Ohio PROMISE

A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK THAT STRENGTHENS OUR STATE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019-2020
OHIO HOUSE DEMOCRATS
A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK STRENGTHENS OUR STATE
1. YOU CAN LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM, RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

2. IF YOU WORK HARD, YOU CAN GET AHEAD.

3. FAMILY COMES FIRST.

4. YOU CAN LIVE, WORK AND RETIRE WITH SAFETY AND SECURITY.

5. WE WORK FOR YOU.
The Ohio Promise means empowering people to pursue their idea of the American Dream and that begins with giving them the education and skills to make their own choices. So we are going to work for Ohioans to ensure quality pre-K is affordable and available to all children. And we are taking the same approach with our public schools by fixing the broken funding formula so each child can go to school in modern classrooms with dedicated teachers. And we pledge to make college and technical training affordable for students and their families.

The Ohio Promise means keeping generations of Ohioans in the Buckeye State, but we need more than just educational opportunities to keep talent here. We pledge to work for pay equity throughout Ohio, that technologies required to run a thriving business reach every corner of our state, and to provide incentives for the state to contract with companies committed to creating good jobs and keeping Ohioans working right here at home. Our promise to Ohioans is that you and your children do not need to leave Ohio to make their dreams a reality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY ISSUES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Affordability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen Apprenticeship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Vocational Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOU CAN LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM, RIGHT HERE AT HOME.
Fund All Schools Fairly
• Provide fair funding for all schools by determining the true costs of educating a child.
• Ensure all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education in Ohio, regardless of their zip code.
• Modify school transportation funding so that the system is safe and efficient, while providing districts with more flexibility.

Make College Affordable, Keep Our Kids in Ohio
• Allow students who’ve earned a degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to deduct from their state income taxes certain out-of-pocket expenses, such as tuition, fees, books, and certain special needs services.
• Incentivize students to stay in Ohio to work by applying the deduction against Ohio income.

Equal Pay for Equal Work in Ohio
• Create the Gender Pay Disparity Task Force to eradicate gender-based wage disparities in Ohio
• Require businesses seeking to contract with the state of Ohio to obtain an equal pay certificate. Also, require state agencies to identify and eliminate sex-based wage disparities.

Enhance “Buy Ohio” Preference
• Enhance the Buy Ohio preference to incentivize the state to contract with Ohio companies that are committed to creating or retaining jobs in the state as a result of the contract.

Expand Broadband Internet Access
• Create a broadband internet infrastructure funding program to encourage expanded development in underserved areas of Ohio.
• Allow local communities, businesses, nonprofits, and co-ops involved in providing telecommunication services to apply for funds to expand broadband services.
The Ohio Promise means respecting the hard work that you do every day by working to make sure you can get ahead in life. The problem is too many hard working Ohioans have not been treated fairly. We pledge to make the system work for working people instead of against them. The Ohio Promise gives tax breaks and incentives to working people and we believe it is time to give working people the raise they’ve earned by upping the minimum wage in Ohio.

The Ohio Promise also means making sure one job is good enough so we pledge to hold companies accountable to their employees and provide fair wages, benefits and security. And if you work overtime, the Ohio Promise means you get paid for your extra hours. This is fair for workers and for businesses and it will make Ohio stronger.

**KEY ISSUES**

- EITC tax credit
- Equal Pay Task Force
- Proof of Pay Stubs to Fix Misclassification
- Increase Minimum Wage
- Overtime Protection
- Pay Equity Hotline
- Improving Access to Capital
- Micro Business Development
- Close LLC Loophole
Close the “LLC Loophole,” Make Tax Deduction Work for Ohio’s Economy

- Reign in out-of-control giveaway by focusing the income tax deduction on businesses that have created jobs, invested in employee training, or purchased new equipment.
- Businesses must apply annually for the tax treatment to ensure the tax benefit(s) are going to businesses meeting the new economic standards.

Working Families First Tax Credit

- Create the Ohio Working Families First Tax Credit by enhancing Ohio’s earned income tax credit.
- Make the credit refundable, which will provide taxpayers with a refund if their credit amount exceeds their tax liability for the year.
- Remove the income-based limit on the credit amount, allowing qualifying taxpayers to receive the full 10% of the taxpayers’ federal credit amount.

Give Ohio Workers a Raise

- Phase-in an increase of the state minimum wage to $15 an hour over four years, beginning in January 2020.
- Adjust the minimum wage based on the Consumer Price Index annually, beginning September 2023.
- Allow local governments to establish higher minimum wage requirements.

Honest Pay Act

- Create a uniform 7-point test to clarify whether a worker should be classified as an employee or a contractor, so proper wages and benefits are provided.
- Ensure workers get compensated fully for their work by regulating payment of wages via payroll cards.

Pay Transparency

- Require that employees have the opportunity to receive a statement each payday detailing the employees’ earnings and deductions for that pay period.

Expand Overtime Pay

- Require public-sector employers, as well as some private employers, to pay certain employees at a rate of one and a half times their wage rate for overtime worked.
Family comes first. The Ohio Promise will put families first by putting more money into their monthly budgets, making doctor visits and medicine more affordable and available. We support family values, but more importantly, we value families. Our pledge is to work every day to make the lives of working families in Ohio better.

We’re going to fight poverty by helping people get to work in good paying and fulfilling jobs. And we’re going to strengthen the bonds of our families with the parental leave act, by curbing domestic violence, and by providing the best pre and post-natal care in the country to reduce the number of babies dying prematurely.

**KEY ISSUES**

Paid Family Leave Insurance
Increase Child Care Availability
Health Education Standards
Maternal & Child Health Care
STD Testing to Reduce Infant Mortality

Good Samaritan Protection
Eliminate Spousal Exception
Child Exploitation Penalties
Kinship Navigator
Foster Care
Eliminate Sales Tax on Feminine Hygiene Products & Baby Diapers
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
End Marriage Tax Penalty
Support Family Caregivers
Create Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

- Create the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Program for working families to receive up to twelve weeks of paid time off to take care of a loved one or bond with a new child.

Kinship Care Navigator Program

- Apply the Kinship Care Navigator Program statewide by developing a regional structure tasked with providing vital information to caregivers, like grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other trusted adults.
- Task service providers to assist caregivers with obtaining medical care, transportation, and educational services as well.

The Maternal Health Act

- Make permanent Ohio’s Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) as a maternal mortality review board to collect vital data related to the causes, trends, and patterns of maternal deaths.
- Require the board to make recommendations to address gaps in care and systemic care delivery issues, including factors stemming from economic, racial, or other disparities.

Supporting Family Caregivers

- Provide an income tax credit to family caregivers who use their own money to care for a loved one, including spending on transportation, home modifications, and respite care.
The Ohio Promise means you can live, work and retire with safety and security.

At every stage of their lives, Ohioans deserve to feel safe and secure in their communities. We pledge to work to improve the lives of people at every stage of their journey.

We’re pledging to help our young people by addressing the disease of addiction by getting our loved ones the support and treatment they need for a chance to survive.

The Ohio Promise also means truly respecting seniors by helping them live in their homes by reducing their property taxes and providing the best in-home or retirement community care. And we need to lower the price for prescription drugs.

KEY ISSUES

Aisha’s Law  
Prescription Drug Costs  
Pharmacy Benefit Reforms  
Homestead Exemption Expansion  
Justice Reform  
Black Lung Protections  
School Safety  
State & County Program Development to Respond to Mass Layoffs  
Strengthen Prevailing Wage  
Memory Health Training

Protect Emergency Room Care Coverage  
Protect Medicaid Expansion  
Elderly Scam Protections  
Ohio Veterans Trust Fund  
Drug and Poison Centers  
Non-Opioid Pain Management  
Red Flag Law to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence  
Statute of Limitations on Rape  
2-Person Crew Required for Train Safety

Bail Reform  
Sentencing Reform  
Protect Women’s Access to Healthcare  
Reagan Tokes Act II  
Protect Pensions  
Underage Human Trafficking Reforms  
Senior Savings Plan  
Protect Healthcare & Medicaid Expansion
Aisha’s Law
• Provide a continuum of domestic violence protections and interventions designed to save lives and target abuse.
• Require law enforcement officers to utilize threat assessment screenings when reviewing domestic violence situations.
• Establish a task force made up of a combination of law enforcement individuals, domestic violence advocates, social workers, or social service providers in order to provide victims and alleged abusers with resources and referrals.

Create the Office of Drug Policy
• Unify statewide anti-addiction efforts through a permanent cabinet position.
• Coordinate regional and local efforts with monthly reporting and best practices hotline.

Provide Property Tax Break to More Ohio Seniors
• Expand the existing “homestead exemption” to more Ohio seniors by raising the household income threshold that determines eligibility to $60,000, up from the current $32,800.

Prescription Drug Price Affordability
• Prohibit “gag orders,” which prevent pharmacists from disclosing to customers the cheapest method for purchasing prescription medications.
• Prohibit a pharmacy from retroactively adjusting a pharmacy reimbursement rate.
The Ohio Promise means as your elected lawmakers we pledge to come to Columbus, go to work for you, and get the job done. We know you don’t want petty politics to get in the way of moving Ohio forward so our pledge is to check our egos and our politics at the door and get to work.

This starts with protecting the sanctity of your vote with open elections for all registered voters. We pledge to protect your community and your right to keep Columbus in check so we pledge to give your schools back to you and stop the state takeover of local schools that has harmed our children and our neighborhoods. We need to improve the quality of life in your community by lowering your costs for utilities, ensuring your drinking water is clean, clear and crisp and protecting our treasured great Lake Erie.

KEY ISSUES

- End School Takeovers
- Automatic Voter Registration
- Stop Giving For-profit Charter Schools First Option for Buying Public School Buildings
- 5-day School Record Transfer
- Agency Transparency on Harassment & Discrimination
- Vote by Mail
- Reduce Campaign Contribution Limit
- Restore Local Government Funds
- Increase Library Funding
- Audit JobsOhio
- Restore Funds to Financially Distressed Communities
- Water Quality Improvement
- Injection Well & Brine Safety
- Replace Water Lines
- Wind Energy Setbacks
- Reclamation of Abandoned Mines
- Severance Tax Returned to Locals
End State Takeovers of Local Schools, Reinstate Local Control

- Eliminate failed Academic Distress Commissions, restores local control of public schools, and establish a building-based, bottom-up reform model.
- Replace state takeovers with better wraparound student support services, transforming low-performing schools into community learning centers.

Protect Lake Erie

- $1 billion in clean water improvement bonds.
- Propose a constitutional amendment to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements of municipal corporations, counties, townships, and other governmental entities.

Protect “Whistleblowers” Who Speak Out Against Corruption

- Simplify reporting, broadens coverage of protected disclosures, and provide improved remedies for employees who have been retaliated against for refusing to participate in or remain silent about any illegal activity in their workplace.

Fix Wind Setbacks to Harness Renewable Energy in Ohio

- Remove the market barrier to large scale wind farm development in Ohio.

Automatic Voter Registration

- Automatically register to vote all Ohioans with a drivers’ license or state ID, all Ohio high school students who are eligible to vote, and all Ohioans who interact with Jobs and Family Services offices and other agencies designated by the federal Motor Voter law.

Ohio Water Quality Improvement Program

- Establish the Ohio Water Quality Improvement Program to provide property tax exemptions to landowners that plant certain species on their land to improve water quality, rather than use that land for agricultural purposes.

Improve Water Quality in the Western Basin of Lake Erie

- Exempt qualifying riparian buffers in the Western Basin of Lake Erie from property taxation to increase the use of these naturally grown vegetated areas that help protect waterways.
- Reimburse local communities for any lost revenue resulting from the exemption.
BIPARTISAN PRIORITIES TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

**Fund All Schools Fairly**
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**Protect Medicaid Expansion**
- Maintain program integrity to ensure state continues to use as a workforce development tool and that more than half-a-million Ohioans continue to have access to healthcare.

**Invest in Early Childhood Education**
*State Budget*
- Raise the eligibility for publicly funded early childhood programs from 130% of the FPL to 150%. This would provide learning opportunities for 20,000 additional children.

**Increase Child Protective Services**
*State Budget*
- Double Children’s Services Funding

**Protect Lake Erie**
- $1 billion in clean water improvement bonds.
- Propose a constitutional amendment to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements of municipal corporations, counties, townships, and other governmental entities.

**Increase Public Transportation Funding**
*Transportation Budget*
- $200 million investment in public transportation funding.

**Return Severance Tax Revenue to Local Communities**
*Transportation Budget*
- $10 million for local community infrastructure impacted by oil and gas exploration heavy equipment.

**End State Takeovers of Local Schools, Reinstate Local Control**
- Eliminate failed Academic Distress Commissions, restore local control of public schools, and establish a building-based, bottom-up reform model.
- Replace state takeovers with better wraparound student support services, transforming low-performing schools into community learning centers.
Aisha's Law

- Provide a continuum of domestic violence protections and interventions designed to save lives and target abuse.
- Require law enforcement officers to utilize threat assessment screenings when reviewing domestic violence situations.
- Establish a task force made up of a combination of law enforcement individuals, domestic violence advocates, social workers, or social service providers in order to provide victims and alleged abusers with resources and referrals.

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