

State of Ohio toll-free numbers and websites

Ohio House of Representatives www.house.state.oh.us Legislative Information	800-282-0253	Aging, Department of www.state.oh.us/age Golden Buckeye Card Ombudsman/Elder Rights Unit	800-422-1976 800-282-1206
Insurance, Department of www.ins.state.oh.us Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program	800-686-1578	Attorney General www.ag.state.oh.us Consumer Protection Crime Victim Assistance Patient Abuse & Neglect Hotline	800-282-0515 800-582-CVSS 800-64-4BUSE
Job and Family Services, Department of www.state.oh.us/offs Veteran Services Division Unemployment Compensation Hotline	800-253-4060 877-644-6562	Consumers' Council, Office of the Ohio www.state.oh.us/coms Utility Consumer Complaints	877-742-5622
Motor Vehicles, Bureau of www.state.oh.us/odps/division/dmv General Information	800-589-TAGS	Development, Department of www.ohiod.state.oh.us General Information Business Advocacy Home Energy Assistance Hotline One Stop Business Permit Center Travel & Tourism	800-848-1300 800-345-ONHO 800-282-0880 800-248-4040 800-BUCKEYE
Public Safety, Department of www.state.oh.us/odps Highway Patrol Ohio Road Conditions State Highway Patrol DUI Hotline	877-7-PATROL 888-2OH-ROAD 800-GRAB-DUI	Education, Department of www.ode.state.oh.us Child Nutritional Services Information General Education Development Ohio Prevention Education Resources	800-898-MEAL 800-334-6679 800-788-7254
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio www.puc.state.oh.us General Information	800-686-FUCCO	Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.state.oh.us E-Check Information	800-227-8378
Taxation, Department of www.state.oh.us/tax Form Requests Tax Questions	800-282-1782 800-282-1780		

State Representative
Kenny Yuko
 Ohio House District 07
 77 S. High St.
 Columbus, OH 43215-5111



A Legislative Report from REP. KENNY YUKO



Dear Constituents,

Budgets come down to choices. As state lawmakers, we can choose policies that move all Ohioans forward – or we can choose policies that favor a select few and shift even more of the burden onto struggling individuals and families.

Unfortunately, a budget plan approved by the House of Representatives last month tends to choose the latter.

The budget plan chooses tax cuts that would favor the upper 5 percent and big corporations at the expense of most individuals and families. It includes deep cuts to local governments that will put police officers and firefighters at risk, and it eliminates health insurance for poor parents who are working hard to stay off welfare. According to one study, most Ohioans will pay higher taxes in the House plan.

That's why I voted against this budget. I believe Ohio deserves better.

I supported a fiscally-responsible alternative that would have included more generous, targeted tax relief for middle-class working families. This plan would have eliminated cuts for police and firefighters while protecting health care for our state's most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, this alternative was set aside by the House Republican majority without an up-or-down vote.

We still have some time before a final budget plan must be submitted to the governor for his signature. Rest assured I'll keep working to craft a budget that serves all Ohioans.

Inside are details on the state budget proposal and how it could affect you, as well as other information on my work here in Columbus.

As always, I welcome your ideas, suggestions, or comments. Please contact me on any matter that concerns you.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

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Dear Constituents

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June 2005

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Please feel free to share your e-mail address with my office so we can keep you updated on what's new at the Statehouse.

BUDGET BRIEFING

The State Budget: More Taxes, Less Services

Last month, I joined nearly all my Democratic colleagues in voting against Governor Taft's state budget proposal. For me, it came down to priorities. I believe Ohio needs a fiscally-disciplined budget plan that moves all Ohio families forward and reflects our common interests and values. Unfortunately, the plan considered by the House does not reflect this vision.

I supported a budget alternative that would have delivered \$153 million more in aid to local schools, and kept faith with Ohio's most vulnerable by restoring health insurance for 25,000 poor parents who are working hard to stay off welfare.

I backed several other creative ideas for generating revenue without raising taxes – including the sale of advertising on lottery tickets and more aggressive enforcement of illegal tax shelters. Money raised would have been put toward schools, higher education, after-school programs or health care, but these alternatives were rejected.

Supporters of this budget plan are promising income tax cuts. But in the here-and-now, other taxes will grow much faster than income taxes decline – and the income tax cuts in this budget would largely favor the wealthiest 5 percent of Ohioans.

It will cost us more at the breakfast table because – for the first time in state history – food such as bread and milk would be subject to a hidden sales tax known as the “commercial activity tax,” or CAT. We would also pay more when we drive to work or school because of this hidden CAT tax, which also raises gasoline prices.

We will pay more for beer and wine, more for tobacco products, more garbage disposal, more on electricity and more on home sales through a new 1-mill statewide property tax. And, for all this, we will receive less. Big cuts to local governments will put cities and counties in a desperate position.

The budget is in House-Senate conference committee. I'm still hopeful we will see a budget that better reflects the priorities of Ohioans who are working harder, taking home less money and spending less time with their children.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Rep. Yuko joined Euclid city councilperson Kristen Holzheimer Gail in congratulating Boy Scout Scott Sattler. Sattler has earned his Eagle level achievement.



Rep. Yuko attended the grand opening of the Richmond Heights disc golf course. Pictured here at the ribbon cutting with the representatives is Course Director Scott Nathanson, Mayor Dan Ursu, Councilman David Roche and Councilwoman Kathryn Gambatase.



More than 1,500 Ohioans rallied on the Statehouse lawn in April to fight for fair taxes and to lobby for the state's poorest citizens. Many of the participants were senior citizens concerned about Medicaid cuts and inadequate funding for programs like Adult Protective Services. Democrats tried to restore Medicaid coverage to 25,000 working parents and prescription drug and health care benefits to 15,000 poor adults with chronic illnesses, but the motion was tabled.*

Libraries: Open to All

Ohio is struggling right now. Our state is 49th in job creation over the past ten years, and it is projected to be one of the most slowly-growing states over the next couple of decades.

But one area where Ohio is a national leader is in libraries. Many experts believe our state's network of local libraries is now one of the strongest in the nation. Unfortunately, Governor Taft's state budget proposal would put this important legacy at risk.

Taft has proposed cutting state support of libraries by 5 percent. If enacted, this budget will almost certainly mean less services, fewer resources and shorter hours of operation in libraries.

If this budget cut comes to pass, the real victims will be families: A middle school student who uses her local library to work on school projects on Sunday afternoons, kindergarten teachers who check out extra books for students, and Ohioans of all walks of life who have come to see libraries as a valuable resource.

Libraries were founded on the principle that free access to knowledge makes our democracy strong. For many of us, libraries serve as a sort of people's university, an unparalleled resource for lifelong learning.

My office has been bombarded by letters of support to restore funding to public libraries. Recently, one 12-year-old girl wrote the legislature, explaining that local library helps out when her parents just can't afford to. "We don't buy books," she wrote. "This is my way of learning."

Just as this young lady's family has to make tough budget decisions every day, Ohio legislators must also prioritize.

I believe libraries foster creativity and imagination, and it is imperative that we invest in them. The state budget we considered in the House in April did not provide the dollars that libraries deserve, and that is one of the many reasons I voted "no" on H.B. 66.

LIBRARY FUNDING

* photos courtesy of Public Children Services Association of Ohio