

A legislative update from
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Dear Neighbor,

I hope your summer has been going well and you have been outside enjoying the warm, sunny days! In this month's newsletter, I want to give you a brief update on what has been happening here at the Statehouse with the budget.

On June 26th, the state budget was officially passed by both the House and the Senate and sent to the Governor's desk for a signature. Every Democrat and a few Republicans in both chambers voted no on this budget for a multitude of reasons including that it shortchanged schools, slashed funding for healthcare, gave tax breaks to billionaires, and did not provide property tax relief.

On June 30th, Gov. DeWine signed the budget into law, and also announced that he line-item vetoed 67 provisions - the highest number of line-item vetoes of any budget under any governor in Ohio. When a Republican Governor vetoes 67 items in his party's budget, it just confirms how terrible it really is. While these vetoes certainly make the budget slightly less harmful, the fight is not over yet. All 67 of these provisions are subject to a veto override by the legislature until the end of the GA in December 2026.

The Speaker reconvened the House during our summer recess to attempt to override three vetoes related to property taxes and local budgets. They ended up only having the votes to override one of those provisions; a provision that would eliminate certain types of levies, like emergency and replacement levies. This will cause issues for schools, police and fire departments, and local governments in the future who are trying to raise funds so they can continue providing critical services to their communities. Both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate have indicated that they might have the votes to override other vetoes. The biggest ones they are looking to override are the culture war issues. My ask to you is that you remain vigilant and put pressure on the leadership in the House and Senate to not override the Governor's vetoes. I will be fighting to prevent these veto override votes from being scheduled, and if any make it to the House floor, I will be voting no.

As always, if you have any thoughts, questions, or concerns, I love hearing from my constituents, so please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,
Anita Somani, M.D.



Anita Somani, M.D
House District 8

Property Tax Information

Property taxes have been a hot topic this General Assembly, and the exponential increase in property tax costs over recent years has been a subject of concern for many Ohioans. To start with, it's important to know what property taxes fund and what sustainable solutions are available.

What are my property taxes used for?

Property taxes fund many things, including schools, police, fire, emergency services, and local governments. Most local schools rely heavily on property taxes for their yearly budget. If we funded these services appropriately at the Statehouse, this wouldn't be the case. In Ohio, local governments may also direct property tax funds to agencies like ADAMH boards and local Departments of Aging. They are also used to fund everything from 911 emergency services to maintaining local infrastructure like roads and parks. You may think that these services are not important for you, but having these services within a community improves your property values.

Why have property taxes increased so much in recent years?

This has happened for a multitude of reasons, including sharp increases in inflation and property values. But there is another issue at play here: the state has not paid its fair share for these services in decades. By cutting funds to public schools and local governments over the last few decades, it has forced more frequent local levies on the ballots. To understand this issue better, this article explains this issue well: <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2025/08/who-broke-property-taxes-how-state-actions-shifted-the-burdens-to-communities.html>

What solutions do we have to this problem?

Property taxes need to be addressed by the state legislature. This can be done through targeted relief programs, like an expanded homestead exemption, and by increasing the state's share of funding. Unfortunately, the options presented by the GOP do not actually provide targeted relief—instead, they take a hatchet to school and local government budgets. Options like abolishing property taxes or the state income tax won't solve this issue. Suggestions to increase the sales tax to make up the deficit would lead to a 50% increase in sales tax. Schools and local governments cannot function without property tax funding.

House Democrats have introduced several pieces of common-sense solutions to this issue:

- **HB 365** (Brennan, D. Hall) - Creates an income-based circuit breaker to provide property tax relief to those who need it most
- **HB 103** (Troy, Hall) - Increases the income threshold to qualify for the homestead exemption for seniors
- **HB 143** (Brennan, Mathews) - Increases the amount exempted from taxes under the homestead exemption
- **HB 156** (Isaacsohn, Hall) - Property tax freeze for seniors

These bills are all currently in the House Ways and Means Committee. Contact Chair Bill Roemer at rep31@ohiohouse.gov or **(614) 644-5085** and tell him that these bills provide desperately needed property tax relief for Ohioans!