



A Legislative Report from Rep. Kenny Yuko

7th District of Ohio • Cities of Euclid and South Euclid, Richmond Heights and Collinwood



Kenny Yuko
State Representative

Dear Constituents,

As we begin the legislative business of the 128th General Assembly, our singular focus is very simple: you. We want to always work in your best interests, helping you and your family live better lives. That is our mission and responsibility.

I approach that responsibility with optimism, even in the face of these challenging times. This is an opportunity to truly shape the path of our future, and working with you will help seize that moment in time to create prosperity for the future.

House Speaker Armond Budish recently outlined his vision for the state to improve the lives of Ohioans and lift those who cannot lift themselves. Among his key ideas:

- Establish Ohio as a leader for "entrepreneurial capitalism with an economic policy built on innovation and growth"
- Create a "compact with Ohio cities" to spur a re-birth of urban centers and making our cities magnets for talent, jobs and investment
- Make Ohio a center for "green-collar" jobs
- Begin to implement reform that allows every student the opportunity to receive a high quality education

These goals, combined with those outlined by Governor Ted Strickland in his State of the State address, create a bold agenda for the next two years. We face extraordinary challenges in Ohio, but my optimism remains high that, by working together, we can find practical solutions to move Ohio forward and create a long-term plan for prosperity.

You can offer your questions, comments and suggestions anytime. I always look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

CONTACT

Columbus Office

7th District
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 466-8012
Toll-free: (800) 282-0253
Fax: (614) 719-0007

Or E-mail At:
district07@ohr.state.oh.us



Contacting Representative Kenny Yuko

You have several options if you would like to contact Representative Yuko. 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) 466-8012

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

Direct Fax: (614) 719-0007

Via Electronic Mail (E-Mail)

To contact the office via e-mail,
please use the following address:

district07@ohr.state.oh.us

Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)

Hon. Kenny Yuko
State Representative, 7th District
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215



Important State Contact Information

Ohio House of Representatives

www.house.state.oh.us

Legislative Information 800-282-0253

Insurance, Department of

<http://ohioinsurance.gov/>

Consumer Hotline 800-686-1526

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program
800-686-1578

Jobs and Family Services, Department of

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

Veteran Services Division 800-253-4060

Unemployment Compensation Hotline 877-644-6562

Motor Vehicles, Bureau of

<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-589-TAGS

Public Safety, Department of

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/>

Highway Patrol 877-7-PATROL

Ohio Road Conditions 888-2OH-ROAD

State Highway Patrol DUI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-686-PUCO

Taxation, Department of

<http://tax.ohio.gov/>

Form Requests 800-282-1782

Individual Taxpayer Assistance 800-282-1780

Aging, Department of

<http://aging.ohio.gov/home/>

Golden Buckeye Card 866-301-6446

Ombudsman/Elder Rights Unit 800-282-1206



**Save these numbers for
future reference!**

“Save the Dream” Helping Ohioans Avoid Foreclosure

Program Has Helped Thousands with Assistance and Advice

The nationwide housing crisis continues to threaten the dream of home ownership for Ohioans. The Associated Press recently reported that “Weak sales, sinking home values, tighter home-loan lending practices and a slowing U.S. economy hamstrung by high fuel prices have left some homeowners with few options to avoid foreclosure. Many can’t find buyers or owe more than their home is worth and can’t refinance into an affordable loan.”



SAVE THE
dream
OHIO'S FORECLOSURE
PREVENTION EFFORT

A model program for Ohio courts to use mediation in home foreclosure cases has trained more than 250 court personnel from 50 of Ohio’s 88 counties.

According to RealtyTrac, Ohio's foreclosure rate recently ranked 7th in the nation, with one in every 440 households reporting a filing.

While still a dangerous situation, this new ranking actually represents an improvement fueled by Ohio’s “Save the Dream” program.

“Save the Dream” is Ohio’s anti-foreclosure effort, designed to offer information and assistance to help you keep your home.

Since the campaign was launched one year ago, more than **5,600 Ohioans** have received housing counseling and/or legal assistance through “Save the Dream.” There have been more than **26,000 visitors** to the program’s website (<http://www.savethedream.ohio.gov/>) and more than **12,000 calls** to the hotline (888-404-4674).

Thousands of homeowners have attended borrower outreach days around the state. These events give homeowners the opportunity to meet one-on-one with their mortgage servicers to discuss the possibility of a “work out resolution” and attend workshops on foreclosure prevention topics.

More than 1,300 Ohio attorneys have volunteered to provide legal assistance free of charge to people in danger of losing their homes. The Columbus Bar Association recently honored the initiative with its “Outstanding Pro Bono Project” Award.

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency have distributed more than \$5 million in grants to housing counseling agencies. They have also offered \$1 million in grants and \$3.1 million in deferred loans for homeowners through the Ohio Home Rescue Program.

To supplement these programs, Ohio received \$258.1 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds from HUD. Of this amount, \$116.8 million was awarded directly to the state for distribution to neighborhoods in need, especially to restore or demolish abandoned homes.

Legislation is also in the works to protect renters when their landlords go into foreclosure. The Ohio Renter’s Protection Act sponsored by State Reps. Ted Celeste (D-Columbus) and Mike Foley (D-Cleveland) would require landlords to notify tenants and allow renters to stay under a month-to-month lease once the property is sold. It may join “Save the Dream” as one more protection for people during this crisis.

Keys to Save Your Dream of Home Ownership

- Act now; don't ignore the problem!
- Contact your mortgage servicer as soon as you realize you have a problem.
- Open and respond to all mail from your servicer.
- Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor.
- Stay in your home to make sure you qualify for assistance.
- Understand Ohio’s foreclosure process, options and alternatives.
- Beware of scams.
- Do not sign any document that you don't understand.



Did you know?

Fifty percent of foreclosures can be prevented by calling your mortgage company and asking to speak to someone in the **Loss Mitigation Department.**

Governor Offers Bold Vision for Ohio

Highlights of Ted Strickland's State of the State Address to the Legislature

Ohio may be facing tough times, but that makes this the best time for bold action to confront challenges facing state finances and education. That was the message delivered by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland in his State of the State Address to a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly.



It offers a transformative plan to reform education in Ohio and proposes to balance the budget without raising taxes. It also lays out several important tools, such as tax credits, to help stimulate the economy and create jobs here in Ohio.

Here are some of the highlights of the Governor's plan:

Fiscal Responsibility: Living Within Our Means

Though forecasts indicate general revenue taxes available to the State of Ohio will be lower in the 2011 fiscal year than they were seven years earlier, the Governor's budget is balanced without raising taxes through a series of tough choices and leveraging federal stimulus funds.

Education: A Comprehensive Plan to Modernize Education and Ensure Every Child Learns Skills to be Successful in a 21st Century Economy

Governor Strickland's comprehensive plan to establish a modernized education system is designed to ensure every Ohio child learns the skills they need to be successful in the 21st Century – as productive citizens, in work and in life. The plan demands an unprecedented level of accountability and transparency from our school districts to ensure taxpayers know exactly how their dollars are being spent, right down to an individual school building's budget. It meets the state's constitutional obligation to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education for Ohio students.

Tax Relief: New Tax Credits to Create New Ohio Jobs and Fully Phase-in Tax Reforms

The budget fully implements previously approved tax

reforms, including the full phase-in of a 21 percent across-the-board income tax reduction. In addition to broadening the Job Retention Tax Credit and Job Creation Tax Credit to encourage more business opportunity in Ohio, the Governor's budget creates several new job-creating tax credits. They include a Film Tax Credit to spur growth of the film industry and a New Markets Tax Credit to give our cities and towns a proven tool to spur investment and bring new life to downtown centers.

Health Care: Access to Health Care for Every Ohio Child and 110,000 More Ohioans

The state children's health insurance program and buy-in program would provide access to affordable health coverage for *every single child* in Ohio. The budget expands health care access to an additional 110,000 adult Ohioans currently without coverage. It allows Ohioans with employer-provided insurance to purchase coverage for their dependents up to the age of 29, and allows small business employees who lose their jobs to purchase continuation coverage for up to 12 months and other innovative reforms.

Higher Education: Extend Historic Tuition Freeze to a Third Year for All University System of Ohio Schools

Governor Strickland's budget extends the current 2-year tuition freeze at all University System of Ohio institutions for a third year in fiscal year 2010 (the 2009-2010 school year), and for a fourth straight year at all community college and university branch campuses in fiscal year 2011 (the 2010-2011 school year). Under this plan, 60 percent of all students in the University System of Ohio will have seen no increase in tuition for four straight years.

Job Creation: Pledge to Work with Legislature to Develop a Second Job Stimulus Plan

Governor Strickland announced that he will work with the legislature to develop a second job stimulus plan in the coming months. It would include an expansion of Ohio's Third Frontier program, regulatory reform and streamlining measures to assure that Ohio gets its share of federal stimulus funds as well as other investment dollars to create jobs in the short term and strengthen Ohio for generations to come.

Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO
March 2009

Your views on issues facing state government are important to me. Please take the time to share your opinion on the following topics. I look forward to hearing from you!

1. Would you support building casinos in Ohio if the proposal was structured differently than the one defeated at the polls last November?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

2. Should Ohio's smoking ban be changed to permit more exemptions?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

3. Should Ohio's term-limit law limiting state lawmakers to eight years in a specific office be changed?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

4. Do you support placing a moratorium on the creation of new charter schools by operators who run other struggling schools?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

5. Do you support legislation that sends non-violent deadbeat parents to community control programs rather than jail, with the goal of earning more money to pay off their child support debts?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

6. Should developers be required to pay the prevailing wage on state-supported public/private projects?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

7. Do you support limits on marketing by credit card companies on university and college campuses?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

8. Please list what you believe to be the three biggest issues facing Ohio:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Additional Comments:

Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the other side. If you would like to receive information and legislative updates in the future, please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail: _____



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**Thank you for completing this legislative survey.
Please don't hesitate to contact my office
with any issues or opinions you may have!**

FOLD UNDER AND SECURE WITH TAPE

(PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ADDRESS)

PLACE STAMP
HERE
POST OFFICE
WILL NOT
DELIVER
WITHOUT
PROPER
POSTAGE

Hon. Kenny Yuko
State Representative, 7th District
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77 South High Street
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