



# A Legislative Report from Rep. Kenny Yuko

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



Kenny Yuko  
State Representative

## Dear Constituents,

Your state government is just that—yours. And for that reason you have a right to know what your government is doing at all times. That's why it is important to have an open, accountable and transparent state government.

Recently, there have been a number of disturbing examples where openness is not being observed. Some of these include putting major new policy directives into the state budget without any public hearings, exempting JobsOhio from public records laws and allowing lobbyists to work directly with the non-partisan Legislative Service Commission to write bill language.

The House is currently considering The Taxpayer's Right to Know Act (HB 113) which requires that all records from the performance or assistance of a public-private partnership with state functions are public records, and that such entities must conduct official business in open meetings.

There will also be legislation introduced this fall to roll back attempts to make it easier for officials to stonewall public records requests.

Also under consideration is a bill to limit special interest groups' access to the bill-writing process. House Bill 294 – The Common Sense Transparency Bill – prohibits outside parties and individuals from meeting with the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) without a member of the General Assembly or their staff present. LSC is the non-partisan agency that assists the legislature in writing the specific language of bills. The Common Sense Transparency Bill also defines any form of written, oral, or electronic communication as a meeting that must include either a legislator or their staff.

While communication between lawmakers and LSC is confidential, the legislation would clarify that communications between outside groups or individuals and LSC would be considered public records. These steps will ensure that the process of developing legislation in Ohio is open and accountable.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

## CONTACT

**Columbus Office**  
7th District  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

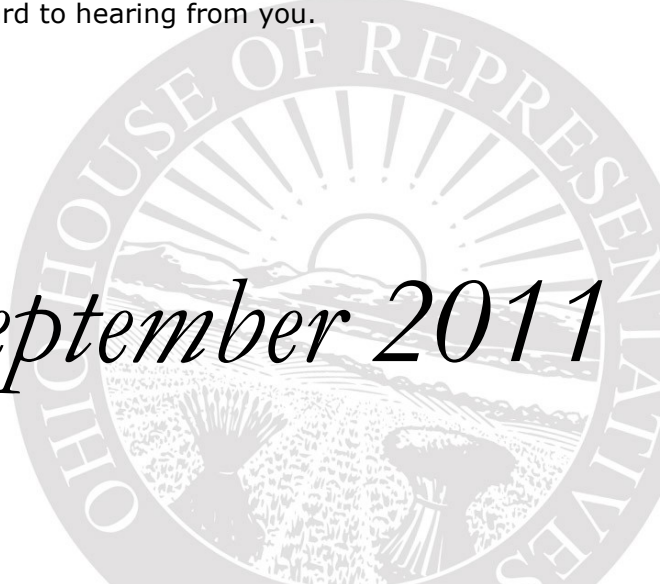
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Sincerely,

**Kenny Yuko**  
State Representative

September 2011



## 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](mailto: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, 10th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

## Important State Contact Information

### Ohio House of Representatives

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://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!**

## Consumer Tip: Before You Sign That Land Lease...

### *12 things to consider before leasing your land to an oil company*

Eastern Ohio is now the subject of a land rush, with natural gas and oil companies leasing lands for mineral exploration in the hopes of drilling. Signing a lease is a big decision, and before you sign make sure you consider everything:

1. Find out if the small company that is signing the lease with you will end up selling that lease to a larger company. This will affect the scale of the drilling on your land.
2. Find out whether the company is conducting oil exploration or gas exploration. This will impact what type of process and equipment is being used on your land.
3. Find out how much truck traffic is expected on your land in order to service the well.
4. Find out how noisy the process will be and ask how long it will be noisy. Ask for a tangible comparison, for example, will it be as noisy as a train or quieter?
5. Find out how big a well pad will need to be. Often, the end product is a well pad of 5 acres, but the startup size (when the well is being drilled) is about 20 acres. Find out how much room will be taken up on your land.
6. Find out how long a lease lasts. Look out for automatic renewals. For example, sometimes leases last for 5 years but can be automatically renewed if any oil is found. This could mean a 5 year lease can be automatically renewed to last as long as 40 years.
7. Find out if the company will be using water from your property.
8. Talk to a bank or a realtor to find out how a lease will affect your property value.
9. Talk to your neighbors to find out if they have signed.
10. Remember, it is alright to ask for more time to consider such a big decision. It is unreasonable for someone to expect you to sign a lease on the spot. The price per acre will likely only go up, and it is important to get the best price you can and protect your land.
11. If the company representative talks to you about deep wells, horizontal or directional drilling, or seismic testing, it is probably a good idea to talk to an attorney and have him look at the lease. If you cannot afford an attorney, consider joining with your neighbors and talking to an attorney as a group.
12. Once you sign a lease, make sure that the entire lease (not just the first and last pages) is recorded in the county recorder's office.



## What is Fracking?

- High volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is relatively new drilling technology that makes it possible to reach the rich natural gas reserves that underlie much of Ohio.
- This new drilling procedure uses a high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemicals to release trapped gas in shale rock that lies deep within the earth. Shale is a sedimentary rock that is often rich in petroleum and natural gas.
- After drilling vertically to the depth that reaches slightly above the shale, the drill bit is turned horizontally and pushed into the shale. Sometimes the drill penetrates the shale at depths of a mile or more.
- Small fractures are created in the targeted rock with a number of underground explosions. The sand, water and chemical mixture is then injected at high pressure into the newly created cracks to further separate the rock and release the trapped gas.

## Redrawing District Lines in Ohio

*Voters should pick their politicians, not the other way around*

2011 is the year for redistricting.

Congressional and legislative districts will be redrawn as a result of the 2010 National Census. In Ohio, two congressional districts will be lost due to a lack of significant population growth over the last 10 years.

State leaders are in the process of creating new congressional and state legislative districts. The districts they draw in upcoming weeks will largely determine who will make our laws for the next decade.

Historically, following the census, the political party in favor has gone in the backroom to draw new districts designed to give their political party the greatest possible advantage. And they have been very successful. In 18 of the last 20 elections, the political party that elected the most state representatives was the party which had drawn the lines to create the districts.

Led by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Ohio Citizen Action and the Midwest Democracy Network, 25 Ohio organizations have banded together to seek fair, accountable and nonpartisan redistricting — and provide the tools for you to make this happen.

Recently, a competition was launched that gives private citizens access to the same census and election data used by the politicians to draw congressional and legislative maps. These maps will be scored by objective nonpartisan criteria including measuring the degree to which maps create districts that preserve county and municipal boundaries, are compact and are politically balanced.

In order to promote quality competition, prize money will be awarded to those who draw high-scoring maps. More importantly, the winning maps will be submitted to the Ohio Legislature and Apportionment Board.

\$5,000 in cash prizes will be shared by

the authors of the highest scoring plans and will include cash scholarships for the top plans created by high school and college students.

The wonders of modern computer technology now allow public participation in a way that was never before possible.

### Plans submitted during the competition will be scored using four objective criteria:

1. Preserving County Boundaries—measuring the number of counties which are unnecessarily split into separate districts. This helps keep communities of interest together and makes it easier for citizens to understand in which district they live.
2. Compactness—measuring the geographical compactness of the districts. This discourages bizarrely-shaped legislative districts which unnecessarily spread voters apart.
3. Competitiveness—measuring the number of districts which are truly competitive. This gives Ohioans a stronger voice in choosing their representatives.
4. Representational Fairness—measuring the degree to which a plan unfairly favors one political party over another. This encourages plans in which the number of district which favor each political party reflects the statewide political balance.

All you need to participate is a computer and access to the Internet. Log on to [www.drawthelineohio.org](http://www.drawthelineohio.org) and start drawing. Act soon. The competition deadlines are fast approaching.



*Drawing district lines to favor one party or another is often called Gerrymandering, as in the political cartoon (left) from 1812. It represents the Massachusetts districts drawn by Gov. Elbridge Gerry. Critics said it looked like a salamander, which morphed into Gerrymander as a play on the governor's name.*

## Find Unclaimed Funds Easily on State Website

*Searchable online database reconnects Ohioans to forgotten money*



Do you know where all your money is?

Each year, due to death, oversight or forgetfulness, more than 200,000 people and organizations lose track of money, rights to monies or non-

material properties in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Unclaimed Funds is responsible for the safekeeping and return of money that becomes designated as "unclaimed."

The Division was created to protect Ohioans who have inactive accounts with financial institutions, corporations, proprietorships, partnerships and estates, trusts, charitable organizations, fraternal or cooperative associations, and other entities.

With more than 4 million accounts worth approximately \$1,200,000,000 in its custody, the division is diligent in its efforts to locate missing owners and reunite them with their lost assets.

Annually, the division publishes advertisements in newspapers across the state listing owners of

accounts valued at \$50 or more that were reported to the Division during the prior year.

In 1997, the Division put its entire database on its website. This database, which is completely searchable by name, includes accounts from the Division's inception in 1968 for all amounts of money.

To search on-line for funds under your name, visit <http://www.com.ohio.gov/unfd/>, click on the "Online Treasure Hunt" webpage and follow the instructions.

### Common Sources of Unclaimed Funds:

- Dormant savings and checking accounts
- Unpaid insurance policies
- Underlying shares of stock
- Unreturned rent and utility deposits
- Forgotten layaway deposits
- Credit memos
- Unclaimed wages or commissions
- Securities
- Undelivered and uncashed stock dividends
- Credit balances
- Uncashed checks
- Intangible contents of safe deposit boxes

## Ohio Statehouse Celebrates 150 Years in 2011

*Sesquicentennial celebration to include events, re-enactments and exhibits*

After 22 years of construction, the Ohio Statehouse was completed in 1861 at the beginning of the American Civil War. One hundred and fifty years later, the Ohio Statehouse continues to serve as the heart of Ohio democracy.

The Statehouse is considered to be one of the most significant architectural accomplishments of the early republic. Its Greek Revival Doric architectural details and proportions give the impression of permanence, elegance and grandeur deserved by the original State Legislature who passed a law on January 26, 1838 to build the new Statehouse. Restored to its 1861 appearance, the Ohio Statehouse maintains its historic character as it continues to function as the center of state government in Ohio.

The Ohio Statehouse will host a variety of special events, re-enactments and exhibits throughout 2011 to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Ohio's Capitol Building. The events will commemorate the lasting legacy and history of the Ohio Statehouse.



## Work Begins on I-90 in Cleveland

*Construction project means closing, lane restrictions*

The I-90 construction project is underway, and it will mean big changes in the traffic patterns through Cleveland.

It's not exactly "carmageddon," but the work includes the entire replacement of the Innerbelt Bridge. It will ensure that the span lasts another twenty years, but it will also mean that the bridge is closed for two years while the construction is underway, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation website.

According to the quarterly ODOT newsletter, "I-90 westbound will be reduced to two (2) lanes between E 14th Street and Ontario. I-90 eastbound will have a similar change, also being reduced to two (2) lanes in the downtown section. This lane configuration is likely to remain in place for at least three to six months, possibly longer."

Because of these closings and lane reductions, ODOT strongly suggests drivers find alternate routes.

Additionally, there is concern over the closing of certain exits, such as the Carnegie exit. According to ODOT, there will be a significant number of concrete barriers and channelizers that will enable those merging onto I-90 eastbound to safely enter from I-77. However, to ensure the safety of drivers merging from I-77, those traveling eastbound on

I-90 will not be able to exit at E 22<sup>nd</sup> or Carnegie. Exits that can be used are Ontario, E 9<sup>th</sup> or Chester. Vehicles still traveling from I-77 northbound will still have access to E 22<sup>nd</sup> and Carnegie.

### Innerbelt Bridge History

The earliest structure at the same location as today's Central Viaduct (as the current I-90 bridge is called) was opened in 1888 after three years of construction for a total cost of \$675,000.

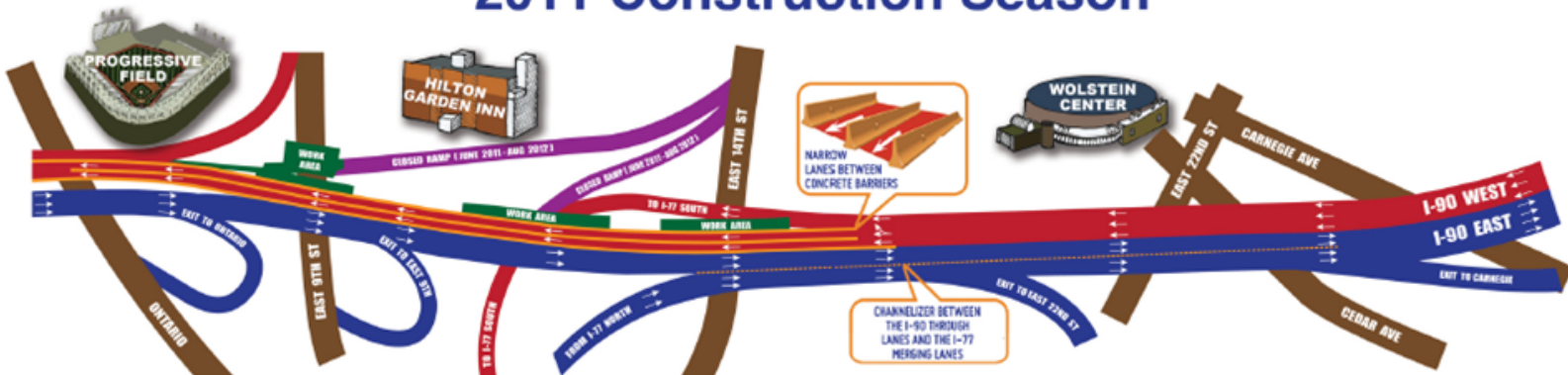
The first bridge originally had a swing section to allow high-masted ships to pass.

In 1912, the draw section of the bridge was replaced with an overhead truss. In 1914, the wooden bridge deck was damaged by a fire in the lumber yard in the Flats below the bridge. The bridge was again carrying traffic by 1915.

The original bridge continued to serve Cleveland traffic until January of 1941, when it was condemned and closed to traffic. While efforts were made to preserve the historic structure, it was torn down and the 500 tons of steel were converted to scrap to be used during World War II.

*ODOT info*

## I-90 Traffic Plan-Downtown Cleveland 2011 Construction Season



ODOT Map