



# 136<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025-2026





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## 2025 Highlights

**Income Tax Reform:** Ohio implemented a flat income tax rate of 2.75%, the lowest in the Midwest.

**Transformational Energy Policy:** House Bill 15 repealed harmful taxpayer subsidies, eliminated electric securities plans, and expedited timelines for new projects to unleash energy abundance.

**Property Taxes:** Several major property tax reforms passed both chambers that strengthen county budget commissions, increase transparency, empower voters, revise the 20-mill floor, and limit certain school district levies.

# Welcome!

**Americans for Prosperity-Ohio is proud to present our 2026 Mid-Session Buckeye Blueprint Policy Agenda—a focused roadmap to build on recent wins and prepare Ohio for major policy reform opportunity in 2027.**

**Over the past several years, Ohio has made real progress.** The General Assembly enacted the lowest flat income tax in the Midwest, repealed corrupt and costly energy subsidies through House Bill 15, and advanced meaningful property tax transparency and accountability reforms. These achievements demonstrate what is possible when lawmakers prioritize taxpayers, families, and economic freedom.

This updated agenda reflects a clear strategy: protect what we've accomplished, strengthen the foundation, and position Ohio for bold reforms ahead.

On **Economic Freedom**, our focus is disciplined spending, regulatory accountability, and putting Ohio on a credible path toward a 0% income tax in the next decade.

On **Modernizing Ohio Government**, we prioritize consolidating burdensome layers of government, advancing truth-in-taxation protections, and cutting local red tape that has increased costs for families and employers.

On **Education Opportunity**, we continue fighting to fund families, expand supply, and remove remaining barriers to true school choice.

And on **Energy Abundance**, we are committed to free-market policies that deliver reliable, affordable energy and attract private investment—especially as new threats to ratepayers continue to emerge.

This year's agenda also reflects the growing strength of our coalition. Alongside Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, **the LIBRE Initiative** and **Concerned Veterans for America** are fully engaged in advancing this agenda—mobilizing Hispanic communities, veterans, and military families to advocate for policies that expand opportunity, affordability, and freedom across the Buckeye State.

**The Buckeye Blueprint is not just a policy agenda**—it is a long-term strategy to move Ohio from middle-of-the-Midwest to number one in the nation. With continued partnership, 2026 will be a year of momentum that sets the stage for transformational reform in 2027.

Together, we are building a bolder, better Buckeye State.

**Donovan O'Neil**  
**State Director**

**Tim Ross**  
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**Hannah Kubbins**  
**Legislative Director**

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

01

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Lower Taxes  
Less Regulation  
Restrained Spending



02

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Fund Families  
Expand Supply  
Maximize Flexibility



03

## ENERGY ABUNDANCE

Transparency  
Competition  
Consumer-first



04

## MODERNIZING OHIO GOVERNMENT

Strengthen Oversight  
Reform Property Taxes  
Consolidate Services



# 01 ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The Tax Foundation's  
2026 State Tax  
Competitiveness Index  
ranks Ohio 39<sup>th</sup> out of  
50.

## 0% PERSONAL INCOME TAX | RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING | MEDICAID REFORM

The 136th General Assembly successfully moved the state to a flat personal income tax rate of 2.75%, the lowest in the Midwest. But the work doesn't stop here – restrained spending, responsible budgeting, and cutting red tape are crucial to making Ohio the first in the Midwest to have a 0% personal income tax rate.

STRUCTURAL  
BALANCE RULE

A structural balance rule would let surpluses in good years offset deficits in bad years. Structural balance can strengthen policy stability and predictability, improve budget management and legislators' focus on other challenges, and help resist federal mandates on states.

0% INCOME  
TAX

Eliminate Ohio's income tax over a 10- year period in order to boost economic growth and job creation. Making prudent spending decisions, reprioritizing expenses, and adopting tougher rule-based spending controls will be necessary to balance the budget while following-through on major tax reforms.

MEDICAID  
REFORM

Medicaid consumes about half of Ohio's state operating budget, limiting resources for tax relief and other priorities. Medicaid reform, and spending restraint generally, are essential to broader budget reform. While also ensuring that these programs are able to serve Ohioans most in need.

# 02 MODERNIZE OHIO GOVERNMENT

**STRENGTHEN OVERSIGHT | REFORM PROPERTY TAXES | CONSOLIDATE SERVICES**

Thousands of overlapping government entities in Ohio create inefficiency and hinder progress. It's big government disguised under a different name—creating a scenario where residents face "death by 3,939 cuts," as each entity imposes its own tax, fine, or fee simply for existing. Modernizing Ohio's Government will protect prosperity across the state. While consolidating services and local government reform will help reign in a burdensome bureaucracy.

**PASS THE REINS ACT** REINS would redirect all "major" rule-making from regulatory bodies to the General Assembly for legislative approval. This is forward facing legislation that would require regulators to explain the economic impact of their proposed rules.

**TRUTH IN TAXATION** Requires local governments to inform property owners of the revenue-neutral tax rate after valuation changes. Properly crafted Truth in Taxation legislation enhances transparency to manage property tax growth, yet permits increases when necessary.

**STREAMLINE LOCAL REGULATIONS** Most current zoning and land-use regulations are enacted and enforced at the local level. The result is a fragmented policy space that makes it difficult to enact significant policy changes that increase supply and improve affordability. State preemption of city or county zoning and land-use regulations may be warranted to achieve regulatory reform and increase housing supply and affordability.

**Ohio has the fifth most political subdivisions in the country. This isn't just local government; it's a tangled web of bureaucracy.**

# 03

# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY



## FUND FAMILIES | MAXIMIZE FLEXIBILITY | INCREASE SUPPLY

### SCHOOL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Ohio needs to fund families, maximize flexibility, and expand the supply for educational choice as demand continues to increase. Despite the universal availability of EdChoice Vouchers, barriers still stand in the way of true education freedom in the Buckeye state.

### ELIMINATE MEANS TESTING

The demand for EdChoice vouchers has skyrocketed since the implementation of a universal voucher system. However the means testing aspect of the program is standing in the way of ensuring every single family in Ohio has access to EdChoice dollars to seek the educational model that works best for their child. We believe striking the wealth testing element will further eliminate barriers to educational freedom for all Ohio families.

### UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCESS

Universal open enrollment for public schools keeps public funds in education, diversifies student populations, creates more opportunities, and promotes competitive excellence. This bipartisan-supported initiative saw 85% approval from both political parties in three states in 2023.

**THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATION FREEDOM IS NEVER ENDING.**

**WE MUST EMPOWER PARENTS TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT BEST FIT  
THE NEEDS OF EACH AND EVERY CHILD.**

# 04

## ENERGY ABUNDANCE



The passage of House Bill 15 by the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly signaled Ohioans are turning the page on cronyist energy policy. The bill repealed taxpayer-funded subsidies linked to House Bill 6, Ohio's largest corruption case. It eliminated electric securities plans and created expedited timelines to unleash energy in Ohio, indicating the state's commitment to free markets.

According to The Buckeye Institute, since being signed into law, House Bill 15 has attracted more than \$4 billion in private investment with six projects that will generate nearly 2,000 MW of energy already approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board or moving through the approval process.

### **RELIABILITY | AFFORDABILITY | ABUNDANCE**

#### **HOUSE BILL 15 - A MODEL FOR THE COUNTRY**

House Bill 15 repealed harmful taxpayer subsidies, eliminated electric securities plans, and expedited timelines for new projects to unleash energy abundance. The bill, signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine, also affirms Ohio's commitment to free-market energy policy.

#### **REMOVE BARRIERS TO INNOVATION**

Regulations and taxes are suffocating energy development in Ohio and across the country. Even something as simple as permitting delays has had a profound impact on Ohio, delaying or outright killing energy development projects, leading to less energy supply.

#### **SUPPORT "ALL OF THE ABOVE"**

An "all of the above" approach to fuel sources will ensure competition in the marketplace that will ultimately benefit the consumer.



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