

INNOVATION OHIO

BUDGET UPDATE

Lower Wages, Fewer Jobs and a Big Budget Hole

FAILING BUDGET — MORE OF THE SAME

GOP budgets have put Ohio on the wrong track, and the Statehouse Republicans' new budget is more of the same. Their policies have given handouts to the richest, held down wages, and stunted our job growth. As a result, Ohio is facing a massive budget hole, and our schools, students, and working families are being left behind.

LAGGING JOBS AND WAGES

Incomes, unemployment and job growth are all headed in the wrong direction. In fact, we are in the bottom half nationally on all of these fronts (Source: www.oneohionow.org).

We've had 52 straight months of job growth below the national average. That's more than four straight years where Ohio has been headed in the wrong direction. Take it from Ohio Republicans themselves: Rep. Jim Renacci recently said, "Ohio is not going in the right direction today... we've gone from 21st to 37th in job creation. That's not a good place to be."

Even Republicans are realizing that their Ohio Miracle was just a dream, and now it's the Ohio Nightmare.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN THE HOLE

Republican spending strategies haven't brought us up to the national average when it comes to wages and jobs. But it has done one thing—created a big deficit.

On April 13, Gov. John Kasich and legislative leaders gathered reporters at the Statehouse to announce that, thanks to lower than anticipated tax revenue, the budget that Kasich had introduced three months earlier was already out of balance, to the tune of \$800 million.

And with three more months to go in this fiscal year, Ohio's current budget is already missing its mark by over \$750 million. That's because the Republicans overestimated what their tax cuts for the wealthy would deliver.

THE STATE IS NOT INVESTING IN WHAT OHIOANS CARE ABOUT

Because GOP tax policies have created a budget hole, we won't see investments in what Ohioans care about.

HIGHER EDUCATION: The House budget makes no new investment in higher education and allows colleges and universities to charge families more.

K-12 EDUCATION: Adjusted for inflation, this budget has \$835 million less for our schools than eight years ago. It's no wonder that under Kasich, Ohio has dropped from 5th to 22nd in national education rankings.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES: In order to fund tax breaks for the wealthy, the GOP has made deep and destabilizing cuts to our local communities. Because the state has taken money out of local communities and schools, Ohioans have seen their local taxes go up just to keep teachers in the classroom and police on the streets. Ohio now has higher taxes on homeowners, seniors, local taxpayers and working people because the Republicans have left them holding the bag. For example, in a decade, the average property tax bill has increased by 22%, while the state pays a lower share of the cost of education.

TAKE ACTION

Want to do your part to advocate for budget policies that actually help?

Here are a few things you can do today:

Call the office of Senate Finance Committee Chair Scott Oelslager
at (614) 466-0626 and ask to receive email notifications when
Finance committee hearings are scheduled.

Contact your State Senator
and let them know what priorities they should fund instead of providing
another income tax cut that mainly helps the rich.

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#ohbudget, like our Facebook page, and sign up for our budget emails at
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