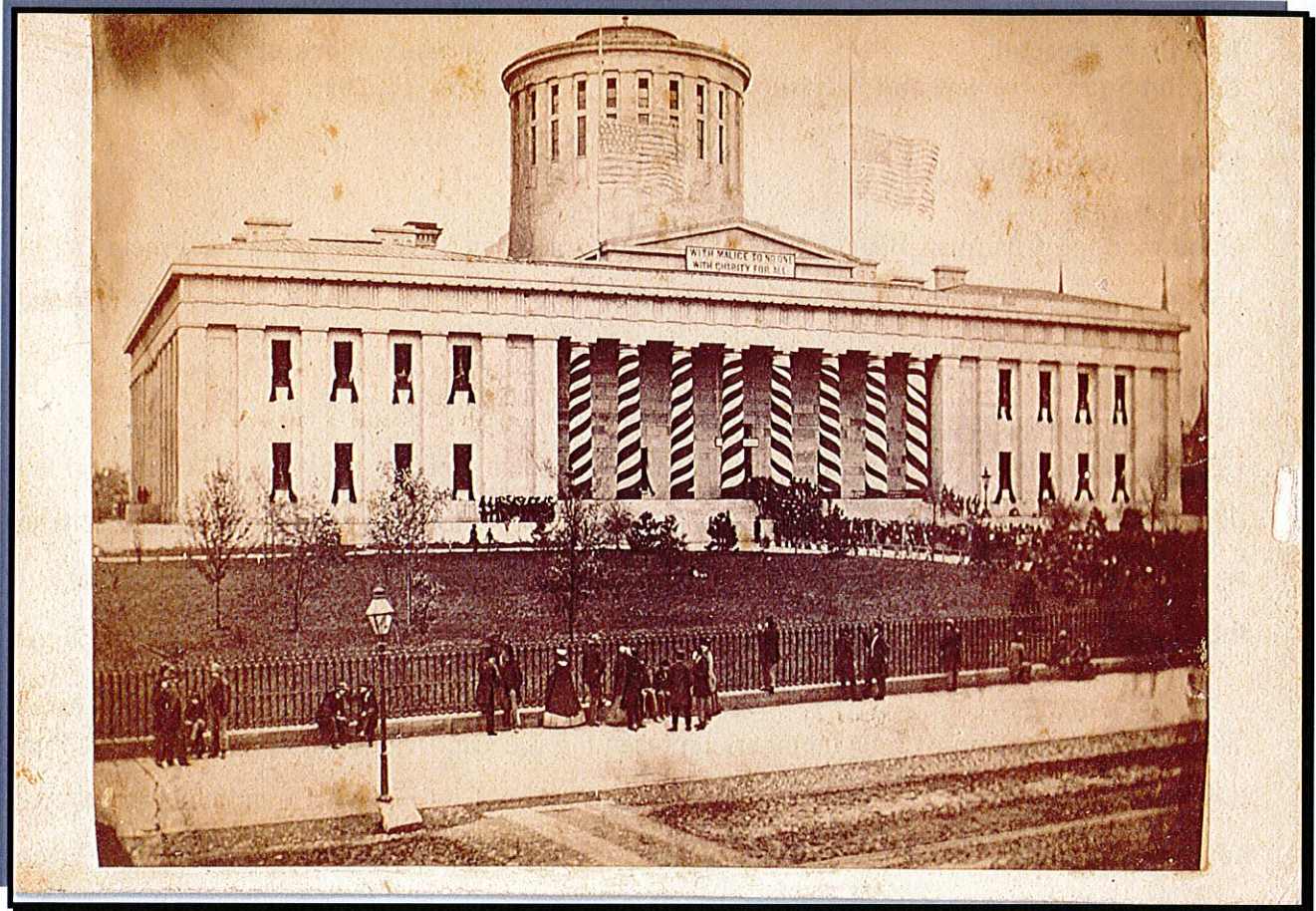


# **BUDGET TESTIMONY**

*Ohio Senate*

*Finance—Subcommittee on Workforce*



*Ohio Statehouse April 29, 1865- President Lincoln Repose*

## ***Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board***

**William E. Carleton**  
**Executive Director**

### ***The Ohio Statehouse***

*The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is responsible for maintaining the historic character of the Statehouse and Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in or visit the complex. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center coordinates tours of Capitol Square and provides information about the buildings, their history and Ohio's government.*

*The Ohio Statehouse*

**William E. Carleton  
Executive Director  
Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board**

**Ohio Senate  
Finance Workforce Committee  
May 12, 2015**

**Budget Testimony**

Good morning Chairman Beagle, ranking minority member Senator Williams and members of the committee. I am William Carleton, executive director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB).

CSRAB was created in 1988 to renovate, maintain and operate the historic character and integrity of Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in and visit the complex. The operation of the complex is controlled by the 12 members of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board.

The Board is made up of four members representing the Ohio House of Representatives, four members representing the Ohio Senate, the Governor's Chief of Staff and three members appointed by the Governor. As you can see, there was a great deal of thought put into ensuring the needs of the Legislature were met when the agency was created in 1988. In addition to the House Clerk and the Senate Clerk, current legislative members serving on our Board are Senator Widener as the chairman, Senator Skindell, House Speaker Rosenberger, Representative Slesnick a past Senate President, President Niehaus and a past House Speaker, Speaker Davidson.

On behalf of the entire Board, let me say how grateful we are for the state funding that you and your colleagues in the General Assembly provide to the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to maintain this grand Capitol Square complex. These funds help ensure that the buildings and grounds are operational for the executive and legislative branches of state government and the people of Ohio – especially the tens of thousands of school children that visit the Statehouse each year.

This year, the Ohio Statehouse celebrated its 154<sup>th</sup> birthday. Throughout the state, the Ohio Statehouse stands as THE symbol of the legislative and executive branches of state government, and the people of Ohio.

After 22 years of construction, the Ohio Statehouse was completed in 1861 at the beginning of the American Civil War. Restored to its 1861 appearance during the 1990s, the complex maintains its historic character as it continues to function as the center of state government in Ohio. Our Capitol houses the working offices and chambers of the legislative branch of government. While the Governor's working office is not housed in the facility, the Governor, every state agency, and the offices of Ohio's other elected leaders utilize Statehouse resources. It is of the utmost importance for CSRAB to maintain the operation and quality services to ensure that government runs smoothly.

In addition to maintaining and operating the Statehouse, CSRAB is charged with educating visitors about the history of Ohio, including its political, economic, and social development and the design and erection of the capitol building and its grounds. We place a strong emphasis on educational programming. We have become part of the community fabric in Columbus, partnering with other cultural institutions and state agencies to ensure that the needs of thousands of children and families are met. Partnerships have provided us with the ability to continue free, family-friendly programming such as the annual holiday festival, Civil War encampment on the Statehouse lawn, performing arts presentations, and countless educational presentations.

The Capitol Square Foundation is an important partner in funding our educational programs. CSRAB continues to work with the Capitol Square Foundation to achieve the goal of having every school-aged child in Ohio visit the Statehouse before graduating high school. Together, we have set out to enrich the experience for schoolchildren, teachers and visitors with the Ohio Statehouse Museum. Since the museum upgrade in 2009, it has increased the visibility of the Statehouse and become a focal point for high-quality education for Ohio's K-12 students.

The museum's mission is to inspire the next generation of public servants who will lead our great state. The museum is an integral part of our educational programming and will provide countless opportunities to collaborate with K-12 schools to educate Ohio's young people.

We know that Ohio students and teachers are utilizing technology in their learning and instruction, so we too have continued to make that a priority. This is why CSRAB has partnered with several organizations to utilize technology in its education plan. For example, we launched new podcast tours and expanded the coverage of the free WiFi capabilities within the Statehouse. In addition, our education department launched their third teacher workshop where educators gain credit and are working with the Ohio History Connection on their online textbook, *Ohio as America*.

Each of our partnerships and in-kind gifts has allowed us to stretch our resources, to continue to ensure that the Statehouse is a place of learning for everyone. CSRAB will continue to spend appropriated funds in a legitimate, efficient and economical way. In addition to keeping expenses as low as possible, CSRAB strives to establish new funding streams and partnerships that allow us to operate and enhance the complex.

CSRAB employees are very proud to work on Capitol Square and serve the governor, legislature and every Statehouse visitor. Their pride in their work shines through each and every day. Our 57 full-time employees do everything from replacing light bulbs to providing exceptional education programs. As you will see in the attached table of organization, we have the following departments here at CSRAB:

**Administration** – Oversees agency operations including finance, human resources and security.

**Maintenance** – Maintains the building including HVAC, plumbing, electrical, furniture repairs and moving of all items in the Statehouse when required.

**Grounds** – Plants and maintains all of the landscaping, cares for the lawn, removes snow and keeps the 6.5 acres of grounds free of trash.

**Custodial** – Cleans the interior of the Statehouse, Senate Building, Atrium, parking Garage, stairwells and penthouses leading into the parking garage. The majority of this work is accomplished in the evenings since it has to be completed around legislative hearings and various events that are going on in the Statehouse.

**Communications** – Responsible for promoting the Statehouse and events and activities

going on each day. Works with the education department in planning special events and educational activities.

**Education** – Responsible for the many free educational programs offered and the rotating exhibits throughout the Statehouse. They also oversee 68 dedicated volunteers who lead the free tours provided daily here at the Ohio Statehouse.

**Special Events** - Schedule, set up and oversee the events that take place on Capitol Square.

**Museum Shop** – Operates a shop that offers Ohio made and Ohio themed merchandise.

**Parking Garage** – Operates the parking garage that is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

In the fiscal year 2016/2017 operating budget as approved by our board before you, we are requesting the same amount in GRF as we received in FY2014/2015 which is \$3,578,565 to operate the Ohio Statehouse, Atrium and Senate building.

We are requesting the same amount in our garage appropriation for FY2016/2017 as we did in FY2015, which is \$3,496,740. This will allow for a projected reserve in the garage fund of approximately \$1.1 million each fiscal year. This reserve will be used for the major projects needed for the garage, grounds and buildings.

We are asking for a slight increase in appropriation authority in our Special Events/ Museum Shop fund to ensure we can cover the expenses of these departments with the revenue amount we are projecting.

We are currently working with the Office of Budget and Management and the Treasurer's office to pay off the remaining debt on the warehouse we purchased in 2008. We have been paying \$48,000 each fiscal year toward this debt and now have sufficient funds to pay it off entirely. The payoff balance is around \$300,000 and this will save us approximately \$65,000 in interest to pay it off early. If we are not able to work this out before the end of this fiscal year, we may need language in this budget bill to permit the Treasurer's office to invoice us for the payoff amount in the next fiscal year.

The key to keeping capital expenses down in the future is to be diligent in executing the proper preventative maintenance. I assure you CSRAB will continue to spend appropriated funds in a legitimate, efficient and economical way.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight Capitol Square and our programs. We welcome the opportunity to give you a personal, "Behind the Scenes" tour of the Statehouse to show you the mechanical and other areas not accessible to the public. This would help you in understanding the many challenges we face in operating and maintaining a building of this age and structure.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

CSRAB Table of Organization  
January 1, 2015

