

Organize! Ohio: (p) 216.651.2606 (f) 216.651.2633

**2015 Platform Goals and Budget Realities**

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| **2015 Platform (created Nov 2014)** | **Past Budget Action** |  |
| **Revenue** | **Revenue: Past Budget Action** | **Revenue** |
| 1. The state needs additional revenue generation in order to maintain crucial state services. NOBLE advocates revenue generation in any of the following ways:
	1. Tax loopholes, which each year adds up to more than $7 Billion, should each be closely reviewed. Those exemptions and credits that outlived their usefulness or are inequitable should be eliminated.
	2. We cannot have a reduction in income tax rates. We should reinstate the 7.5% tax rate for income over $208,500.
	3. Re-Establish the Corporate Franchise Tax, and strengthen corporate taxes to restore balance between individuals/families and corporations.
	4. The state should increase its severance tax rate on oil & gas companies with that of neighboring states Indiana and Michigan to remain economically competitive in our region.
	5. All senior homeowners who make less than $50,000 a year should be eligible for the Homestead Exemption.
	6. The state should reestablish the Estate Tax.
 | 1. Owners of most businesses receive a 50% reduction on the first $250,000 of business income.
2. Over two years, Ohio is phasing in a 10% decrease in personal income tax rates.
3. A ¼ penny increase in sales tax rate. The state increased tax rates from 5.5% to 5.75%.
4. While a small number of tax loopholes were closed, many more were created or expanded in the budget bill or the mini – budget bill last year, the Mid Biennium Review (MBR).
5. An earned income tax credit was created now equal to 10% of the federal credit allowed but it is not refundable.
6. Homestead Exemption requirements have changed from an all income inclusive benefit to one where those turning 65 will have to make less than $30,000.
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| **Housing** | **Housing: Past Budget Action** | **Housing** |
| 1. The State maintain the Housing Trust Fund and keep the existing funding source - the recordation fee - so that it will continue to support affordable accessible housing.
2. The State should create a department that aids and assists communities in foreclosure prevention.
 | 1. None
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| **2015 Platform (created Nov 2014)** | **Budget Action** |  |
| **Fees** | **Fees: Past Budget Action** | **Fees** |
| 1. Any person receiving public assistance should have their fees rolled back to 2008 levels for essential living documents such as a birth certificate and driver’s license.
2. For low income Ohioans for whom essential living documents prove to be unaffordable, we recommend that these documents be provided at no charge.
3. Create an income based scale for essential living documents.
 | 1. Fees were maintained at their current rate.
 |  **Examples of fees:*** Copy of Birth Certificates – $22.93 avg.
* Drivers license renewal - $25.75
* Passenger Vehicle renewal - $34.50
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| **Education** | **Education: Past Budget Action** | **Education** |
| 1. K-12 Education should avoid cutbacks that jeopardize the quality of the school system (keeping in mind the DeRolph decision) and that puts additional financial pressure on the local school districts.
2. ***State Legislature establishes an open bipartisan panel to restructure funding for higher education and work to avoid an unequal burden on families so that a college degree is accessible to those of moderate income. We further encourage the legislature to research what is working elsewhere and bring those ideas which work here.***
3. Restore K – 12 Education funding to FY 2010 – 11 levels in part by closing existing tax loopholes, revenue gained from fracking, and funds from the Ohio rainy day fund.
4. Revenue from the state lottery proceeds should not be taken into consideration when calculating funding for public education.
5. Charter schools should return monies on a prorated basis if the student returns to a public school during the school year.
6. Tuition rates increases for state funded schools should be frozen at a 2% rate for the duration of the budget.
7. The State match Federal funding for K- 12 education.
 |  1. $12 million will be set aside for a school – security grant program.
2. Expanded taxpayer funded vouchers to 2,000 low – income kindergartners to attend private schools & 2,000 1st graders the second year.
3. The EdChoice voucher program will be expanded to cover students living in families earning up to 200% of the federal poverty line guidelines regardless of whether affected public schools are meeting academic standards.
4. School districts will be allowed to base their school years on the number of classroom hours. 910 for all day kindergarten through six grades, 1001 hours for seventh – 12th grades rather than the current 182 day year.
5. Fees for higher education are capped at 2%.
6. Graduation rates will be given more consideration when funding is given to public colleges and universities.
7. State establishes an Undergraduate Tuition Guarantee Program setting a consistent tuition rate for all 4 years if certain criteria are met.
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| **Health and Human Services** | **Health and Human Services: Past Budget Action**  | **Health and Human Services** |
| 1. Accessibility
2. Provide adequate resources to Counties for sufficient staff for food stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid and other programs in order to handle increased demand and prevent delays and obstacles to services.
3. ***State uses full amount of federal dollars allocated to allow counties to reduce caseload sizes of caseworkers.***
 | 1. Accessibility
	1. $1.8 million per year to Passport admin agencies to fund screening and assessment for those who need long term care, general admin., and provider relations.
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| **2015 Platform (created Nov 2014)** | **Budget Action: Past Budget Action** | **Budget**  |
| 1. Child Care
2. Full restoration of costs for child care providers for low – income families.
3. Reimbursement rates reflect the cost of care on a county by county basis.
4. Eligibility should returned to 180% of the Federal Poverty Level and that eligibility be maintained for one full year after it has been established, so that stability and continuous educational programming for children (Kindergarten readiness) can be maintained when their parents are in between jobs or when mothers go on maternity leave.
5. Restore billing rates to FY 2011 levels.
6. The state provide a clear cut calculation on how reimbursement is determined in order to make it easier for providers to anticipate income***.***
7. ***Restore the 7% cut that all providers received which has resulted in a 10% loss in home care providers in Cuyahoga Co.***
 | 1. Child Care
	1. $10 million was added in the MBR for Children Protective Services.
	2. The budget provides $242 million for FY 2014 and $222.2 million for FY 2015.
 | * Families earning up to 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for subsidized child care. In 2003 this figure was 185%. For a family of four,125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines is $30,313.

This level is the 6th lowest of any state. |
| 1. Kinship Care/Foster Care
2. Provide statewide support for Kinship Navigator Program in budget for all counties.
3. For children aging out of the foster care system, increase state funding to counties so that program that support independent living, education, housing and training can be developed and/or funded.
4. Create financial parity between kinship care and foster care.
5. Eliminate the ceiling for kinship care allotment from current maximum of four children.
6. Disregard adults income when calculating food stamp availability for kinship care families.
7. Increase the annual monthly per capita by the amount of the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment.
8. Financial payments be made available throughout the placement period of our grandchildren, nieces, nephews or siblings***.***
 | 1. Kinship Care/Foster Care.
	1. The budget provides $3.5 million for FY 2014-15.
	2. $1.75 million TANF dollars are earmarked for each fiscal year for the KPI Program.
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| **2015 Platform (created Nov 2014)** | **Past Budget Action** | **Budget**  |
| 1. Care for Older Populations and People with Disabilities
2. Maintain the current funding formula for all local Offices of Aging and Senior Centers.
3. Funding for Adult Protective Services should be maintained and or increased to $10 million over a year to match current one time expenditures. Current need is between $11.5 – 18.4 million.
4. Maintain and/or increase the Alzheimer’s Respite line item which provides an average of $200 p/m to help caregivers.
5. Home care service should be given at minimum a Cost of Living Adjustment increase of 3%.
6. Fund the Community Service line item to match money provided by the Older American Act line item.

**People w/ Disabilities**1. Invest in Vocational Rehab programs. Increase GRF to draw down full available federal match.
2. Invest in community organizations to build capacity to deliver employment sources and educate employers.
3. Workforce Development: Reform existing workplace programs to provide meaningful work opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities. Ensure availability of wor
4. k support services.
5. Explore feasibility and impact on Ohio, ie Implementation of Community First Choice Option
6. Support a 70/30 funding level for HCBS by:
7. Increasing rates in Balancing Incentive Payment Programs.
8. Invest in communities and collaborative efforts to build capacity or organization to deliver aging and disability resource center services and supports.
 | 1. Care for Older Populations and People with Disabilities
	1. Adult Protective Services were increased by nearly 35% to $500,000 in FY14 - 15.
	2. Adult Protective Services was given a one - time increase of $10 million through the MBR.
	3. A 20% increase for adult day services.
	4. The budget provides a 3% increase for assisted living, bringing the daily rate to $49.93, $59.95, and $69.96 for care for consumers in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tiers.
	5. Alzheimer’s Respite will receive a 5.9% increase to over FY13 expenditures.
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| 1. Health Care and Medicaid
2. Reauthorize Medicaid Expansion at 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.
3. Maintain funding for the Ohio Free Clinics and the Federally Qualified Health Centers.
4. Maintain services and funding for traditional Medicaid.

**Alcohol & Other Drugs/Mental Health Services**1. Restore full $100,000,000 over 2 years to community based services.
2. Fully fund Recovery - Oriented System of Care (ROSC).
* Employment
* Peer Services and Supports
* Crisis Services & Housing
* Detox/Medication assisted treatment
* Health Promotion: early detection, identification and intervention.
1. Support efforts to achieve appropriate State funding for community behavioral health support services, and obtain parity in Board funding throughout the State.
2. Retain $10 million that the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services wants to take from community funding (Boards) for state hospitals.
 | 1. Health Care and Medicaid
	1. Passport funding will be increased by 1.5% over the previous budget.
	2. Mental health services will receive an additional $30 million and $17.5 million for addiction services to county behavioral health boards.
 | * As of October, 2014, 430,998 previously uninsured adults are now covered by health care as a result of Medicaid Expansion in the State of Ohio (healthpolicybrief, December, 2014; Health Policy Institute of Ohio)
* 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of one (1) is $14,713.
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| **2015 Platform (created Nov 2014)** | **Past Budget Action** | **Budget**  |
| 1. Cash Assistance
	1. Extend Cash Assistance to 5 years from the current 3 years as allowed in federal welfare law.
	2. Restore the Family Violence Option.
	3. Provide funding and fully implement the Ohio Work Incentive Program and other work support programs.
	4. Provide additional funding support for family’s cash assistance and add yearly COLA to the amount.
	5. Increase funding to county’s ODJFS to handle the increase in case loads.
	6. End the forced sanctioning directive.
 | 1. Cash Assistance.
	1. The budget provides $152.4 million for FY 14 and FY15.
	2. The Supplemental Food Assistance Program federal waiver for single able bodied adults was only accepted for 17 counties in this federal fiscal year. This excluded all major urban counties.
 | * In 2013, 31% of terminated TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) were a result of sanctions and 7% were a result of individuals reaching the 36 month time limit. (Policy Matters Ohio, November 2013)
* Since 2011, 116,000 individuals have lost cash assistance including 67,000 children.
* In Cuyahoga County in October 2013 282,201 individuals received financial assistance from the State, in December 2014 this number was 271,035, a 4% decrease.
* In Lorain County in October 2013 45,898 individuals received financial assistance and in December 2015 this number was 42,741, a 7% decrease.
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| 1. Food Assistance
2. Ohio should fully participate in waiver programs so that food stamps are available for all non – senior adults without minor children if they meet the income requirements.
3. Support Ohio Association of Foodbanks request for $40 million ($20 million each year) to continue the grant agreement for the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP). The state funding directs food supplies to millions of Ohioans through the state’s network of 12 Feeding America foodbanks and more than 3,300 food pantries and soup kitchens including purchased surplus or unmarketable products from Ohio farmers.
 | 1. Food Assistance
	1. Food banks will receive an additional $2 million each year over the course of the FY 14-15 budget.
 | * Currently there are only 17 out of 88 counties in the State of Ohio that receive a waiver that does not require non-senior adults to participate in a work program in order to receive food stamps for over 3 months in 36 months. Governor Kasich has the authority to apply this waiver to the entire State. Food Stamps are fully funded by the Federal Government.
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| **Transportation** | **Transportation: Past Budget Action**  | **Transportation** |
| 1. Establish a State commission that includes community actors be formed to explore the economic impact of expanding public transit to more suburban and rural areas.
2. We ask that funding for public transportation be at least 5% of the Ohio Dept. of Transportation budget.
3. Public transportation funding should become a line item in the ODOT Budget.
4. Transportation for people with disabilities must be maintained, so they can be productive, independent members of society.
5. Provide employers with incentives or a tax break that offer and encourage their employees to ride public transportation to and from work.
6. Create a fund that supports organizations that provide transportation for elderly citizens.
 | 1. The transportation budget provides funding of $3.7 billion in FY14 and $3.9 billion in FY15. This measure does not provide state funding for public transportation.
 | * The Ohio Department of Transportation’s Transit Needs Study says that more than half a billion dollars are needed to address the backlog of capital expanses and operational needs for the state’s transit agencies.

(Source: Ohio Statewide Transit Need Study, 2014) |
| **Local Government Fund** | **Local Government Fund: Past Budget Action** | **Local Government Fund** |
| 1. Increase LGF to 2010 levels to adequately fund police, fire, EMS, sanitation and other services at the city and county level.
 | 1. The State will provide $95 million less in local aid over the next two years when compared to the 2012 – 13 budget.2. $2 million earmarked in each of the next two fiscal years for grants that will be awarded to smaller cities and townships to purchase safety equipment. Recipients are limited to $15,000 per fiscal year, $25,000 for areas covered by natural disaster.3. State will no longer pay the 12.5% property tax rollback on all levies. The rollback will eliminate an estimated $34 million from local governments.  | * Cincinnati estimated loss of estate tax and state funding $29 million a year.
* Cleveland lost $35.5 million a year.
* Dayton has lost $20 million since 2011.
* Village of Orwell in Ashtabula County remains 35% below 2008 levels.
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