

RUBRIC:

***Grading the final budget as enacted into law.**

A = Our platform goal was met

B = Significant progress made towards our goal

C = Partial/mixed progress towards our goal

D = Little or no progress towards goal, or minor backwards movement

F = Lost significant ground

REVENUE**GRADE: F**

A massive tax cut was given to the rich while the tax cut given to the poor was so small it's barely worth mentioning. None of our suggestions for strengthening revenue or supporting working poor were included. Ohio continues the practice of inequity in its tax policy. This will reduce revenue harming important services and functions that benefit all Ohioans, while unfairly forcing the working poor to shoulder tax responsibilities the wealthy dodge.

NOBLE PROPOSED

1. Add a 10% refundable option to the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), while retaining the 30% non-refundable option. Thus, taxpayers could utilize whichever option benefitted them the most.
2. Revenue generation in any of the following ways:
 - Limit the business income deduction, sometimes known as the LLC Loophole, to \$100,000 and eliminate the special 3% tax rate on income over that amount.
 - No reduction in income tax rates. We should reinstate the 7.5% tax rate for income over \$221,300.
 - Tax loopholes should be examined: Tax expenditures should have clearly identifiable purposes and expire if those objectives are not obtained.

INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET

- \$1.7 billion in income tax cuts over the next two years give the richest Ohioans an average tax cut of \$5,400 a year.
- The bottom 80% of taxpayers (making less than \$107,000 a year) will get an average tax cut of just \$43 a year (less than \$1 per week).
- For those in the middle fifth of the income spectrum, making between \$42,000 and \$65,000, the average cut will be only \$49. Taxpayers with income of less than \$22,150 don't pay Ohio income tax under existing state law, and will see \$0 in tax cuts due to the rejection of an Earned Income Tax Credit. However, the maximum income to avoid paying any taxes was raised to \$25,000.
- In a massive handout to the rich, the top two tax brackets will be eliminated and replaced with a single 3.99% tax rate.
 - This means that the wealthiest 1% of Ohioans will receive more than a 16% cut in taxes while most Ohioans only have a 3% cut at most.

MEDICAID**GRADE: A-**

Overall, the legislature protected existing Medicaid coverage, and expanded services for those who need it most, such as pregnant women and those who are impacted by lead poisoning. While we had concerns that the legislature was unforgiving regarding redeterminations for people being kicked off Medicaid after joining during the COVID-19 pandemic, this was overridden by the federal government.

NOBLE PROPOSED

1. Medicaid Expansion should be maintained at 138% of the Federal Poverty Level without qualifications.
2. Utilizing the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Medicaid's lead hazard abatement model, the state should create a Primary Prevention of Child Lead Poisoning competitive grant program with \$29 million in SCHIP funding (\$9 million in current funding + \$20 million in new funding).
 - Access should be increased to effective lead screening and testing. The state should develop a quality improvement program targeting pediatricians in high-risk communities; this would allow for in office screening and referrals.
 - The state should strengthen the enforcement of current lead inspection laws with \$3 million in annual General Revenue Fund investment for the Ohio Department.

INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET

- Medicaid coverage will be required for all women whose childbirth was covered by Medicaid for the maximum postpartum period allowed under federal law. This will extend Medicaid coverage following a birth from 60 days to 12 months.
- Currently, the National Public Health Emergency is set to expire January 1, 2022, and the state is not allowed to remove people from Medicaid until then. The budget set a tight timeframe for determining eligibility of Medicaid enrollees after the pandemic, forcing counties to have complete the huge task of determining who is still eligible and who isn't within a mere 90 days, though counties can ask for an additional 30 days of wiggle room.
- Support for lead abatement will be increased to \$25 million, to make Ohio's homes and communities lead-safe. The Ohio Department of Health will conduct lead hazard control and abatement services on hundreds of Ohio homes, perform public outreach and education, and increase the number of lead hazard workers through the Lead Worker/Contractor Licensure Repayment Program.
 - A new, statewide Lead-Safe Housing Fund will provide competitive grants to Ohio communities to abate lead hazards in their housing.
- \$490 million will be invested into quality outcome incentives for Medicaid nursing home services.
- The Quality Driven Reimbursement structure includes an increase of \$150 million in additional quality incentive payments designed to reward nursing homes for providing high-quality care, based on outcome-driven, industry-leading metrics.

KINSHIP CARE**GRADE: D-**

Kinship Care funding was cut by a third, with next to no new programs added. Other relatively new programs such as the Kinship Navigator Program were maintained. Kinship Care providers continue to be left behind classic Foster Care providers.

NOBLE PROPOSED**INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET**

<p>1. To address the issue of equity in foster care payments, Kinship Care providers should receive allowances to adequately meet the needs of providing care for the children in their care; this includes food, shelter, transportation, childcare, and other necessities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kinship Caregiver Program had its funding cut from \$15 million a year to \$10 million a year. • State lawmakers did nothing to prioritize kinship families outside the child welfare system. • Lawmakers failed to allocate the necessary resources to provide children and kinship families the basic security and stability they deserve. Lawmakers included resources to provide financial payments to kinship caregivers as part of the new Kinship Support Program, but this program is time-limited, inadequate, and far less financial support than licensed foster care providers receive. • The budget also seeks to obtain federal kinship guardianship assistance to assist relative caregivers who become legal guardians. The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program will take effect in the state fiscal year 2023. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services estimates it could spend \$5.0 million, with spending matched with Title IV-E federal funds.
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EDUCATION

GRADE: See below

K-12 and DeRolph – B

The legislature took a historic and massive first step towards funding public schools equitably. However, Ohio law prevents spending for being increased too much in any given budget, so it will take 6 years to be fully in line with the DeRolph decision. We hope future legislatures continue with the pace set.

Higher Ed – D

The legislature again failed to set caps for skyrocketing public tuition costs. Their increases in funding for higher education don't even keep pace with inflation, effectively a funding cut.

New Threats to Public Schools – F

By expanding voucher programs and adding new incentives for private schools which are largely unregulated, the legislature is laying a dangerous groundwork to undermine attendance, and therefore funding, at public schools.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public education should be affordable and well-funded; funding should be in line with the DeRolph decision. 2. Tuition increases for state funded college/higher education should be frozen at a rate no higher than 2% for the duration of the budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget implements a new school funding formula (“Fair School Funding Plan”) with increased support for schools and districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Wellness and Success Funds are absorbed into the formula funding for public schools. ○ Lawmakers failed to commit to a full phase-in of the new formula over 6 years, though such a commitment would have been non-binding due to the Ohio constitution • Local levy dollars will no longer be diverted to subsidize private school tuition (“Vouchers”) and for charter schools (57% of which are run by for-profit companies); instead, the state will fund these uses directly. • Budget bill dramatically expands options for vouchers and charters throughout the state, allowing charter schools to be established anywhere and vouchers (scholarships to subsidize the tuition of private schools) for students of all districts, instead of districts with poor student outcomes. • State funding of charters and vouchers is expanded by hundreds of millions of state dollars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taken together, these actions threaten enrollment and therefore funding for the public system, which educates most Ohio students. • Raises the per-student Ohio College Opportunity Grant award by at least \$500 for eligible students over the biennium. Overall, the program remains deeply underfunded - by over \$100 million, compared to initial program goals. Furthermore, OCOG’s current structure excludes Ohio’s lowest-income students who attend the most affordable public institutions, favoring more expensive private options, including exploitative for-profit schools. • Increases investment in the State Share of Instruction institutional subsidy by 1.8 percent over the biennium: this allows inflation to erode resources, essentially another cut to state funding of higher education. • ADD TAX STUFF

CHILD CARE

GRADE: B-

Eligibility for subsidized childcare was increased, but by a much smaller amount than we had hoped. We need to increase the pace if we want accessible childcare in Ohio.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<p>1. Eligibility for childcare assistance should be returned to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and it should be maintained for families who lose eligibility for one full year after it has been established to assure stability and continuous educational programming for children. The service should be maintained when parents are in between jobs or when mothers go on maternity leave.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial eligibility for Publicly Funded Childcare increased to 142% Federal Poverty Line (FPL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ For families of children with documented special needs, eligibility for Childcare was increased to 150% FPL for initial eligibility, and 300% for continued eligibility. (FPL - Spell this out/Family of 3 and 4?) • Childcare eligibility -- families enrolled in OWF are guaranteed to receive childcare subsidies until income exceeds 150% FPL (\$32,940 annually for a family of three in 2021) or the family has not received OWF for a period of 12 months. • PFCC eligibility – the eligibility period for PFCC lasts 12 months. The bill allows a caretaker or parent who is no longer employed or participating in an education or training program during the time their children receive PFCC to continue to receive PFCC for at least three months but not more than four months. • State lawmakers earmarked \$50 million in federal funds in FY 2022 to provide copayment assistance for families participating in PFCC. • Lawmakers also earmarked federal funds provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act that have not been appropriated and Child Care Development Block Grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act be used to stabilize and sustain the childcare program, improve workforce recruitment and retention, and increase access for families • Lawmakers also made changes to Step Up to Quality, the childcare quality rating system in Ohio. Lawmakers removed the requirement for all providers to be at or above 3 stars by 2025, eliminating the mandate for childcare providers to improve quality over time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ State lawmakers also created a task force to look at the Step Up to Quality system and the Publicly Funded Child Care Program.

CARE FOR OLDER POPULATIONS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

GRADE: GRADE: C+

While funding for critical services were increased, it was not by enough. The population of the state is aging, and the legislature needs to start taking this more seriously.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<p>1. The state should establish a match that draws down the maximum amount of dollars from the Older Americans Act in order to strengthen community based senior centers by increasing money allocations to local area offices on aging.</p> <p>2. Funding for Adult Protective Services should be increased to \$22.75 million for each year of the Biennium Budget.</p> <p>The state should make investments in independent living and vocational rehabilitation. This could be accomplished by increasing the General Revenue Fund to draw down the full available match.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes the 6% (4% in 2022 and 2% in 2023) increase in provider rates for PASSPORT/MyCare/Ohio Home Care personal care and assisted living and other home care rates. • An increase of \$1 million per year in the Senior Community Services line item, not earmarked. • Adult Day Services receive \$5 million per year for rate increases in PASSPORT, MyCare, Ohio Home Care, Assisted Living. • Added \$1.5 million per year increase (\$65,000 per county per year) to Adult Protective Services this amount was maintained (\$5.7 million appropriated per year is the largest amount of state funding for APS ever) • (Provide \$19.5 million to support the implementation of health, nutrition, long-term care, and safety programs under the Older Americans Act and Medicaid through the state's Area Agencies on Aging.?) – possibly/checked/or combined with bullet 2 • Pay (reimbursement rates) for home health care aids for Developmentally disabled raised.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

GRADE: C

Funding for food assistance programs was left far lower than it needs to be, and SNAP reform was minimal.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<p>1. Lawmakers must allocate \$45 million per year to deliver hunger and poverty relief to over 2 million Ohioans. This</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided \$24.55 million per year to support the Ohio Food Program and the Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program,

<p>funding will help build capacity for local front-line hunger relief organizations and help families in need with food, personal care items and household cleaning supplies.</p>	<p>which both help make nutritious food available to folks who need emergency hunger relief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State lawmakers also allocated \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2022 to support foodbanks and emergency food relief efforts. • The budget also includes a provision requiring the Director of ODJFS to submit an application to USDA to participate in the Elderly and Disabled Simplified Application Project. This will allow the state to simplify the certification process for older adults and people with disabilities by waiving the recertification interview requirement and extending the certification period from 12 to 36 months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most people who participate in SNAP must recertify their household information every 12 months to determine continued eligibility for SNAP. The recertification process can cause households to lose SNAP if they don't certify within the recertification period. This waiver will help older adults and people with disabilities continue to put food on the table and retain SNAP benefits.
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND

GRADE: D

The local government fund was left significantly lower than it needs to be. The legislature also removed revenue cities were anticipating as part of a poorly planned pandemic response.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State revenue sharing through the local government fund should be restored to its previous level of 3.68% of state funds. 2. At the minimum there should be a permanent increase to the local government funding formula by 10% each year of the biennium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and communities will be hurt by a law allowing refunds for local income taxes to folks who worked from home and want to go to the effort of applying. • The Local Government Fund is a particularly important element of state aid. The 2022-23 budget continues funding for the Local Government Fund (LGF) at 1.66% of state General Revenue Funds, maintaining the decade-long reduction from 3.68% in 2010. • State revenue sharing with local governments remains about a billion lower than in 2010, adjusted for inflation and across a number of line items. • Based on current revenue estimates, the Local Government Fund will provide \$437 \$428 million in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$452 \$443 million in Fiscal Year 2023 in shared revenue. The Public Library Fund - another revenue sharing fund - will send out \$439 million in 2022 and \$454 million in FY 2023.

HOUSING

GRADE: F

Funding for housing was left at a tenth of what it needs to be, with no new improvements. We are in a crisis of affordable housing, and the legislature is turning a blind eye.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State lawmakers should allocate \$25 million annually for the "Housing Now for Homeless Families" program to quickly rehouse homeless children and provide much-needed stability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State lawmakers allocated \$2.5 million per year to address homelessness in youth and pregnant women by providing outreach to provide stable housing and recovery housing. • There was no improvement of funding to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

GRADE: C

Public transportation funding was left relatively unchanged, despite needing massive improvements.

NOBLE PROPOSED	INCLUDED IN FY 22-23 STATE BUDGET
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1. \$150 million a year should be invested in public transit and related alternatives.
2. Incentives or tax breaks should be provided to employers who encourage their employees to ride public transportation to and from work.
3. A multi-modal fund should be established within the ODOT budget with a dedicated funding source, whether that comes from issuing state bonds or from identifying a tax revenue base.

- Public transit gets about 2% of Ohio's multi-billion-dollar transportation budget. The budget allocates around \$70 million per year toward public transportation. This is about the same amount as the previous budget allocated.
- A much higher percentage of the public transportation budget is using federal funds than ever before. This will make it more difficult for local municipalities to apply for federal matching funds for public transportation, compared to state funds.