

The state operating budget is one of the most important legislative periods as it sets policy and allocates the state's financial resources for the coming two years. As the Ohio General Assembly is evaluating thousands of competing spending priorities, engagement with legislators during the budget process is critical.

In this document, you will find additional information on key legislators representing Franklin County, the state budget process timeline, and opportunities during the state budget process for advocacy.

BUDGET PRIORITIES – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

- Support an increase in Medicaid rates for community behavioral health services by an additional 10 percent, for a total of a 20 percent increase, to stabilize and strengthen the behavioral health workforce.

988 Funding

- Maintain the 988 funding of \$46.5 million across the biennium to fully support the 988 call, text, and chat capabilities across the state.

Housing Supports

- Maintain the increased investments in Residential State Supplement to support the expansion of recovery housing and supports services.

KEY STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Mid-April | Release of House Substitute Bill

When the House substitute bill is released, this is a good time to reach out to legislators and let them know which proposals you support or oppose in the new sub bill.

May-June | Senate Committee Hearings

When there are budget hearings in the Senate Finance Subcommittees, this is the best time for organizations to come in and provide testimony on the House Proposed Budget, as well as meet with Senate offices. *As schedules fill up quickly during budget time, call Senate offices to schedule meetings ASAP.*

Early June | Release of Senate Substitute Bill

When the Senate substitute bill is released, this is a good time to reach out to legislators and let them know which proposals you support or oppose in the new sub bill.

By June 30 | Governor Signs Budget

Ohio's Governor has line-item veto powers on budget bills. This means that he can strike out any provisions he likes before signing the bill, but he cannot add or move any of the bill's language. If there are provisions in the budget bill that are concerning, this is where you will see many organizations calling on the Governor to line-item veto parts of the budget.

LEGISLATOR ENGAGEMENT

Franklin County is represented by 16 legislators – four in the Ohio Senate and 12 in the Ohio House. Below is the list of Franklin County legislators. Those marked with * are considered key individuals during the budget process and should be prioritized for advocacy efforts:

Ohio Senate

[Senator Michele Reynolds](#) (R-3)

- Sits on Senate Community Revitalization Committee

[Senator Hearcel Craig](#) (D-15) *

- Sits on Senate Finance Committee

[Senator Stephanie Kunze](#) (R-16)

[Senator Bill DeMora](#) (D-25)

Ohio House of Representatives

[Representative Dontavius L. Jarrells](#) (D-1) *

- Serves as Assistant Minority Leader
- Sits on House Finance Committee

[Representative Latyna M. Humphrey](#) (D-2) *

- Sits on House Behavioral Health Committee

[Representative Ismail Mohamed](#) (D-3)

[Representative Mary Lightbody](#) (D-4)

[Representative Rich Brown](#) (D-5)

[Representative Adam Miller](#) (D-6)

[Representative Allison Russo](#) (D-7) *

- Serves as Minority Leader

[Representative Beth Liston](#) (D-8) *

- Sits on House Finance Committee

[Representative Munira Abdullahi](#) (D-9)

[Representative David Dobos](#) (R-10)

[Representative Anita Somani](#) (D-11)

[Representative Brian Stewart](#) (R-12)