



Week of March 17, 2025

Budget bill update

The school-funding formula, education policy, and other budget items are being deliberated this week and weekend by House leadership, the Finance Committee chair, and select staff. That process will review roughly 3,000 submitted budget amendments and narrow those down to what will eventually become the House budget proposal. The House is expected to unveil its budget proposal on April 1.

Gubernatorial candidates debut property tax proposals

Republican candidates for Ohio governor **Vivek Ramaswamy** and **Dave Yost** offered competing property tax reform proposals this week. Calling property taxes “unjustly high” and the “top economic burden” for Ohioans in a recorded video, Ramaswamy outlined his platform:

- Place a ceiling on the amount of property tax can be paid as a percentage of the land or property owned;
- End the "game-playing" with the 20-mill floor;
- End other "game-playing" and “non-transparency;” and
- Ensure the ballot measure contains information for the voter on how much they're going to pay in dollar value as a percentage of property values.

Ohio's current Attorney General **Dave Yost**, meanwhile, offered the following proposals:

- Apply existing inflation protections to inside millage;
- Apply those same inflation protections to the 20-mill floor; and
- Freeze property tax bills for homeowners on their 70th birthday for the rest of their life

School provisions added to transportation budget

New school provisions are included in the just-passed transportation budget that is now pending **Gov. Mike DeWine's** signature. Included in the bill, House Bill 54, are school-related provisions including:

- allowing districts to transport up to 12 passengers (including the driver) for regular school transportation and other school-related transportation events;
- eliminating the requirement for pre-trip inspection of engine components; and
- allowing ESCs to submit a request to establish a preschool school zone to the ODOT Director, in addition to the county engineer.

House eliminates replacement levies, while Senate cuts TPP tax rates

On the same day that the Ohio House of Representatives eliminated replacement levies via HB 28, the Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 2, which reduces the assessment rate for reduces the assessment rate on various tangible personal property (TPP), including electric generation, transmission and distribution, and pipeline property. A House companion to that bill – HB 15 – is also pending in the House, with House passage happening soon. Both bills are key priorities for their chambers and are highly likely to pass.

Other committees met this week on the following bills:

- SB 8, which prohibits school districts and other public employers from providing paid leave or compensation for employees to engage in political or union activities;
- HB 88, which requires public schools to provide instruction on the dangers of fentanyl to students in grades K-12;
- SB 127, which prescribes new closure requirements for public and charter schools;

and

- HB 79, which increases the penalty for assaulting a sports official.

Heard around the Statehouse

“We have to get at the unvoted increases and make the voted increases more difficult, we are doing this.” - Rep. **David Thomas**, speaking to voters on property tax reform measures pending in the legislature.

“We have a spending problem.” - Rep. **David Thomas**, referring to school districts.