



FY 26-27 Budget Testimony
Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
April 29, 2025
Megan Wycuff, Executive Director

Good afternoon, Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the committee.

My name is Megan Wycuff and I serve as the Executive Director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the budget recommendation for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

The CSRAB was created in 1988 to renovate, operate, maintain and preserve the historic character of Capitol Square. We are a legislative agency under the direction of a 13-member board, which consists of current legislative leadership and staff, a former Senate President, a former Speaker of the House, and members representing both the Governor's office and the public at large.

Our agency is supported by 71 employees who ensure the building is safe and functioning, provide special events services, operate the parking garage, and a host of other duties. We are committed to providing a space for public servants to conduct their business, as well as inviting people from around Ohio and around the world to experience the grandeur of our complex.

In addition to maintaining and operating the Capitol Square Complex, CSRAB is charged with educating visitors about the history of Ohio, including the design, construction and renovation of the capitol building and its grounds. As an integral part of the community fabric in Columbus, we collaborate with other organizations and state

agencies to share Ohio's story with every child, family and guest of the legislature that walks through our doors.

Our diverse partnerships have provided the ability to continue free, family-friendly programming such as the annual holiday festival, performing arts presentations, and a plethora of educational opportunities, including Black History Month and Women's History Month.

One important partnership we maintain is with the Capitol Square Foundation. Currently the Foundation assists with the funding of educational programming and commissioning of artwork through public donations.

We are currently working with the Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council to construct and install a monument honoring Ohio's role in the Women's Suffrage movement. The monument will be created by artist Brenda Councill, and the unveiling is slated for summer 2026 on the South Plaza.

Partnerships like these allow us to stretch our resources and ensure that the Statehouse can maintain its status as a premier cultural institution in Ohio.

The CSRAB operates under three major funds:

- **GRF - Operating Expenses**
 - Funding from the state used to operate and maintain the CSC.
- **Dedicated Purpose Fund 2080 - Underground Parking Garage Operations**
 - Revenue from parking used to operate and maintain the Statehouse Parking Garage and Statehouse
- **Internal Service Activity 4S70 - Statehouse Museum Shop/Events**
 - Revenue from sales in the Statehouse Museum Shop and fees for special event activities used to operate the Museum Shop and the Special Events Department.

Detailed information about each line item is included in the testimony, along with a summary of the recommendations. I'll highlight a few details about our requests:

- The GRF operating expense line item includes an increase of 3% year-over-year above the current funding levels. These increases will allow us to keep pace with inflation and cost of living adjustments.
- There is an additional dedicated appropriation line item of \$6 million for various Statehouse Facility Improvement Projects. We've provided a full list of these proposed projects as well - they include things like repairs to granite, tile, marble and stone throughout the building and grounds, replacement of the fire suppression system in the garage, as well as safety and ADA improvements throughout the complex.
- We are requesting the appropriation authority for the 2080 fund to remain the same as in previous years. This fund allows us to operate and maintain the Statehouse Underground Parking Garage and supports the Statehouse as well.
- We are requesting a small increase in appropriation authority for the 4S70 fund, which supports the Museum Shop and Special Events. The request includes a one-time transfer of \$1 million from the 2080 fund to the 4S70 fund. We have been working to reduce the operating deficit in the museum shop, and we are trending in the right direction. This transfer will place these departments on firm financial footing without interrupting day-to-day services.
- The 4G50 request of \$6,000 each year represents appropriation authority for our Education Center and Arts fund, allowing the Museum and Education department to maintain and expand our collections.

Through your generous support, CSRAB is able to provide the utmost care and consideration for this complex and for our staff as we work toward preserving this monumental building for generations to come.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



CAPITOL SQUARE
REVIEW & ADVISORY
BOARD

CSRAB Budget Proposal FY 26-27

Budget Fund Group	Fund Code	ALI	Line Item Name	FY 25 Appropriation	FY 26 Recommendation	FY 27 Recommendation
GRF	GRF	874321	Operating Expenses	6,751,000	6,953,530	7,162,135
GRF	GRF	874400	Statehouse Facility Improvement		6,000,000	0
GRF Total					12,953,530	7,162,135
DPF	2080	874601	Underground Parking Garage Operations	4,245,906	4,245,906	4,245,906
DPF	4G50	874603	Capitol Square Education and Arts	6,000	6,000	6,000
DPF	5AN1	874608	Capitol Square Improvements	1,750,000	1,927,921	-
DPF Total				6,001,906	6,179,827	4,251,906
ISA	4S70	874602	Statehouse Gift Shop/Events	800,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
ISA Total					1,000,000	1,000,000
CSR Total				13,552,906	20,133,357	12,414,041



Proposed Statehouse Facility Improvement Projects FY 26-27

Project	Description	Estimate of Probable Cost
Facility Assessment	Assessment of building envelope and MEP systems in Capitol Square Complex	\$ 100,000.00
Tile & Marble	Repair and replacement of tile throughout Statehouse	\$ 850,000.00
Perimeter Knee Wall	Repair of existing limestone knee wall and wrought-iron fencing around grounds perimeter	\$ 1,500,000.00
ADA Upgrades	Repurpose mother's room to include universal changing station, family bathroom upgrades	\$ 250,000.00
Garage Painting	Walls and striping	\$ 50,000.00
Garage Fire Suppression	Replacement of the existing fire suppression system in all levels of parking garage	\$ 1,400,000.00
Grounds Irrigation	Replacement of the Statehouse grounds irrigation system	\$ 800,000.00
Veterans Plaza Fountains	Replace existing fountain pump mechanisms, lighting and granite	\$ 80,000.00
Perimeter Exterior Stairs	Reset, repoint and caulk stairs on perimeter of Statehouse and Senate Building	\$ 60,000.00
Monument Cleaning	Preventative maintenance	\$ 60,000.00
North and South Handrails	Cut out and re-weld	\$ 40,000.00
Exterior doors	Replace with focus on security	\$ 600,000.00
3rd St. Entrance Steps	Repair steps and handrails	\$ 110,000.00
Water infiltration - Huntington	Discovery of the underground water source of leaks in the garage	\$ 100,000.00
		\$ 6,000,000.00