



Proponent Testimony, H.B. 335, House Ways and Means Committee, 06.18.2025

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 335, the Property Tax Relief Now Act. My name is Hannah Kubbins, and I serve as Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio.

For too long, Ohio’s property taxpayers have borne the brunt of a system that allows for unvoted tax increases, unpredictable spikes in tax bills, and a growing burden on homeowners—particularly seniors and those on fixed incomes. HB 335 is a comprehensive response to this crisis, offering many positive long-term reforms.

As Representative Thomas noted in his sponsor testimony, Ohioans have seen billions in unvoted property tax increases over the past five years. Despite repeated calls for reform, a stalemate between state and local governments has left taxpayers without meaningful relief. HB 335 breaks this gridlock by delivering:

- The elimination of unvoted inside millage for counties, cities, villages, and schools.
- A shift in mindset that prioritizes fiscal responsibility and voter empowerment over automatic tax increases.
- A sustainable framework that keeps tax dollars local and encourages innovation in local government funding.

HB 335’s elimination of unvoted inside millage supports AFP’s call for a **simple and transparent** tax system that treats all property owners equally and avoids a two-tiered structure by standardizing the treatment of inside millage across jurisdictions and prohibiting school districts from discreetly shifting inside millage in ways that increase tax burdens without voter approval. **The bill additionally promotes transparency and accountability** by empowering county budget commissions to oversee tax rates and spending, ensuring that taxpayers understand how their dollars are used. HB 335 also gives voters more control over their property tax bills by requiring approval for new levies and requiring public hearings and budget disclosures when taxing authorities anticipate increased collections due to rising property values.

HB 335 correctly identifies increased property tax levies as the primary source behind rapidly increasing property taxes. However, the bill's solution to this issue is to create complex tax credits that are not **simple or predictable**. Instead of issuing tax credits to property owners, Ohio should prevent the levy increases from occurring in the first place by instituting strict levy limits on both local and school levies. These levy limits would work similarly to the existing millage rate limits, requiring voter approval for levy increases beyond inflation or the indexed property tax revenue. Additionally, Ohio can further increase transparency for property owners by enacting robust [Truth in Taxation](#), requiring notifications to property owners and public hearings for any proposed tax increase, whether due to inflation, assessment changes, or millage rate increases. These reforms will further empower residents to oppose tax increases and increase transparency and predictability for Ohioans.

HB 335 is a great start to property tax reform and could provide much needed tax relief and transparency to Ohioans.

I am happy to answer any questions.