit. We have also renewed the Venture Capital Fund, which provides loans to start-up companies. This is especially important in a tight credit market. We have also supported the Rapid Outreach Grants program.

• **COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION REFORM**

Ohio's future is in our young people, and their future depends on the best possible schools. That is why this budget includes a comprehensive education reform plan to replace the current broken funding system with one based on student needs. It also begins modernizing the classroom for the twenty-first century and significantly strengthens financial accountability and teacher quality.

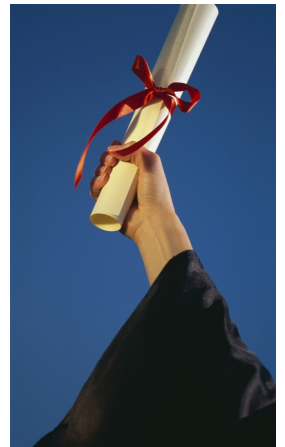
• **KEEPING COLLEGE TUITION AFFORDABLE**

Even under the strain of a difficult budget, Ohio will keep its commitment to affordable college tuition by capping tuition increases at 3.5 percent for the next two years. Improving access to a college education is critical for Ohio to prepare its students for the challenges of the 21st

century economy. Compared to annual tuition growth rates of approximately 10 percent in the previous decade, this 3.5 percent cap will keep our promise to provide affordable, high quality college education for Ohio's students.

• **MAINTAINING VITAL SERVICES IN A TOUGH ECONOMY**

Ohioans are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the national economic downturn. However, even under the strain of a very difficult budget, Ohio will preserve vital services for those who are most vulnerable. We have fought to restore funding for a variety of programs such as county child and adult protective services, Ohio's food banks, mental health services, Help Me Grow, and Kinship Care. We have also dramatically reduced the original cuts to public libraries. COBRA Healthcare coverage will also be available to the families of those who have lost their jobs.



**....A Balanced Budget
in a Tough National
Economy**

Ohio Explores Reviving Passenger Rail Service

Studies Underway to Determine Feasibility



Passenger trains have a major role in the history of Ohio, and they could play a big part in our future. Rail service would be a good, affordable transportation alternative that would keep cars off the highway, easing

congestion and pollution while creating jobs.

The State Transportation Budget approved by the Ohio House and signed by the Governor calls for a study of the idea of bringing passenger trains back to Ohio, even high speed trains. A study is underway now on what kind of revenue and ridership Ohio might see.

The law also includes working with Amtrak to improve existing service between Toledo and Cleveland with an eye toward connecting Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati and points in between. Amtrak is making recommendations on which routes would make the most sense for connecting Ohio cities.



Ohio is vying for federal stimulus dollars to support the funding for these projects.

How Will Ohio Business Benefit?

- According to the American Public Transit Association, it is reasonable to expect 24 new jobs created for every \$1 million invested in public transportation projects.
- A fully-built Ohio Hub system will generate an estimated 6,000+ construction jobs alone over the project lifetime. In excess of 16,000 jobs will be generated by development in and around station stops and along the corridors.

Information provided by the Ohio Rail Development Commission

What Will It Cost?

The average per mile fare nationally on Amtrak is approximately \$.14 cents. That translates to an average of around \$20 to \$25 for a one-way ticket at conventional speeds (79 MPH max) between Columbus and Cleveland, for instance.

Who Will Ride Trains in Ohio?

- 8.6% of Ohioans who either do not have access to a motor vehicle or are physically unable to drive.
 - Generations of young people, both students and professionals. Noted author Richard Florida calls them "The Creative Class": an estimated 40 million strong, making up 30% of the U.S. workforce, with 50% of wages earned and controlling nearly 70% of discretionary spending in the US and who are or are seeking to be less and less dependent on owning and operating a motor vehicle.
 - Growing population of older Ohioans who find driving difficult: the U.S. Census predicts that Ohioans age 65 and over will account for over 16% of the total state population by the year 2015 and 20% by 2030.
 - Ohio business people who can be more productive without the hassles of highway travel.
- #### **Do Ohio Cities Benefit From Where The Train Stops?**
- Train stations can be multi-purpose, serving as hubs for both intercity passenger trains and local mass transit (both rubber-tired and rail-based).
 - Stations can include small businesses that cater to passengers: coffee shops, sandwich shops, dry cleaners, newsstands, etc. The neighborhood around the stations can also see new development.



Comprehensive Education Reform Plan Approved

Based on Students Needs; Funding System Constitutional



It has been more than a dozen years since Ohio's school funding system was declared unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court. Now, through House Bill 1, Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan will replace the state's broken school funding system with one based on the key elements of a quality education such as smaller classes, better-supported teachers and more learning time for students.

By investing in these proven education methods, Ohio will finally have a funding system that provides resources based on student needs, reduces reliance on local property tax and directs resources to the students with the greatest educational challenges.

Ohio's economy will succeed when Ohio's schools succeed. The better the education our young people receive, the better equipped they will be to compete in the 21st century economy. Their skills and leadership will be crucial for the future prosperity of all Ohioans, and we need to ensure they have the best possible teachers and tools to learn.

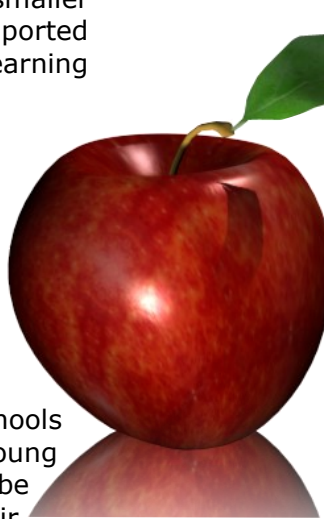
Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan

Replaces a Broken Funding System with One that Meets Every Student's Needs

- Provides resources to districts with the greatest educational challenges
- Lowers local taxpayer burden and increases the state's contribution
- Reduces the number of times schools will need voters to pass levies

Begins Modernizing Ohio's Classrooms for the 21st Century

- Directs resources to methods that help kids learn – smaller classes, better teachers, more learning time
- Replaces the Ohio Graduation Test with the ACT to promote college advancement
- Leverages technology to enhance learning and prepares students with the skills to compete in today's ever-changing, global economy



Strengthens Accountability & Improves Teacher Quality

- Establishes regular review of school district spending plans
- Develops a residency program and enhances professional development opportunities
- Strengthens licensing standards for principals and disciplinary guidelines for teachers

Additional Highlights

- Requires school districts to offer all-day kindergarten.
- Reduces the five excused calamity days to three calamity days for the 2010-2011 school year, requires the State Board of Education to offer recommendation on extending the school year.
- Develops a new high school assessment system to replace the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) that consists of (1) a nationally standardized college prep assessment (2) a series of end-of-course examinations, and (3) a senior project.



Creating an Energy Efficient Ohio

Ohio House Leads Efforts Toward Smart Solutions

Energy efficiency is a hot topic across Ohio. It is important that we think outside the box to create smart energy solutions to reduce our usage and protect our environment for future generations.

The Ohio House has already made a strong statement in support of energy efficiency by voting to establish the Advanced Energy Resource Center at



Ohio University. The center will cultivate our state's green-collar economy by providing technical expertise to local governments looking to develop projects that incorporate advanced energy. It will also serve as a networking resource for local governments and advanced energy companies.

Legislators have also introduced H.B. 7, which requires any building constructed using state capital expenditures bill money to meet LEED certification. The LEED rating system and building certification are developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit coalition.

Obtaining LEED certification demonstrates that a building is environmentally friendly. Energy savings, improved indoor environmental quality and emissions reductions are some of the factors considered in the design and construction of a building.

There are both environmental and financial benefits to earning LEED certification. Achieving certification allows companies to take advantage of a number of state and local government incentives.

Education is also going green. The Ohio Schools Facility Commission oversees all construction projects for the state's public schools. In particular, they created The Energy Conservation Program to help school districts make energy efficiency improvements. The districts can use the money they save on energy bills to pay for the building upgrades.

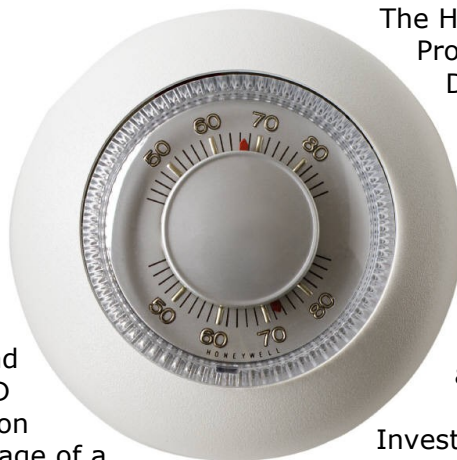
The bill allows school districts to borrow money for construction without going to the ballot. This lets them save millions in utility bills and operating expenses at no additional costs to taxpayers.

Tips on How to Save Energy

Ohio is among the top ten energy users in the nation. Here are some ways you can conserve:

- In summer, **set** your air conditioner no lower than 78 degrees. In winter, **set** it no higher than 65 degrees.
- **Match** your energy use to what you need. Use free daylight when you can. Turn off lights, appliances and equipment when not in use. Install and use motion sensors, time of day controls, and programmable thermostats.

Courtesy Ohio Department of Development



The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) offered by the Ohio Department of Development helps Ohioans to reduce both their energy usage and utility bills. HWAP is available for free to residents who meet certain annual income levels. After an electrically-heated home has been "weatherized," it uses 13% less energy. That means lower bills, and fewer people needing payment assistance.

Investments in energy efficiency policies and programs have the benefit of saving Ohioans money, creating jobs, bolstering our economy, and creating a cleaner environment.