



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,

These are busy days at the Statehouse in Columbus, full of hearings and meetings on legislation being considered. Understanding all the issues is important so I can best represent you and your family.

This session our top priorities are working to create jobs now, investing in education to create jobs for tomorrow, restoring fiscal responsibility and government accountability, and protecting middle-class Ohioans during a tough national economy.

The legislature has put a renewal and expansion of the Ohio Third Frontier Program on the May statewide ballot, where you will have the opportunity to vote to continue this successful job-generating program. It has already created over 40,000 new jobs in Ohio, produced a 10 to 1 return on investment for taxpayers and it is spurring growth in new and emerging industries like biomedical equipment, alternative energy and advanced materials. Despite the recession, Third Frontier has given Ohio the ability to increase employment in technology industries by 4%, creating nearly 20,000 jobs since 2004 in this field alone.

We are also moving to expand the Ohio Venture Capital Authority, which will create jobs by helping to increase private investment in Ohio companies.

Education reform was a top priority last year and we were able to improve the school funding formula that will ensure that students will have the tools and resources they need to be successful. This year, the Ohio School Funding Advisory Council we created has begun to provide guidance and constructive support for improving Ohio's education system.

The Budget Planning Commission we created will soon begin identifying ways to align the state's expenses and revenues so we can continue to provide a balanced budget. We are also working on some very significant reforms to improve the responsiveness of Ohio's elected leaders, including redistricting and comprehensive changes to Ohio's elections laws.

These are just some of the issues I am working on in the Ohio House. I always welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

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CONTACT

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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.



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Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)

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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

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!**

Ohio Website Helps You Make Informed Healthcare Decisions

Ohio Department of Health Launches Website to Compare Hospital Performance

Finding the best hospital in your area is as easy as the click of a mouse. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has launched a website comparing Ohio hospitals based on several performance measures to help consumers make more informed healthcare decisions.

Ohio Hospital Compare can be found on the ODH home page at www.odh.ohio.gov. This interactive site allows Ohioans to evaluate hospitals in each of the state's 88 counties on over 100 performance measures. Areas that consumers can compare include:

- Heart Attack Care
- Heart Failure Care
- Surgical Care
- Patient Care
- Pregnancy and Delivery Care



You can search hospitals by county or zip code, and check results for the care of children and/or adults.

In addition to providing consumers with the information to make well-informed decisions, the comparison gives Ohio hospitals the data to help improve their own quality of care.

The comprehensive website is the first in the nation to offer a side-by-side comparison of hospitals.

The state will update the website every 6 months to ensure the information used to make the comparisons is current. The Hospital Measures Advisory Council, the group created to select appropriate performance measures, will update their performance categories periodically.

Ohio Extends Unemployment Compensation

Those Enrolled Full-Time In Education or Training Programs Now Eligible

The Ohio House has taken great strides this past year to enhance Ohio's education system in order to secure prosperity for our state both today and tomorrow.

In a further show of support of education, Governor Strickland has announced a state program that extends unemployment compensation benefits to all students enrolled in full-time education or training programs. Previously, only those students enrolled in certain education or training programs were exempt from the program's work-search requirement. This requirement states that those applying for unemployment compensation declare they are "able, available and actively seeking work."

The benefits expansion makes going back to school an option for those who were not previously considering it because it was out of their reach financially.



"To build a robust economy from the ground up, Ohio's working people must have every opportunity to get the education and training they need to land the new kinds of jobs our economy is creating," Governor Strickland said. "This policy change will help those Ohioans hardest hit by the recession to obtain job training skills without sacrificing their ability to continue providing for their families."

The Obama Administration is also looking to ease the financial burden of those looking to go back to school. Under current provisions, those getting unemployment compensation can receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for education or job training programs.

To find out more about applying for unemployment compensation, visit the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services at www.jfs.ohio.gov or call 1-877-644-6562.

Third Frontier a Good Investment for Ohio

Independent research confirms jobs, businesses created



The numbers are in, and the Third Frontier Program (3F) has proven to be a winning investment for the state.

Voters will have a chance to expand and renew funding for this excellent job-creating program on the May statewide ballot.

Ohio's future economic prosperity depends on our ability to shift from traditional manufacturing industries to the high-growth, technology-intensive industries of tomorrow. 3F not only accelerates our economic transition, it also creates good-paying jobs for Ohioans.

History of Support

3F began in 2002 with bipartisan support and voter approval. It is a 10 year, \$1.6 billion bond program. 3F supports technology companies that diversify and grow Ohio's knowledge-based economy.

It was founded on the commitment to shape the future economy of the state through a variety of technology-based programs.

How does it work?

The program funds five key technological areas, including: Advanced and Alternative Energy, Biomedical, Advanced Materials, Instruments - Controls - Electronics, and Advanced Propulsion.

In these areas, 3F drives the growth of existing and emerging industry by:

- Increasing high-quality, marketable research

- Making funding more accessible and available to create, expand, and attract technology-based companies
- Supporting small businesses in their earliest stages to develop new products
- Helping existing companies become more productive by addressing their technical issues
- Creating high-paying jobs in technology

Promise Kept

In its seventh year, 3F is living up to its commitment, delivering measurable results.

According to an independent evaluation conducted by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International, 3F created 41,300 jobs over the past seven years with over \$2.4 billion in employee wages and benefits.

Despite the recession, 3F has given Ohio the ability to increase employment in technology industries by 4%, creating nearly 20,000 jobs since 2004 in this field alone.

The report also showed that taxpayers were seeing more than a 10 to one return on their investment. That means from 2003 to 2008, an investment of \$681 million of state expenditures resulted in over \$6.6 billion of statewide economic impact.

3F is an innovative, forward-thinking program that is transforming the way Ohio conducts business in the 21st century. For more information about 3F and the projects it supports, log on to www.thirdfrontier.com.

Third Frontier by the Numbers	\$681 MILLION INVESTED through Third Frontier from 2003-2008	6.6 BILLION RETURNED to Ohio's economy in research, sales and construction	41,300 JOBS CREATED high-tech jobs are growing while others have declined	500 NEW OHIO COMPANIES created, attracted, and capitalized	3,000 INTERNSHIPS awarded to Ohio students with nearly 700 companies
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1 in 5 Families Qualify For a Federal Tax Credit

How to See If You Are Eligible to Receive a Larger Tax Refund

No one likes paying taxes, but it's even worse to miss out on a tax refund that you could be getting. These refunds are especially important during challenging economic times when every penny counts.

As this year's tax season approaches, we want to make sure you have all the information you need to claim the largest possible refund.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal tax credit that allows Ohioans earning lower or moderate wages to receive a larger tax refund. At present, 800,000 Ohio families qualify for this program. That means that one in five Ohio families are eligible to receive these tax credits. However, research indicates that as many as 20 percent of these families do not take advantage of the credit because they either don't know about it or don't know how to access it.



Ohio Treasurer Kevin L. Boyce and Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray co-chair the Ohio Commission on EITC. The goal is to share information about the federal tax credit and connect Ohioans to tax preparers who can assure that every Ohioan who qualifies for the EITC receives it.

The amount of money you can get back through the EITC is based on your annual taxable income and the number of children in your family. To determine your eligibility for the tax credit, visit

www.ohiotreasurer.org and click on "Earned Income Tax Credit" under the "For You" tab.

Should you require help in filling out your EITC forms, you can contact a volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) program near you. With VITA, certified volunteers prepare returns at no cost to tax payers of low to moderate income. To find a VITA site near you, call the IRS at 1-800-906-9887.

Renew Your Ohio Drivers License on Time

New Ohio License Plates Now Available

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles now charges a late fee of \$20 for all drivers license and vehicle registration renewals if you are more than seven days beyond the expiration date. Avoid the fine by renewing on time!

Meanwhile, perhaps you've seen the new "Beautiful Ohio" license plate now available. It is being sold by the BMV in addition to Ohio's standard issue "Sunburst" red, white and blue plate.

The plates cost \$7.50, in addition to other applicable fees that apply when purchasing new or replacement plates.

The release of the Beautiful Ohio plate is not a mandatory replacement for Ohio BMV customers. It is an option for those with current registrations to replace their current plates with the Beautiful Ohio design, while new registrations will have the option of choosing the state's standard "Sunburst" design or the Beautiful Ohio design.



The new Beautiful Ohio license plate--right

2010 Census Critical for Ohio's Future

The Form You'll Get in the Mail Soon is One of the Shortest Ever

It's safe, easy, and fast. When you fill out the census form, you're making a statement about what resources your community needs going forward.

Accurate data reflecting changes in your community are crucial in apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and deciding how more than \$400 billion per year is allocated for projects like new hospitals and schools.

That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period for things like new roads and schools, and services like job training centers.

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is conducted every ten years as mandated by the United States Constitution.

The goal is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation – our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more – are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census

programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian – as well as language guides in 59 languages – are available on request.



The State of Ohio is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau. The Governor established by Executive Order an Ohio Complete Count Committee, chaired by Treasurer of State Kevin L. Boyce. The purpose of the Committee is to help census education and participation.

For more information on Ohio and the census, you can go to www.Census.ohio.gov. For federal information, the website is www.2010.census.gov.

Your information is Safe

- Federal law protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties.
- Private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish your name, address (or GPS coordinate), Social Security number or telephone numbers.
 - All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. Violators face a fine of up to \$250,000, up to five years in prison or both.
 - Your information is used to produce statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS