



Americans for Prosperity – Ohio Proponent Testimony, Sub, H.B. 335 – Senate Local Government Committee, 11.05.2025

Good afternoon, Chair O’Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I serve as Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio (AFP-OH).

As our principles state below, we advocate for low and simple taxes applied broadly and impartially on all individuals and businesses, irrespective of the goods, industries, or populations involved. At Americans for Prosperity, we advocate for property tax solutions that are simple, transparent, and fair. Below I’ve listed our preferred approaches and how Sub. H.B. 335 fulfills those preferences:

1. Broad-Based, Low-Rate Taxes:

We support broad-based, low-rate property taxes that minimize economic distortion and ensure that all property owners contribute to the funding of local services.

Sub. H.B. 335 supports broad-based, low-rate property taxes by limiting automatic revenue increases from inside millage levies due to property reappraisals or updates.

Instead of allowing property tax revenues to rise automatically with property values (which can lead to higher effective rates for all), the bill ties any increase to an inflation factor. This helps keep rates lower and more predictable for all property owners, ensuring everyone contributes fairly to local services without sudden spikes.

2. Elimination of Special Interest Carve-Outs:

We oppose special interest carve-outs, exemptions, and deductions that create a two-tiered tax system. All property owners should be treated equally under the law.

The bill does not introduce new exemptions, deductions, or carve-outs for special interests.

All property owners are treated equally under the revised system. The bill’s provisions for millage reductions and revenue limits apply broadly to all inside millage levies, rather than targeting specific groups or property types. This helps prevent a two-tiered tax system and maintains fairness.

3. Predictable and Permanent Reforms:

We advocate for tax reforms that provide certainty and predictability for taxpayers.

Sub. H.B. 335 enacts permanent changes to how inside millage is managed, providing long-term certainty for taxpayers.

The reforms are not temporary; they apply to property tax years beginning in 2026 (for real property) and 2027 (for manufactured homes) and continue thereafter. By tying increases to an inflation factor and requiring oversight for reductions, the bill ensures predictability and stability in property tax bills, supporting economic growth and planning.

4. Transparency and accountability

Tax policies should be transparent and easy to understand. Taxpayers should clearly understand what they owe and how their tax dollars are being used.

The bill increases transparency and accountability in property tax administration in several ways, including:

- The bill requires county budget commission approval for inside millage reductions tied to county sales tax levies, ensuring that changes are made transparently and with proper oversight.
- The bill defines key terms and procedures, making the tax system easier to understand.
- Taxpayers can more clearly see how their taxes are calculated and how changes are made, promoting trust and understanding.

Sub. H. B. No. 335 is a targeted reform that seeks to balance the needs of taxpayers and local governments. By limiting automatic property tax increases, enabling millage reductions with new taxes, and empowering county budget commissions to responsibly steward taxpayer dollars, the bill promotes fairness, transparency, and local control in Ohio's property tax system.