

Oppose the Ohio Budget Bill – Protect Our Communities

Right now, the Ohio legislature is considering a deeply harmful state budget proposal that goes far beyond fiscal policy. This is not a budget—it's a broad attack on civil rights, vulnerable communities, and public services across our state.

1. A Targeted Attack on LGBTQ+ People

The budget seeks to redefine “sex” in Ohio law as strictly “biological,” forcing transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people to carry ID that misgenders them. This isn't a budget issue—it's government overreach and a dangerous erasure of identity. It would make Ohio one of the most restrictive states in the country and put people at risk of discrimination, denial of services, and even violence. It could also put Ohioans with corrected documents out of compliance with federal Real ID requirements.

The budget also defunds LGBTQ+-focused homeless shelters and prohibits Pride flags on public buildings, silencing and isolating queer youth and families who already face higher rates of housing instability, suicide, and harassment. These cruel measures don't “save money”—they send a message that some people in Ohio don't belong.

2. Cuts to Public Services While Favoring the Wealthy

The proposed 2.75% flat tax offers outsized benefits to those earning over \$100,000, while delivering little relief to lower-income Ohioans. At the same time, the budget guts funding for public education, mental health services, harm reduction, childcare, food assistance, and healthcare. This is a backwards vision for our state: help for the wealthiest, and hardship for the rest.

3. Anti-Worker and Anti-Family Provisions

The budget weakens labor rights, banning strikes by public university staff and reducing telework options for state employees. It also limits doula services to just six counties—despite Ohio's alarming infant mortality rates—and permits higher lead levels in our drinking water. These are anti-life, anti-worker choices that ignore the health and dignity of Ohioans.

4. Undemocratic Education Overhaul

The bill strips away 11 elected seats on the State Board of Education, shifting power from voters to political appointees. It's a clear attempt to remove public input from decisions that affect every student and parent in Ohio.

5. Breaking Voter Promises

Ohioans voted to legalize and tax marijuana with the promise that revenue would support local communities and social equity. This budget breaks that promise, redirecting those funds elsewhere. What's the point of voting if the legislature ignores the will of the people?

This budget is not just bad policy—it's morally wrong. It sacrifices people's dignity, safety, and well-being for the benefit of the powerful and the wealthy. We urge legislators to reject this budget and craft a proposal that protects all Ohioans, honors the voices of voters, and invests in a just, inclusive, and healthy future.

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