



Americans for Prosperity – OH Proponent Testimony, H.B. 413 – House Technology and Innovation Committee – 10.28.2025

Good morning, Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of H.B. 413. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio.

At a time when voters across Ohio express growing concern about how their tax dollars are being managed, transparency is the surest way to rebuild confidence in government stewardship.

House Bill 413 takes an important step forward by creating the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database, expanding upon the state's existing "Ohio Checkbook" platform. For the first time, citizens will be able to easily see how funds are being spent not just at the state level, but in their local communities — counties, cities, townships, schools, and special districts.

This is not a new mandate for bigger government — it is a modernization of access. It leverages technology to make transparency the default, not the exception.

When government spending is visible and searchable, everyone becomes a watchdog.

Journalists, policy researchers, and everyday citizens gain tools to analyze where tax dollars go and how efficiently they are used. Transparency doesn't just deter waste and abuse — it encourages better decision-making. When local officials know that every expenditure can be easily reviewed by the public, they make more prudent fiscal choices. That visibility, in turn, helps citizens see value for their taxes and increases confidence that public officials are being good stewards of their money.

Ohio has the fifth-most political subdivisions in the nation, with more than 3,900 units of local government. From townships and school districts to park boards and library systems, each layer adds cost and complexity.

By consolidating financial data across these entities, the Local Government Expenditure Database will give policymakers, think tanks, and citizens the information necessary to have a data-driven conversation about how to streamline and modernize Ohio's sprawling government structure. This database is not just a transparency tool — it is an efficiency tool, enabling the kind of structural reform that can make Ohio government leaner, simpler, and more accountable.

Our *Buckeye Blueprint* campaign calls for a government that is modern, transparent, and responsive.

House Bill 413 embodies that vision by taking what used to be buried in PDFs, meeting minutes, and budget ledgers — and putting it online, searchable, and accessible to every Ohioan.

House Bill 413 strengthens accountability, empowers taxpayers, and equips policymakers with the information necessary to make Ohio government more modern and effective.

Americans for Prosperity – Ohio urges your support for this commonsense, good-government reform.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached for any questions at hkubbins@afphq.org or 614-905-2551.