

Fair School Funding Plan

State Budget Campaign 2025



Fund Our Future!

WHO ARE WE?

We are a coalition fighting for fair school funding for all Ohio students. Uniting parents, teachers, and community members all over Ohio together for our schools!



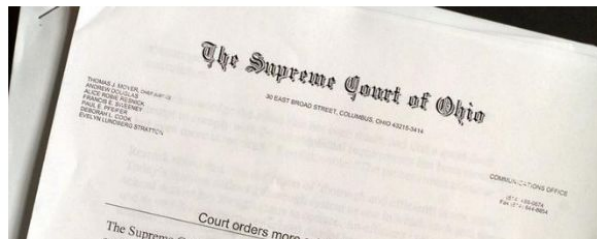
Special thanks to all of our Fair School Funding Plan coalition partners!



THE OHIO CONSTITUTION

*The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure **a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state**; but no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this state.*

OUR PROBLEM



COURTESY: DALE DEROLPH



- For a long time, lawmakers didn't follow the constitution. **The Ohio Supreme Court said so FOUR TIMES!**
- Ohio school funding relies heavily on property taxes - disadvantaging communities with low property values - **disproportionately harming Black & brown districts, rural areas, people with low incomes.**
- Amid rising property values, voters are fatigued. **Half of school levies failed last fall.**
- Speaker Huffman and his allies have expanded vouchers, **costing \$1 Billion, and want to do more.**

OUR SOLUTION

Fully Fund the Fair School Funding Plan:

- **No more guesswork:** Requires the state to fund the schools based on the actual cost of educating children.
- **Targets dollars where they're needed:** The plan helps all kids, but prioritizes the most in need – like disadvantaged communities and kids with special needs.
- **Provides local relief:** Reduces the need for local levies.



Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County

+\$7.10 M

FAIR Funding ⓘ

\$11.98 M

Current Funding ⓘ

\$7.21 M

Without FSFP ⓘ

What all could your district do with

\$7,102,626.00

Fair School Funding dollars?

Licensed Educators

Smaller class sizes, career connected learning, AP courses, more access to health and mental health support. Literacy and math tutoring, art classes, music classes. Support for kids with special needs.

Support Staff

Custodians, bus drivers, security. Safer, cleaner buildings with more responsive transportation access.

Technology & Supplies

Laptops, career and vocational tech supplies and equipment, art supplies, books. Individual devices like laptops, science and art supplies, increased safety.

Extracurricular

Fewer pay to play fees. Support for athletic programs, supports for marching and pep band, choir, drama clubs, academic teams.

Contact your legislators to demand the state Fully and Fairly Fund Ohio schools!



Rep. Juanita Brent (D)



Rep. Eric Synenberg (D)

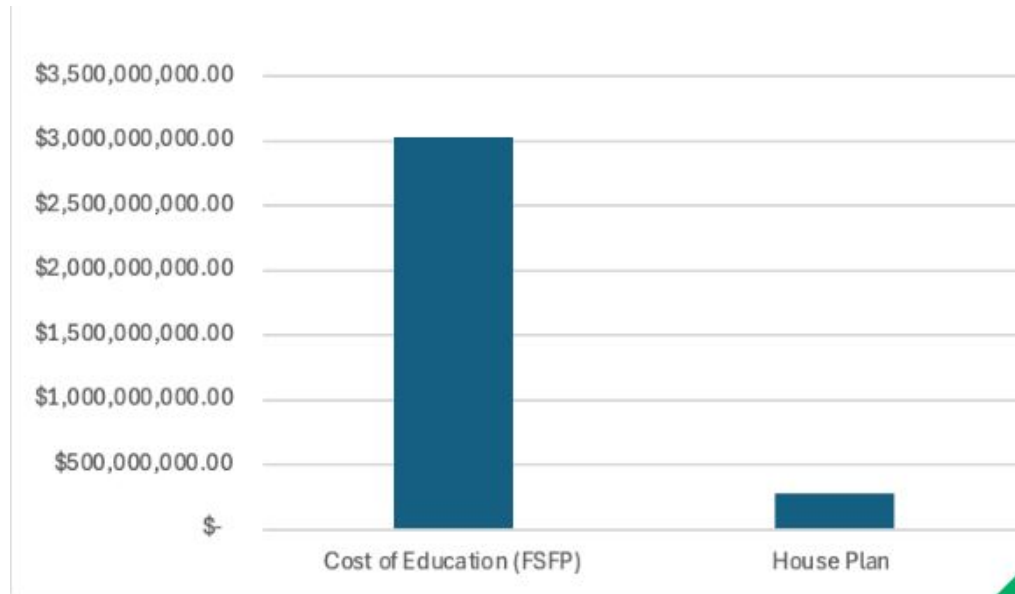


Sen. Kent Smith (D)

House Plan scraps FSFP, underfunds schools by \$2.75 billion

Under the House Plan, schools will receive just 10% of what they need.

This will shortchange Ohio's public schools by \$2.75 billion in needed funding in just two years.



House Plan

- **Fair School Funding Formula Eliminated:** The state has removed the Fair School Funding Formula, which provided a balanced way to fund schools. No new formula has been introduced to take its place.
- **Minimal Increase in State Funding:** The proposed increase in funding from the state is too small and does not make up for the loss of local tax revenue.
- **Harmful 30% Carryover Cap:** A 30% limit on how much money districts can carry over—based on last year's spending—creates instability and doesn't reduce dependence on local property taxes.
- **Risk of Frequent Levy Cycles:** The cap may force districts into a cycle of asking voters for new levies every year or every other year just to maintain essential services.
- **Shifts Tax Burden to Schools:** While the funding model may provide short-term property tax relief for residents, it does so by putting all the financial pressure on public schools.
- **Loss of Local Control:** Takes away local decision-making by handing school budget authority to the County Budget Commission, instead of letting local communities decide.
- **Loss of Elected State Board of Education:** Would cut all elected members of the State Board of Education and limit the board to five appointed members.

Thanks to Victoria Druley with Kids First Medina for the content on this slide!

House proposal underfunds Ohio schools by \$2.75 billion over the biennium



Cleveland Hts-Univ Hts City School District

(Cuyahoga County)

The Fair School Funding Plan is based on what it actually costs to educate students. It would provide an additional

\$7,102,626

to this district over the next two years.

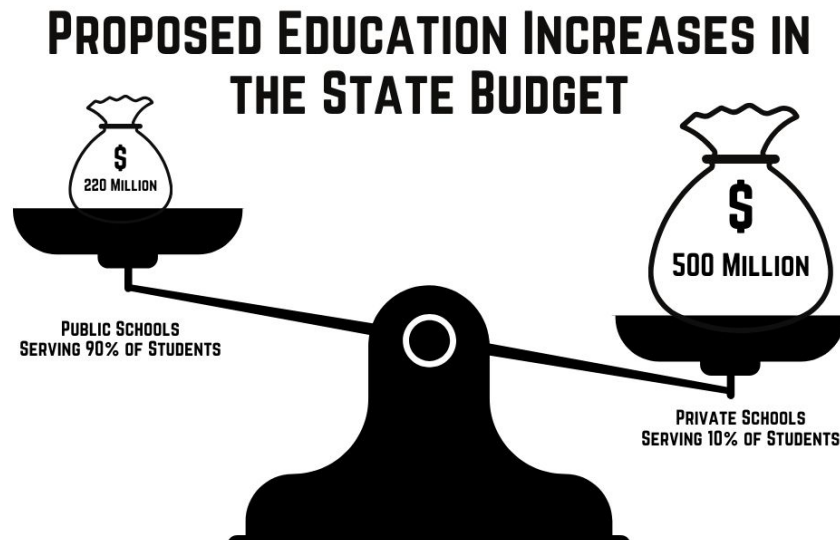
The House plan is based on what politicians want, not what children need. It would provide an additional

\$492,987

to this district over the next two years, in the hopes that an increase over the biennium will distract from the long-term instability and underfunding their plan ensures well into the future. By scrapping the FSFP, the House would end Ohio kids' best chance at fairly funded public schools.

The House Plan would shortchange CHUH by \$6,609,639 over the next two years.

Plus... Twice as much in increases for private school vouchers as for public schools!



ASK YOUR REPS

WHY IS THE STATE PRIORITIZING VOUCHERS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OVER THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF 90% OF OHIO'S STUDENTS?

Local Impact: Stories from our District

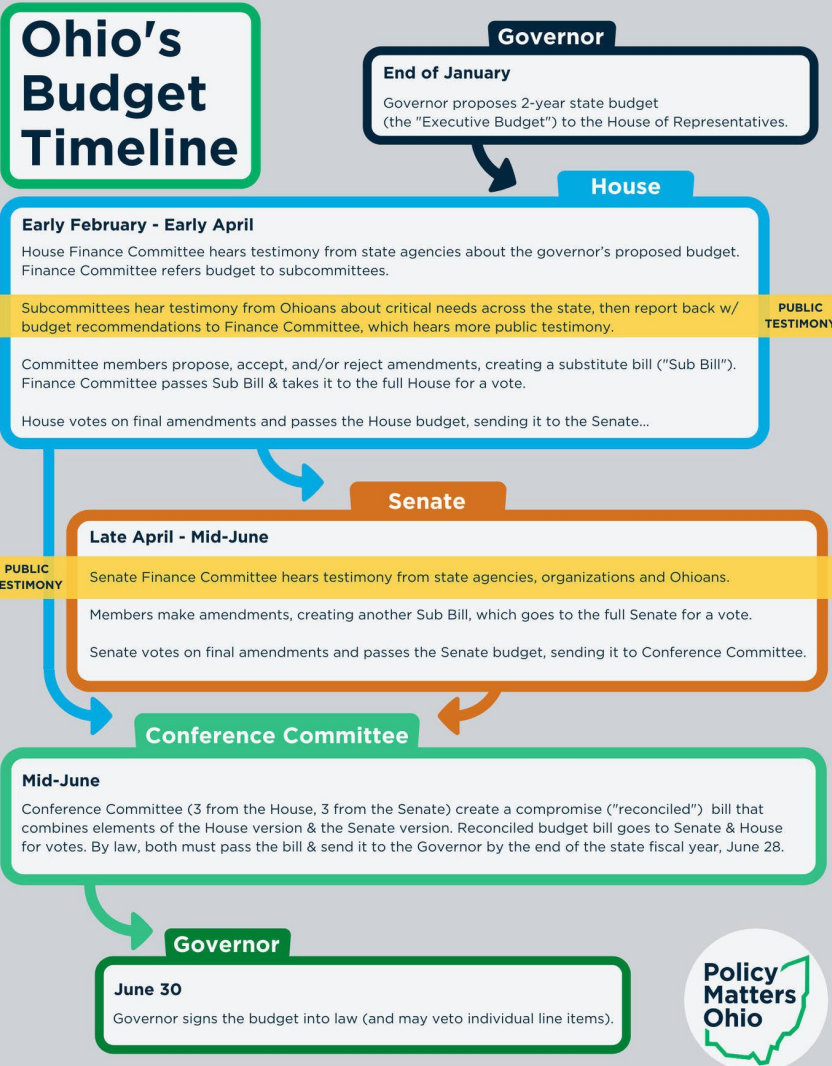


So what can we do?



BUDGET 101

- **January 31st:** Governor introduced budget framework to spend state revenue (our tax dollars)
- They have BILLIONS, and it must be balanced
- **Feb - early April:** House sessions (concluded)
- **Late April - mid-June:** Senate sessions
- **Mid-June:** Conference committee reconciles the two versions of the bill
- Full floor vote by **June 30th**



Power the Movement!

- **We need parents, educators, and community members** to speak up for their schools THIS budget cycle!
- Reach out to your state senator and other state senate targets (more on this in a second!)
- Submit testimony
- Write a letter to the editor
- Join with folks from suburbs, small towns, rural area, and cities to fight for fair and fully funded schools in Ohio!



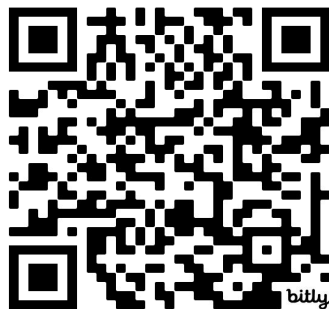
TAKE ACTION!

Attend a Testimony Workshop



Sundays at 4pm starting 4/27

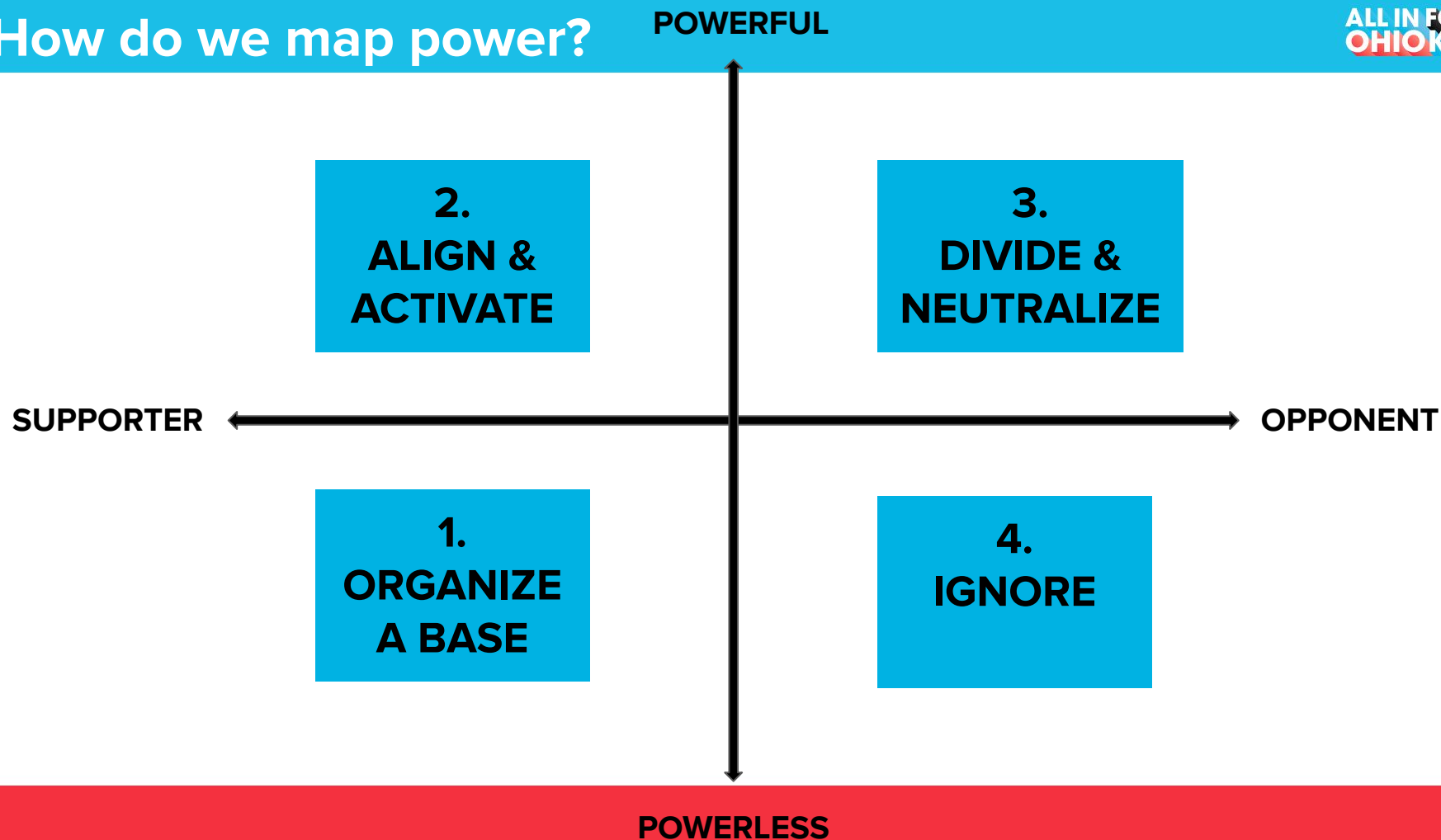
Write Your Lawmakers



Call to Action Kit



How do we map power?





Ohio
Association
of School
Business
Officials

POWERFUL

Center FOR
Christian
Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.



ALL IN FOR
OHIO KIDS



Ohio's Superintendent Association



Speaker of House
Matt Huffman

THOMAS B.
FORDHAM
INSTITUTE
ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SUPPORTER

OEA

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



Ohio Federation
of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO
A Union of Professionals

OPPONENT

Policy
Matters
Ohio



OHIO ORGANIZING
COLLABORATIVE



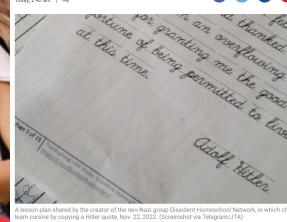
POWERLESS



Taught to say 'Sieg Heil':
Ohio-based neo-Nazi
homeschooling network
unmasked

State investigating antisemitic 'Disident Homeschool Network' which gives some 2,600 parents hate-filled resources to rear children into 'wonderful Nazis'

By ANDREW LAPIN
Today 2:42 am · 18



SUPPORTER



ALL IN FOR
OHIO KIDS



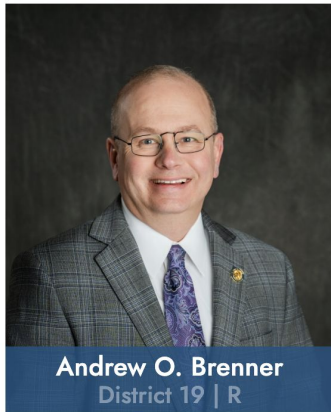
POWERLESS

So who are some of the players on this map?

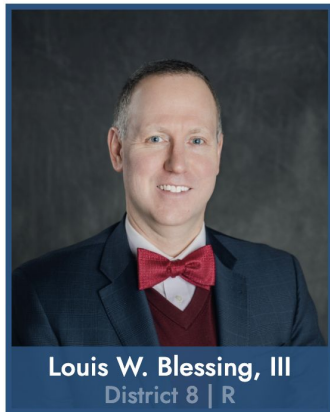
Who do we target now that the Senate has the budget?

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

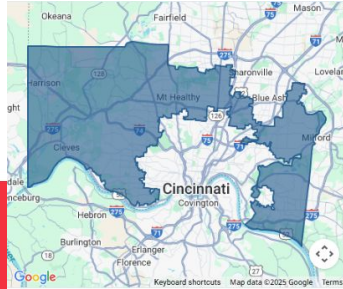
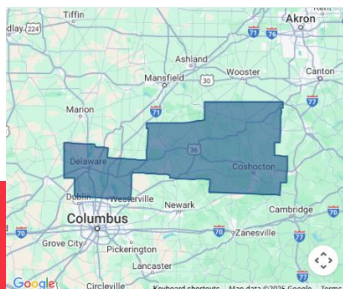
Senators



Chair

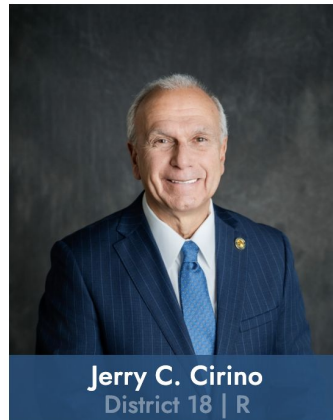


Vice Chair



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Senators



Chair



Vice Chair





Sen. Nathan Manning, SD 13 - on Finance Cmte



Sen. Bill Reineke, SD 26



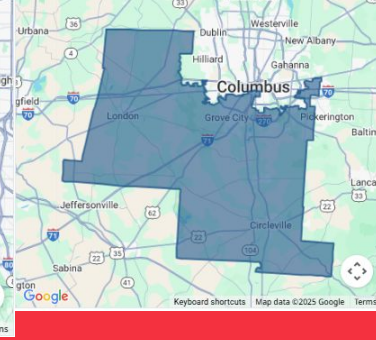
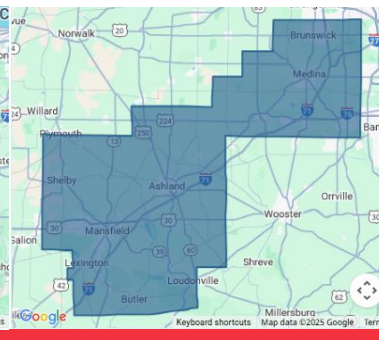
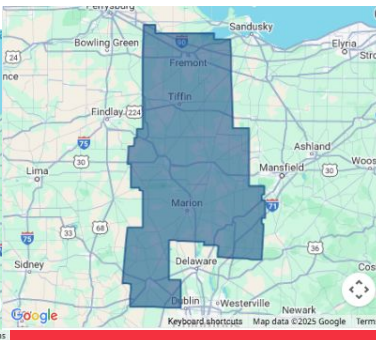
Sen. Mark Romanchuk, SD 22 - on Finance Cmte



Sen. Thomas Patton, SD 24 - on Finance Cmte



Sen. Michele Reynolds, SD 3



Who is your state senator? What do you know about them and where they stand on school funding?



Action Time!

15 minutes to make calls and
send emails



Small Group Debrief at Tables (5 min)

- How did that go?
- What other actions do you plan to take?
- Who else can you invite to join this fight with you?

Questions? Reach Out!

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(614) 683-2259

melodie@ohorganizing.org

www.allinforohiokids.com



■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS NEWS

Who's Matt Huffman? The Lima man running the show at the Ohio Statehouse



23 Photos

VIEW GALLERY →

Show gallery info ▾



Anna Staver

The Columbus Dispatch

Published 10:01 p.m. ET May 18, 2022 | Updated 2:37 p.m. ET May 20, 2022

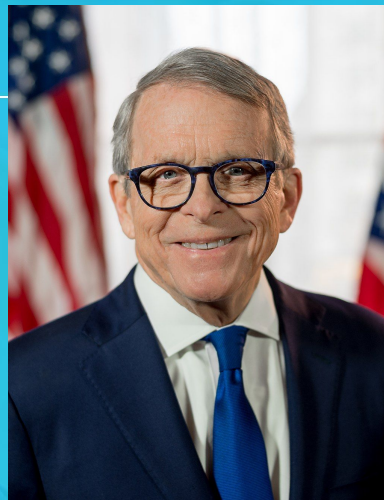
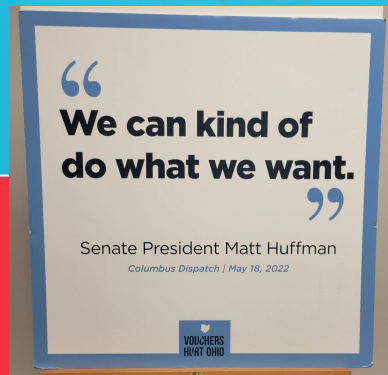
Nothing becomes law in Ohio unless Matt Huffman says so.

Ohio GOP threatens to cut school funding, calling spending 'unsustainable'

By MORGAN TRAU - JANUARY 8, 2025 10:12 AM



Ohio GOP continues with plan to slash public school budget, denounces current funding as 'fantasy'



Governor
Mike Dewine



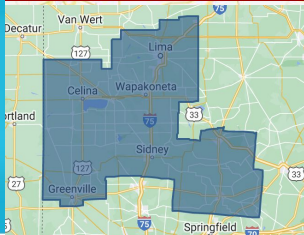
Lt Governor
Jon Husted

ALL IN FOR
OHIO KIDS

So who are some of the players on the map?



**Speaker of the House
Matt Huffman**



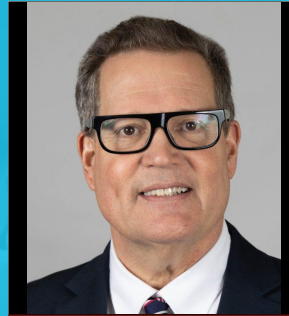
**Speaker of
the House
Lima**



**Sarah Fowler Arthur
District 99 | R**



**Education
Chair
Ashtabula**



**Mike Odioso
District 30 | R**



**Education
Vice Chair
Green Twp**



**Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.
District 19 | D**



**Education
Ranking
Member
Solon**



**Adam C. Bird
District 63 | R**



**Education
Member
New
Richmond**