



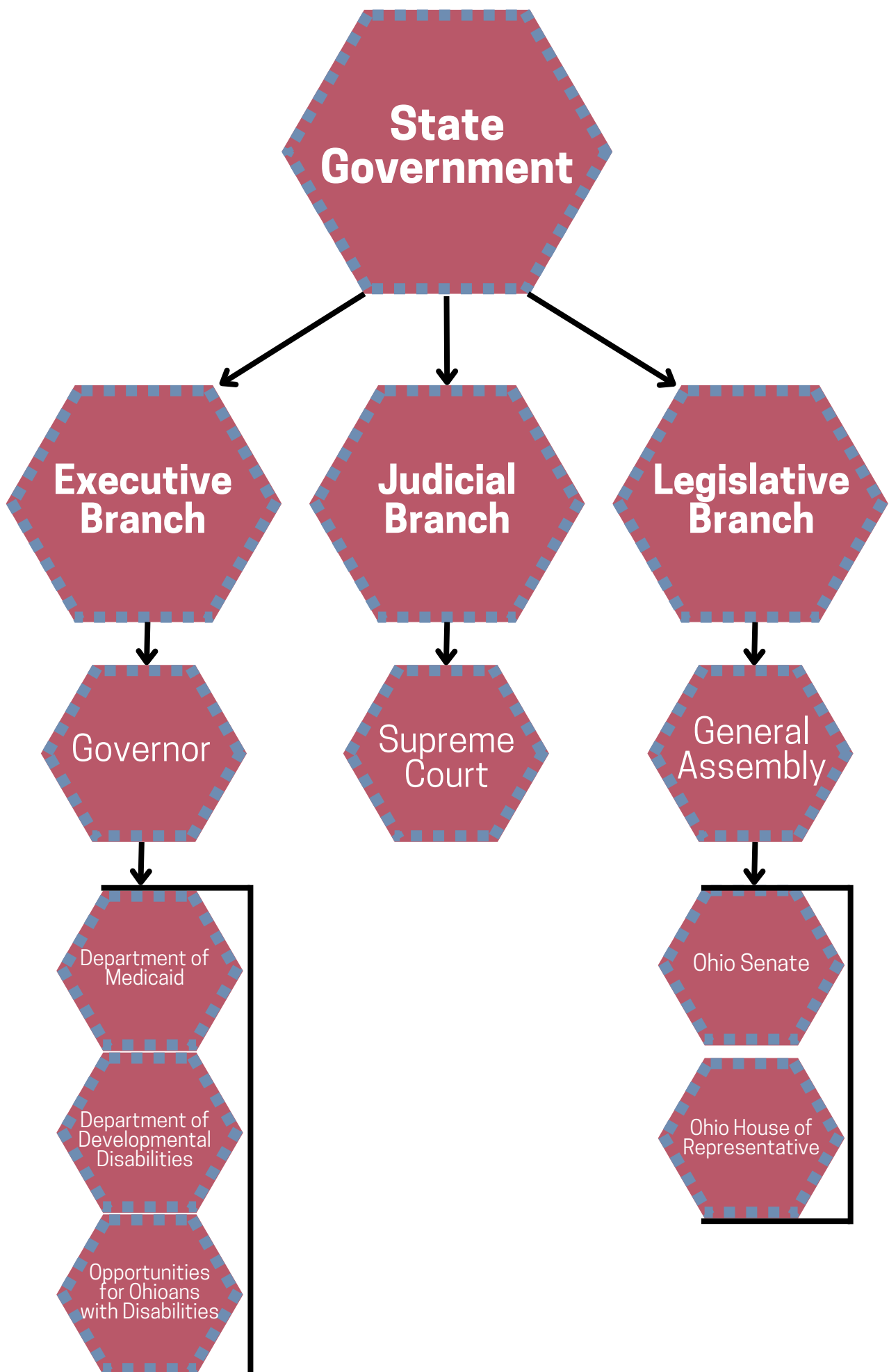
Ohio's Operating Budget

A GUIDE FOR OPRA MEMBERS

State Fiscal Year 24-25

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The Basics

There are **five** different state budgets reviewed and passed by the Ohio General Assembly. Funding for services paid for by the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities are appropriated through the **main operating budget**.

THE FIVE BUDGETS

1. **Main Operating**
2. Transportation
3. Bureau of Workers Compensation
4. Capital Appropriations
5. Capital Reappropriations

 **Read Governor DeWine's SFY 24/25 Budget Proposal Here:** 

<https://obm.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/Governor+DeWine+Executive+Budget+FY+2024-2025>

Budget Lingo

APPROPRIATION:

The assignment of funding to each line item in the budget.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

A small committee made up of House and Senate leadership that meets at the end of the process to resolve differences between the House and Senate-passed versions of the bill.

LINE ITEM:

The budget is presented as a line item budget. Line items are divided by funding source, state department, department division, and purpose for spending. A line item can pay for a specific program or a grouping of programs. The Governor retains the power to veto each line item. May also be referred to as an appropriations line item (ALI).

BALANCED BUDGET RULE:

A budget-writing rule prohibiting the state from passing a budget that spends more money than is available in state revenue.

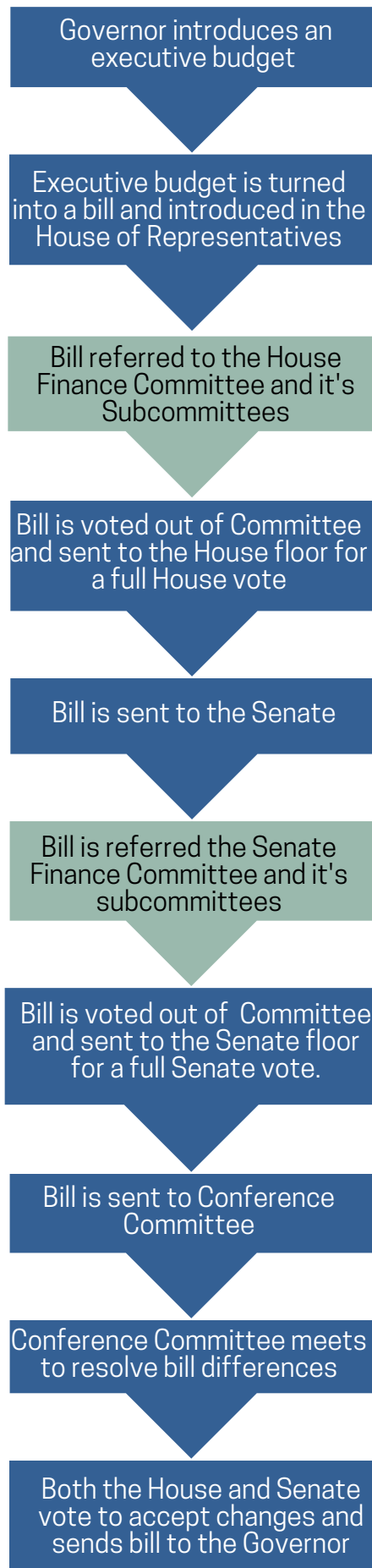
GENERAL REVENUE FUND (GRF):

A state fund from which most state agencies receive financing. Money in the GRF is available for expenditures on any lawful public purpose specified by the General Assembly. GRF comes from sales and use tax, income tax, business taxes, other taxes, and lottery profits. GRF is one of six funding sources used to pay for state government operations.

STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY):

The State of Ohio's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30th. Each operating budget covers two fiscal years.

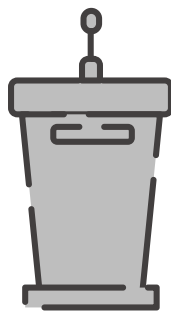
The Budget Process



To begin the budget process, the Governor introduces an executive budget to fund the state government. This request is turned into a bill and is introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives. The budget must be introduced by **March 15th**. After the bill's introduction, both chambers of the General Assembly host hearings where the public testifies on the various parts of the budget. Legislators make changes based on testimony and constituent feedback and vote on the bill. Once both chambers pass the bill, the bill goes to a Conference Committee to resolve differences between the versions of the bill passed by each chamber.

After the conference committee approval, the bill returns to each chamber for a final vote. Then the bill goes to the governor for review and signature. During this review, the governor may veto specific appropriations or language in the bill. Per the Ohio Constitution, the governor must sign the bill by **June 30th** so the budget goes in to effect on July 1st. The General Assembly has the power to override any vetos but this is rare.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY



At each green bubble, there is an opportunity for the general public to provide written or in-person verbal testimony on the budget bill. Typically, OPRA and OPRA Members provide testimony at these public hearings.

Governor authors line-item vetos and signs bill into law. Budget is officially complete.

Committees of Jurisdiction

These Committees and Sub-Committees oversee the budget line items for DODD and OOD services. These Committees are considered "Committees of Jurisdiction."

House

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Republican members: Edwards (Chair), LaRe (Vice Chair), Abrams, Callender, Carruthers, Cross, Cutrona, Ghanbari, Hoops, Jones, Loychik, Manning, K. Miller, Patton, Pavliga, Peterson, Richardson, Robb Blasdel, Schmidt, Swearingen, B. Young

Democratic Members: Sweeney (Ranking), Blackshear, Grim, Isaacsohn, Jarrells, Liston, A. Miller, J. Miller, Robinson, Skindell, Thomas, Troy

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE

Republican Members: Carruthers (Chair), Hoops, Schmidt

Democratic Members: Liston (Ranking), McNally

Senate

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Republican Members: Dolan (Chair), Cirino (Vice-Chair), Blessing, Brenner, Gavarone Lang, Manning, Reineke, Romanchuk, Schuring

Democratic Members: Craig (Ranking), Sykes, Hicks-Hudson

MEDICAID COMMITTEE

Republican Members: Romanchuk (Chair), Dolan (Vice-Chair), Antani, S. Huffman, Johnson

Democratic Members: Ingram (Ranking), Craig

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Republican Members: S. Huffman (Chair), Johnson (Vice-Chair), Hackett, Roegner

Democratic Members: Antonio (Ranking), Ingram

OPRA Members who deliver services in these committee members' districts should prioritize advocacy efforts with these offices.

Budget Advocacy

There are many ways to advocate during the state budget process. Not all advocacy methods have the same amount of impact.

INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

The most effective advocacy tool is hosting legislators to see services being delivered in person. Meeting your legislator in Columbus is also highly effective.

Getting a meeting during budget time can be tricky depending on the office, but many offices will participate in virtual meetings. This one-on-one method allows for the most relationship-building with your elected officials.

COMMITTEE HEARING TESTIMONY

Testimony is also an effective advocacy tool. Testimony is provided as written testimony or verbally in-person at a committee's public hearings at the Statehouse. A copy of your testimony and a witness slip must be submitted to the committee chairperson's office at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. Verbal testimony is usually limited to five minutes with the opportunity for members of the committee to ask follow-up questions. There is no limit on the length of written testimony.

WAYS TO ADVOCATE

- Individual Meetings
- Committee Hearing Testimony
- Emails
- Phone Calls
- Electronic Advocacy Forms

EMAIL

Email is an easy way to share your message with your legislator. Be aware, during budget season, legislators receive hundreds of emails a day and you may not receive a response. If you are trying to make new relationships with your legislator, individual legislative meetings are more effective.

PHONE CALLS

Calling a legislator's office is an easy and medium-effective way to advocate. When calling in the Senate, you may get a staff member whose main duty is scheduling and may not have a in-depth knowledge of an issue. If you want to discuss an issue further, you can request a follow-up call or meeting with a legislative aide who may be more knowledgeable.

ELECTRONIC ADVOCACY FORMS

Electronic advocacy forms are easy ways to connect with legislators. However, most forms don't offer a lot of opportunities to customize your message. These forms have some effectiveness, but other options are more effective.

Budget Advocacy

Do's and Don'ts of Budget Advocacy

Legislators are humans and are moved by personal stories. The most effective message blends data with personal stories on way the budget process is important to a certain cause. Empowering your staff, the people you support, and their families to explain how the budget impacts their lives also greatly increases effectiveness.

DO make sure to spell out any acronyms specific to services for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

DO send a thank you to the legislator or staff for their time.

DO get your staff, people served and their families involved!

DO be as concise as possible in delivering your message.

Where to focus your advocacy:



The elected officials who represent **where you live**



The elected officials who represent **your main office**



The elected officials who represent your **service delivery area**



The elected officials of the **committees of jurisdiction**

DON'T assume your legislator is an expert in DD or Medicaid services. Most legislators are unfamiliar with the in-depth details of service delivery. Some may have a basic understanding of Medicaid and services for people with I/DD.

DON'T be offended if you are making a legislative appointment and only speak to a legislative aide. Aides can have just as much influence on the legislative process as the legislator does.

The Ohio Senate Directory

District 1: McColley, Rob (R)

Majority Floor Leader

McColley@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8150

District 2: Gavarone, Theresa (R)

Majority Whip

Gavarone@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8060

District 3: Reynolds, Michele (R)**

Reynolds@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8064

District 4: Lang, George (R)

Lang@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8072

District 5: Huffman, Steve (R)

Shuffman@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-6247

District 6: Antani, Niraj (R)

Antani@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-4538

District 7: Wilson, Steve (R)

Wilson@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-9737

District 8: Blessing, Louis (R)

Blessing@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8068

District 9: Ingram, Catherine (D)**

Ingram@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5980

District 10: Hackett, Bob (R)

Hackett@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-3780

District 11: Hicks-Hudson, Paula (D)**

Assistant Minority Whip

Hicks-hudson@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5204

District 12: Huffman, Matt (R)

Senate President

Huffman@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-7584

District 13: Manning, Nathan (R)

Manning@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 644-7613

District 14: Johnson, Terry (R)

Johnson@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8082

District 15: Craig, Hearcel (D)

Assistant Minority Leader

Craig@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5131

District 16: Kunze, Stephanie (R)

Kunze@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5981

District 17: Wilkinson, Shane (R)**

Wilkinson@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8156

District 18: Cirino, Jerry (R)

Cirino@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 644-7718

District 19: Brenner, Andy (R)

Brenner@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8086

District 20: Schaffer, Tim (R)

Schaffer@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8076

District 21: Smith, Kent (D)**

Minority Whip

Smith@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-4857

District 22: Romanchuk, Mark (R)

Romanchuk@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-7505

District 23: Antonio, Nickie (D)

Minority Leader

Antonio@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5123

District 24: Dolan, Matt (R)

Dolan@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8056

District 25: DeMora, Bill (D)**

Demora@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-4583

District 26: Reineke, Bill (R)

Reineke@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8049

District 27: Roegner, Kristina (R)

Roegner@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-4823

District 28: Sykes, Vernon (D)

Sykes@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-7041

District 29: Schuring, Kirk (R)

President Pro Tempore

Schuring@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-0626

District 30: Hoagland, Frank (R)

Hoagland@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-6508

District 31: Landis, Al (R)**

Landis@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-5838

District 32: O'Brien, Sandra (R)

O'brien@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-7182

District 33: Rulli, Michael (R)

Rulli@ohiosenate.gov
(614) 466-8285

**Freshman Senators

Meet Your State Senator

Please go to <https://legislature.ohio.gov/> to find your Senator's information

Do they hold a leadership position on the Senate?

Yes | No

Name

Democrat | Republican

Committee Membership

Review their Bio. What past experience may be relevant to your services?

Does your Senator hold a leadership position on the committee?

Yes | No

Is this Senator listed in any of the committees on page 4?

Yes | No

Using the other tabs on the page, can you find any shared connections to your Senator?

What bill topics has your Senator previously sponsored?

The Ohio House of Representatives Directory

District 1: Jarrells, Dontavios (D)

Assistant Minority Leader

Rep01@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1474

District 2: Humphrey, Latyna (D)

Rep02@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-5802

District 3: Mohamed, Ismail (D)**

Rep03@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8104

District 4: Lightbody, Mary (D)

Rep04@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-9624

District 5: Brown, Richard (D)

Rep05@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8022

District 6: Miller, Adam (D)

Rep06@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6041

District 7: Russo, Allison (D)

Minority Leader

Rep07@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-4895

District 8: Liston, Beth (D)

Rep08@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-5441

District 9: Abdullahi, Munira Yasin (D)**

Rep09@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-5079

District 10: Dobos, David (R)**

Rep10@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-7954

District 11: Somani, Anita (D)**

Rep11@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1414

District 12: Stewart, Brian (R)

Rep12@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1408

District 13: Skindell, Michael (D)

Rep13@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-5921

District 14: Brennan, Sean (D)**

Rep14@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-3350

District 15: Dell'Aquila, Richard (D)**

Rep15@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-3485

District 16: Sweeney, Bride Rose (D)

Rep16@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-0961

District 17: Patton, Tom (R)

Rep17@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6005

District 18: Brewer, Darnell (D)**

Rep18@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1896

District 19: Robinson, Phil (D)

Rep19@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-4847

District 20: Upchurch, Terrence (D)

Rep20@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6002

District 21: Forhan, Elliot (D)**

Rep21@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6030

District 22: Brent, Juanita (D)

Rep22@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-2473

District 23: Troy, Daniel (D)

Rep23@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-9690

District 24: Isaacsohn, Dani (D)**

Rep24@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8012

District 25: Thomas, Cecil (D)

Rep25@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-5343

District 26: Denson, Sedrick (D)

Rep26@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8010

District 27: Baker, Rachel (D)**

Rep27@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6886

District 28: Miranda, Jessica (D)

Minority Whip

Rep28@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8120

District 29: Abrams, Cindy (R)

Rep29@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-9091

District 30: Seitz, Bill (R)

Majority Floor Lead

Rep30@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-8258

District 31: Roemer, Bill (R)

Rep31@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-5786

District 32: Young, Bob (R)

Rep32@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1645

District 33: Galonski, Tavia (D)

Assistant Minority Whip

Rep33@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1308

District 34: Weinstein, Casey (D)

Rep34@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-3100

District 35: Demetriou, Steve (R)**

Rep35@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 644-6037

District 36: White, Andrea (R)

Rep36@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-1790

The Ohio House of Representatives Directory

District 37: Young, Tom (R)
(614) 466-1177
Rep37@ohiohouse.gov

District 38: Blackshear, Willis (D)
(614) 644-5085
Rep38@ohiohouse.gov

District 39: Plummer, Phil (R)
(614) 466-1607
Rep39@ohiohouse.gov

District 40: Creech, Rodney (R)
(614) 644-8051
Rep40@ohiohouse.gov

District 41: William, Josh (R)**
(614) 644-6008
Rep41@ohiohouse.gov

District 42: Merrin, Derek (R)
(614) 466-6504
Rep42@ohiohouse.gov

District 43: Grim, Michele (D)**
(614) 466-2960
Rep43@ohiohouse.gov

District 44: Rogers, Elgin (D)**
(614) 466-1401
Rep44@ohiohouse.gov

District 45: Gross, Jennifer (R)
(614) 644-6017
Rep45@ohiohouse.gov

District 46: Hall, Thomas (R)
(614) 466-1418
Rep46@ohiohouse.gov

District 47: Carruthers, Sara (R)
(614) 466-1731
Rep47@ohiohouse.gov

District 48: Oelslager, Scott (R)
Speaker Pro Tempore
(614) 752-2438
Rep48@ohiohouse.gov

District 49: Thomas, Jim (R)**
(614) 466-8030
Rep49@ohiohouse.gov

District 50: Stoltzfus, Reggie (R)
(614) 466-9078
Rep50@ohiohouse.gov

District 51: Hillyer, Brett (R)
(614) 644-6721
Rep51@ohiohouse.gov

District 52: Manning, Gayle (R)
(614) 466-8550
Rep52@ohiohouse.gov

District 53: Miller, Joe (D)
(614) 644-5094
Rep53@ohiohouse.gov

District 54: Stein, Dick (R)
(614) 644-6027
Rep54@ohiohouse.gov

District 55: Lipps, Scott (R)
(614) 644-5076
Rep55@ohiohouse.gov

District 56: Mathews, Adam (R)**
(614) 466-5141
Rep56@ohiohouse.gov

District 57: Callendar, Jamie (R)
(614) 466-9628
Rep57@ohiohouse.gov

District 58: Cutrona, Al (R)
(614) 466-9435
Rep58@ohiohouse.gov

District 59: McNally, Lauren (D)**
(614) 466-6107
Rep59@ohiohouse.gov

District 60: Jordan, Kris (R)
(614) 466-7251
Rep60@ohiohouse.gov

District 61: Lear, Beth (R)**
(614) 644-6074
Rep61@ohiohouse.gov

District 62: Schmidt, Jean (R)
(614) 644-6023
Rep62@ohiohouse.gov

District 63: Bird, Adam (R)
(614) 466-3488
Rep63@ohiohouse.gov

District 64: Santucci, Nick (R)**
(614) 466-5358
Rep64@ohiohouse.gov

District 65: Loychik, Mike (R)
(614) 466-8134
Rep65@ohiohouse.gov

District 66: Ray, Sharon (R)
(614) 644-6034
Rep66@ohiohouse.gov

District 67: Miller, Melanie (R)**
(614) 644-6711
Rep67@ohiohouse.gov

District 68: Claggett, Thad (R)**
(614) 466-1431
Rep68@ohiohouse.gov

District 69: Miller, Kevin (R)
(614) 466-8140
Rep69@ohiohouse.gov

District 70: Lampton, Brian (R)
(614) 466-2994
Rep70@ohiohouse.gov

District 71: Dean, Bill (R)
(614) 466-1482
Rep71@ohiohouse.gov

District 72: Pavliga, Gail (R)
(614) 466-2500
Rep72@ohiohouse.gov

District 73: LaRe, Jeff (R)
(614) 644-6020
Rep73@ohiohouse.gov

The Ohio House of Representatives Directory

District 74: Willis, Bernard (R)**
(614) 466-1470
Rep74@ohiohouse.gov

District 75: Ghanbari, Haraz (R)
(614) 466-2004
Rep75@ohiohouse.gov

District 76: John, Marilyn (R)
(614) 644-5088
Rep76@ohiohouse.gov

District 77: Wiggam, Scott (R)
(614) 466-8100
Rep77@ohiohouse.gov

District 78: Manchester, Susan (R)
(614) 466-1464
Rep78@ohiohouse.gov

District 79: Robb Blasdel, Monica (R)**
(614) 466-2038
Rep79@ohiohouse.gov

District 80: Powell, Jena (R)
(614) 466-8114
Rep80@ohiohouse.gov

District 81: Hoops, James (R)
Majority Whip
(614) 466-3760
Rep81@ohiohouse.gov

District 82: Klopfenstein, Roy (R)**
(614) 644-5091
Rep82@ohiohouse.gov

District 83: Cross, Jon (R)
(614) 466-3819
Rep83@ohiohouse.gov

District 84: King, Angela (R)**
(614) 466-6344
Rep84@ohiohouse.gov

District 85: Barhorst, Tim (R)**
(614) 466-1507
Rep85@ohiohouse.gov

District 86: Richardson, Tracy (R)
(614) 466-8147
Rep86@ohiohouse.gov

District 87: McClain, Riordan (R)
(614) 644-6265
Rep87@ohiohouse.gov

District 88: Click, Gary (R)
(614) 466-1374
Rep88@ohiohouse.gov

District 89: Swearingen, D.J. (R)
(614) 644-6011
Rep89@ohiohouse.gov

District 90: Baldrige, Brian (R)
(614) 466-2124
Rep90@ohiohouse.gov

District 91: Peterson, Bob (R)
(614) 466-3506
Rep91@ohiohouse.gov

District 92: Johnson, Mark (R)
(614) 644-7928
Rep92@ohiohouse.gov

District 93: Stephens, Jason (R)
Speaker of the House
(614) 466-1366
Rep93@ohiohouse.gov

District 94: Edwards, Jay (R)
(614) 466-2158
Rep94@ohiohouse.gov

District 95: Jones, Don (R)
(614) 644-8728
Rep95@ohiohouse.gov

District 96: Ferguson, Ron (R)
(614) 466-3735
Rep96@ohiohouse.gov

District 97: Holmes, Adam (R)
(614) 644-6014
Rep97@ohiohouse.gov

District 98: Kick, Darrell (R)
(614) 466-8035
Rep98@ohiohouse.gov

District 99: Fowler Arthur, Sarah (R)
(614) 466-1405
Rep99@ohiohouse.gov

** Freshman Legislators

Meet Your State Representative

Please go to <https://legislature.ohio.gov/> to find your Representative's information

Do they hold a leadership position on the House?

Yes | No

Name

Democrat | Republican

Committee Membership

Review their Bio. What past experience may be relevant to your services?

Does your Representative hold a leadership position on the committee?

Yes | No

Is this Representative listed in any of the committees on page 4?

Yes | No

What bill topics has your Representative previously sponsored?

Using the other tabs on the page, can you find any shared connections to your Representative?

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

1

USING THE INCLUDED DIRECTORIES, LOCATE THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS.

2

PLAN OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY AND WHAT METHOD OF CONTACT (PHONE OR EMAIL_ YOU FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE USING.

3

MAKE CONTACT!

4

MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE HOW THE LEGISLATOR CAN CONTACT YOU WITH ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS.

5

THESE OFFICES ARE VERY BUSY. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED IF YOU DON'T HEAR BACK IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU WANT FOLLOW UP, REACH OUT AFTER A WEEK.

DRAFT EMAIL MEETING REQUEST

Dear (Insert Legislator's name),

I hope you are well!

My name is XX and I am the XX at {agency name}. We provide services to Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities in {Senator XX/Representative XX}'s district. We serve approximately XX people across {number of counties you serve} counties and employ approximately {XX} people throughout that same area. {Organization name} has provided services for XX years in the {Representative or Senator}'s district. (Feel free to add more here but it is not necessary to provide too much information in the initial email.)

Like many other businesses in the community, the past two and a half years have presented numerous challenges to {organization}, the people we employ, and the people we support. In an effort to address these challenges and ensure {organization's name} can continue serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we have been engaging and educating our fellow community partners and leaders to share the important work {organization title} does in the community.

If the Representative/Senator would be interested, we would be honored to host the Representative/Senator for a tour of our {facility/home/office} at {address} and a conversation about the services {Agency name} provides. We would love the opportunity to discuss our mission and show the important work being done by {organization name}. Does the Representative/Senator have any time over the next few months for something like this?

Thank you so much!

Signature

Building your Personal Narrative

The personal narrative supports an agency narrative. Together, both narratives serve as a “sales pitch” to legislators on why they need to invest more state general revenue fund dollars in the services the agency provides. The personal narrative humanizes the importance of your services and why legislators should invest in them.

The questions below will help you begin to craft a good personal narrative. In most legislative meetings you won’t have the opportunity to address every question, but it is still good to have an answer to each to be prepared.

This is a non-exhaustive list of suggestions.



What is your relationship to the agency and the services they provide?

Why did you select this agency for services or employment?

Why are the services or employment opportunities important to you?

What is a specific example that highlights how important the agency’s services are to you?

How would your life be impacted if the agency and their services were no longer available? Be specific!

Building An Agency Narrative

The agency narrative is one of the most important tools in legislative advocacy. Both narratives serve as a “sales pitch” to legislators on why they need to invest more state general revenue fund dollars in the services the agency provides. In most legislative meetings you won’t have the opportunity to address every question, but it is good to have an answer to each to be prepared.

This is a non-exhaustive list of suggestions.

How many people do you serve?

What is the age range of the people you support?

Where do the people you support live?

What types of disabilities do the people you support have? What are their support needs?

What do the families look like of the people you support? Older parents? Younger parents? Only siblings?

How many people do you employ?

What is the age range of the people you employ? Average age?

Where do the people you employ live?

What is the average age of your employees?

What is the average length of time people have been employed with you?



Building An Agency Narrative

This is a non-exhaustive list of suggestions.



What makes your agency different than other businesses in your area?

Is there a part of your agency that differentiates your agency from other I/DD agencies in the area? What is it?

Do you have partnerships with other community organizations or businesses? Employment opportunities for people you support? Religious institutions, local fraternal groups, etc.

Are you the largest employer in your area?

How do you compare in terms of wages and job opportunities to other employers in your area?

Number of open positions and recent turnover

Average wages for different positions

How have you changed service delivery over the years to remain open?

How have services grew or shrank in size over the past few years?

Recent historical budget v. revenue information

What is your financial outlook without additional funding (how much longer can you afford to provide services?)

What are the possible outcomes if your organization does not get enough resources to find short- or long-term stability and sustainability?



Additional Resources

Find your Ohio legislators:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/district-maps>

Legislative Service Commission "Budget Central".

Suggested resources: DDD and OOD Red Book, Green Book, and Comparison Documents (to be published at a later dates)

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/index.aspx>

Office of Budget and Management Budget Website:

<https://budget.ohio.gov/download.aspx>

Statehouse Map:

<http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/Assets/Files/1000075.pdf>

If your legislator or aide asks questions and you aren't sure of the answer, tell them you will follow up with their office after the meeting or call. For assistance with those questions, please reach out to Christine Touvelle (Ctouvelle@opra.org), OPRA's Director of Advocacy.

Select information in this booklet was pulled from:

- Center for Community Solutions, *Budget Training Academy*, November 6th, 2021 Presentation. <https://www.communitysolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/110320-Budget-Training-Event.pdf>
- Legislative Service Commission, *Guidebook for Ohio Legislators*, Chapter 8: The Ohio Budget Process. 2019.
<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/reference/current/guidebook/16/Chapter%208%202019.pdf>

