

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC TREASURERS

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OML Executive Director

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What is OML?



The primary connection point between municipal and state government in Ohio

- Founded in 1912
- Over 732 cities and villages as members
- Lobbying / Advocacy
 - The Montrose Group
- Training Events & Best Practices
- 24-member Board of Trustees
 - Current Chair – Zanesville Mayor Don Mason

Subsidiary Member Organizations

Mayors Association of Ohio

Municipal Engineers Association of Ohio

Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ohio

Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors

Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association

135th GA (2023-2024) OML Advocacy

1065
BILLS
INTRODUCED

183
BILLS
TRACKED BY
OML

OML Policy Agenda



- Restore Local Government Fund
- Ensure Effectiveness of the Municipal Income Tax
- Preserve Home Rule
- No Unfunded Mandates
- Pension Accountability
- Protect Public Safety
- Invest In Public Infrastructure
- Housing
- Partner to Fight Opioid Addiction





Statehouse Environment

- **136th Ohio General Assembly**
 - Senate – 25 Republicans; 8 Democrats
 - House – 68 Republicans; 31 Democrats

State Finances

- For the FY2025 year-to-date (through March 2024), tax revenues exceed estimate by \$529.5 million (2.6%).
- Rainy Day Fund sits at \$3.9billion as of April 2025



Legislative Leadership



House Speaker Matt Huffman
R-Lima, Allen County



Senate President Rob McColley
R-Napoleon, Henry County

Transportation Budget – HB54

- \$11.5 over the 2026-2027 biennium
- Focused on highway construction and targeted safety upgrades
- Requires ODOT to provide assistance to a village when requested related to snow and ice removal and removal of grass, weed, and other natural growth
- Reduces funding for regional planning organizations to \$3 million per fiscal year
- Provides \$13.5 million per fiscal year for the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership program
- Creates a Division of Advanced Air Mobility



House-passed Budget – HB96

- \$91.5 billion in mostly state general revenue / \$202.7 billion in all funds over the 2026-2027 biennium
- Removed Gov. DeWine's proposals on tax increases to marijuana excise tax, sports gaming, and tobacco products
- Increases Local Government Fund percentage from 1.7% to 1.75%
- Lowers distributions to communities that host marijuana dispensaries from 36% of the overall excise tax to 20% and stops the distributions after five years
- \$250 million for brownfields and \$43 million for site demolition



Additional Budget Provisions



- Implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1, reduces MARCS radio fees, funds \$5 million per year for body-worn camera grants, and funds narcotics task forces
- Requires a petitioner of a local option election for alcohol sales to pay the entire cost of an election if it is the only issue on the ballot
- Adds funding for Cemetery Grant Program
- Increases the cap on the Ohio historic building preservation tax credit from \$60 million to \$90 million
- Provides \$2.5 million per year to the Welcome Home Ohio Program to provide grants for the purchase of qualifying residential properties, the cost of construction or rehabilitation, or a nonrefundable tax credit for qualifying activities
- Requires a public body to establish a method for announcing meetings on its website, instead of requiring that the method be established by rule
- Exempts broadband internet access service from Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regulation
- Requires Pharmacy Benefit Managers to reimburse Ohio pharmacies for the actual drug acquisition cost plus a minimum dispensing fee, which would result in new fees per prescription of between \$10.50 and \$15.47 and take away employer flexibility



OML Budget Requests

- Increase LGF to 2.5% of general revenues
- Preserve funding for marijuana dispensary host communities
- Two municipal seats on Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund Board
- Funding for housing technical assistance
- Restore funding for lead abatement programs
- Remove eminent domain/recreational trail provision
- Remove broadband de-regulation language
- Add specification as a qualifier for HB331 (135th GA)

Miscellaneous Budget Provisions



- Boosts pay raises by 5% for justices, judges, and county and township officials
- Requires porn websites to verify that users in Ohio are at least 18 years old before accessing site
- Allows Ohioans to order fireworks online
- Replaces Ohio Elections Commission
- Seeks federal permission to stop allowing Ohioans to use SNAP for sugar-sweetened drinks
- Has county coroners be appointed by county commissioners rather than elected
- Creates cap on how much a school district can carryover in its budget from year to year. Any district that exceeds a carryover of more than 30% of its operating budget would be required to refund that money to taxpayers.

Priorities of 136th General Assembly



**PROPERTY
TAXES**

**HOUSING
STRATEGIES**

ENERGY

**K-12
FUNDING**

**RECREATIONAL
MARIJUANA**

Property Tax Legislation



- **HB28 - ELIMINATE REPLACEMENT PROPERTY TAX LEVY**
To eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies.
(Passed by House 3/19; Senate Ways and Means Committee)
- **HB89 - TEMPORARY PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION**
To authorize a temporary property tax reduction.
- **HB103 - INCREASE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AMOUNT, INCOME LIMIT**
To increase the homestead exemption amount and income limit.
- **HB143 - HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION-LONG-TERM OWNERSHIP**
To authorize an enhanced property tax homestead exemption for certain long-term homeowners.
- **HB179 - STATEWIDE SCREENING-PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS**
To create a statewide screening system for certain property tax reductions and to make an appropriation.

Property Tax Legislation



- **HB215 - SET PROPERTY TAX LEVY DELAY**
To prohibit most property tax levies submitted at a general election from taking effect in the current tax year.
- **HB232 - LAW CHANGES-PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS**
To modify the law governing certain property tax complaints.
- **SB42 - AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVT.-RESIDENTIAL STABILITY ZONES**
To authorize local governments to create residential stability zones where homeowners may qualify for a partial property tax exemption.
- **SB81 - AUTHORIZE PROPERTY TAX FREEZE-OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES**
To authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.
- **SB83 - REVISE VARIOUS HOUSING LAWS**
To revise the law governing eviction, residential building code enforcement, and real property transfers.

Housing in Ohio...

- In Central Ohio alone:
 - The region is driving Ohio's economic growth but is slowing down due to a lack of housing
 - The region needs 18,000 new residential permits but only is creating 13,000 permits annually, driving up housing costs with listing price increases higher than Austin, Nashville, and Charlotte
- Rural Ohio counties 2.4% population decline creates challenges recruiting housing developers even though they led the state in manufacturing jobs
- **SB83 - REVISE VARIOUS HOUSING LAWS**
To revise the law governing eviction, residential building code enforcement, and real property transfers. (Referred to Senate Judiciary)



ISSUES OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST...

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Legislation



- House Bill 296 (135th GA) to increase contribution amounts that employers of full-time municipal police officers must make to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund from 19.5% to 24%
- Passed the House in December; Died in the Senate
- Projected to cost municipalities an additional \$82 million annually
- Negative recommendation from Ohio Retirement Study Council
- SB69 introduced declaring intent to make state pension reforms



A close-up photograph of vibrant green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, filling the left side of the slide. The leaves are densely packed and show various shades of green, from bright lime to deep forest green. A thin red line runs diagonally across the image, separating it from the dark blue header.

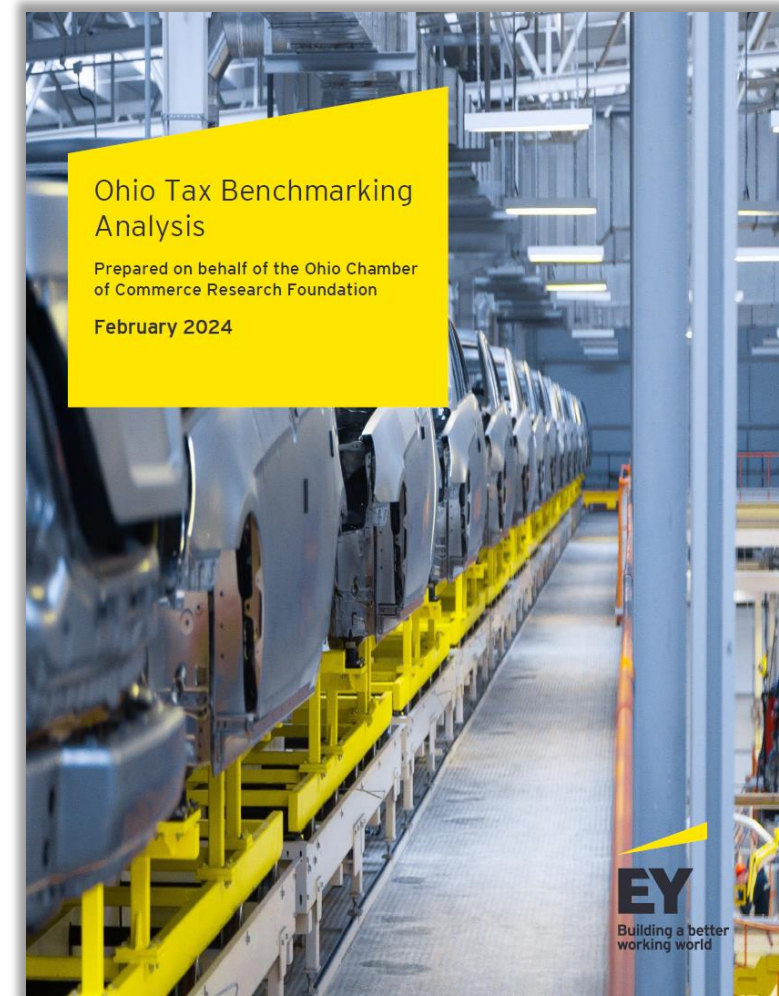
Recreational Marijuana

- House and Senate reached no agreement on changes related to the recreational marijuana law in 2023 and throughout 135th GA
- **Senate Bill 56** was passed by Senate and includes public smoking ban, a cap on active dispensaries at 350, and a reduction on home-grown plants. No tax changes of hemp provisions.
- **House Bill 160** received its first committee hearing and is said to be closer to State Issue 2. It includes host community tax reduction, as well as provisions on hemp and expungement.

Municipal Income Tax



- Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation and Ernst & Young commissioned a study comparing Ohio's business climate to peer states and communities.
- Business groups are seeking changes to municipal income taxes, saying state and local taxes hurt competitiveness and compliance costs are too high
- Formation of Ohio Taxpayer Protection Act Coalitions (Ohio Chamber, Ohio Society of CPAs, and Ohio REALTORS)
- Push for centralized collection or a regional, third-party approach; eliminating net profits, increasing occasional entrant rule; requiring reciprocity



House Preemption Bills



HB68

Allows a concealed handgun licensee to **carry a handgun in a building or structure that is not a courthouse** but in which a courtroom is located (no local prohibition)

*First hearing in House
Public Safety Committee*

HB92 / *SB118

Restricts what should take place when renters leave a property with **unpaid utility bills**, which typically falls to the property owner but would instead fall to the responsible ratepayer having to pay for the unpaid bills

*First hearing in House
Local Government
Committee*

HB109 / *SB104

Limits the authority of local governments to regulate **short-term rentals**

*First hearing in House
Development Committee*

HB223

Prohibits political subdivisions from **purchasing a United States or Ohio flag** that was not made in the United States

*Referred to Government
Oversight Committee*

House Preemption Bills continued



HB182

Prohibits a public water system from adding **fluoride** to its water

*Referred to House
Natural Resources
Committee*

Senate Preemption Bills



SB63

Prohibit **ranked choice** voting and withhold LGF distributions from a municipality that uses it

*Third hearing in Senate
General Government
Committee*

SB104

Limits the authority of local governments to regulate **short-term rentals**

*Third hearing in Senate
Local Government
Committee*

SB118

Restricts what should take place when renters leave a property with **unpaid utility bills**, which typically falls to the property owner but would instead fall to the responsible ratepayer having to pay for the unpaid bills

*Referred to Senate
Local Government
Committee*

Other Legislation



Multi-jurisdictional Issues

- **HB83 - ODOT RESPONSIBILITIES-HIGHWAYS IN VILLAGES, CITIES**
To clarify and amend the laws related to the Director of Transportation's responsibilities for state highways located in villages and cities. *Introduced 2/11/25; House Transportation Committee, Sponsor Testimony*
- **HB154 - SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVAL-CRA EXEMPTIONS**
To require school district approval of residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions. *Introduced 3/6/2025; House Local Government Committee; Sponsor Testimony*
- **HB113 - LAW CHANGES-ANNEXATION, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS, TAX EXEMPTIONS**
To modify the law regarding annexation and financial disclosure forms, and to require school district approval of residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions. *Introduced 2/18/2025; House Local Government Committee; Sponsor Testimony*
- **SB173 - REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT TERRITORY ANNEXATIONS**
Regarding school district territory annexations. *Introduced 4/8/2025; Senate Education Committee*

Other Legislation



Development Incentives

- **HB209 - CREATE INCOME TAX EXEMPTION-TIPS**

To exempt tips from state, municipal, and school district income taxes. *Introduced 3/31/2025; House Ways and Means Committee*

- **SB29 - CREATION-JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

To allow two or more municipalities to create a joint economic development district without involving a township. *Introduced 1/22/2025; Senate Local Government Committee; Opponent Testimony 2/26/25*

Other Legislation



Immigration-related Bills

- **HB26 - REQUIRE STATE, LOCAL IMMIGRATION COOPERATION**
To require state and local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws, to prescribe funding reductions for noncompliance, to name this act the Protecting Ohio Communities Act. *Introduced 1/28/2025; House Public Safety Committee*
- **HB200 - IMMIGRATION PROHIBITIONS, REQUIRE ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION**
To enact the America First Act to prohibit a person who is unlawfully present in the United States from entering or being present in Ohio, to require law enforcement agencies and detention facilities to cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and to withhold state local government funds from a subdivision that does not abide by the act. *Introduced 3/25/2025; House Public Safety Committee*
- **SB172 - UNLAWFULLY PRESENT IN U.S.-NOT PRIVILEGED FROM ARREST**
To specify that persons who are unlawfully present in the United States are not privileged from arrest. *Introduced 4/8/2025; Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee*

STATEWIDE ISSUES...

State Issue 2



Issue 2 – on the May 6 ballot – renews the Ohio Public Works Commission’s State Capital Improvement Program.

- Uses bonding to help communities fix roads, bridges, sewers, and water systems.
- \$250 million per year over 10 years
- Supports every county in the state.
- Does not raise taxes.

Vote May 6th

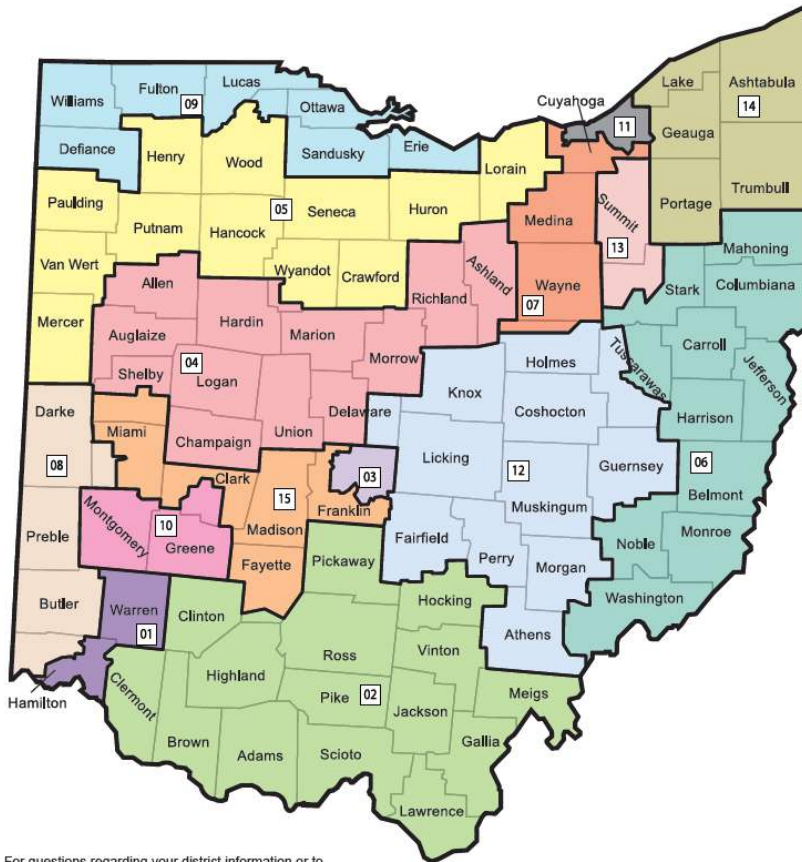


yes2buildohio.com



U.S. Congressional Districts 2022-2026

(as adopted 03/2022)



For questions regarding your district information or to confirm your district information for your address, please contact your county board of elections at OhioSoS.gov/boards

Last Revised 01/2023

Congressional Redistricting

- Traditionally map is redrawn every 10 years, after federal census.
- Because the Ohio Redistricting Commission adopted the current map by a simple majority vote, and not the specified bipartisan vote, it expires after four years and must be replaced for 2026-2030.
- Redistricting must be completed by Sept. 30, 2025
- The maps approved for the 2022 elections faced multiple legal challenges but were ultimately used due to looming election deadlines.
- State Issue 1, to Establish the Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative, failed in Nov. 2024.





Looking ahead...

- Completion of Operating Budget
- Summer Recess

What can you do to help?

- **Messaging**
 - Talk to your legislators
- **Testimony**
 - In person or written
- **Stay Informed**
 - Legislative Bulletin
 - Webinars
 - Email ListServ



THANK YOU!

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