



STATE REPRESENTATIVE SEAN PATRICK BRENNAN

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Introduced State Budget Highlights

In recent days I attended Governor DeWine's State of the State Address, in which he outlined his spending priorities, and have spent countless hours reading his 631-page, \$200 billion biennial (two-year) state operating budget proposal. The 2024 – 2025 state budget, which calls for a 12.7% increase in spending over the previous budget, begins with the Governor's proposal to the Ohio General Assembly. The General Assembly will spend the next several months reviewing and amending the budget proposal. It must be approved by the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate and signed by the Governor by June 30. Below I have outlined some of the highlights of the Governor's proposal that affect the communities in District 14. Remember, this is just the proposal. It can change drastically as it moves through the process. I will be deeply involved in the budgeting process to help ensure that it is balanced and that it addresses our communities' needs.

Primary and Secondary Education

- *Continue to fund and implement the Cupp-Patterson Plan – Also known as the Fair School Funding Plan, it addresses the unconstitutional funding of Ohio's schools over the years which forces public schools to overly rely on property taxes for funding. However, the General Assembly has not funded the Plan fully.
- *Provide all students with access to evidence-based curriculum to address the literacy gap.
- *Providing school resource officers in every public and private school in Ohio that wants one.
- *Expanding school vouchers at a cost of \$178 million by increasing the income eligibility for EdChoice vouchers to families at 400% of the federal poverty level. That would be \$111,000 per year for a family of four.
- *Creation of a new Department of Children and Youth to consolidate programs from various state agencies to better focus on behavioral health, physical education, foster care, and early childhood education.

Tax Policy

- * Local Government and Libraries Funds (Increase from 1.66% to 1.7% of General Revenue Fund tax revenues) – This is something that I will be keeping a close eye on, as these are tax dollars the state sends back to our local communities to pay for police, fire, street, sewer, recreation, and other vital local services. Cuts to the Local Government Fund (LGF) have cost the cities in our district tens of millions of dollars over the years. I am happy that it is increasing, however, the increase does not get us close to where it was a decade ago. As Ranking Member of the State and Local Government Committee, I will be advocating to increase it to its previous levels. We deserve a better return of our tax dollars to benefit our cities.
- *Ending sales taxes on “critical infant supplies,” including diapers, wipes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and other safety equipment.
- *\$2,500 per child tax deduction



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Mental Health

*Creation of the State of Ohio Action for Resiliency (SOAR) Network. This group of doctors, social workers, counselors, and other experts would research the root causes of mental illnesses and determine appropriate treatments.

*Expand counseling services, including in-person and telehealth, address shortages in the behavioral health field, expand pediatric behavioral health services and crisis response resources, including the new 9-8-8 suicide hotline.

Higher Education and Career Readiness

*\$300 million to fund capital improvements and equipment for career tech education programs.

*\$5,000 per year scholarships to all Ohio high school students who graduate in the top 5% of their class and choose to attend college in Ohio.

Transportation

*\$100 million for multi-modal transportation, including public transportation. I will be watching this portion of the budget closely, as public transportation is important for helping workers connect to jobs, allow seniors and disabled residents to access needed services, and reduce wear and tear on roads.

Law Enforcement

*\$40 million per year to train officers in de-escalation, use-of-force, and crisis intervention for persons with mental illness.

*Increased funding for police body cameras.

*Fully funds the Next Generation 911 system in every Ohio community and would pay the monthly fees for any agency that uses Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) for improved communication.

Jobs and Economic Development

*\$2.5 billion All Ohio Future Fund to boost infrastructure and economic development sites across the state to ensure that sites are shovel-ready for projects to attract businesses and manufacturing and create jobs.

*\$150 million increase for innovation hubs that partner with colleges and universities to create jobs and retain and attract talent.

Affordable Housing

*Tax changes and new programs to help encourage the construction of housing for lower-income families, including low income housing tax credits, single family housing tax credits, and the creation of the Ohio Home Ownership Savings Account program to help people save for a down payment.