



Governor DeWine introduces Budget Bills, including Transportation and new ACEC resource page

Yesterday Governor DeWine unveiled the executive spending plan for FY 2026 and FY 2027. The "blue book" document proposes the Governor's spending priorities across all of Ohio's state agencies including healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The total all-funds budget is projected at \$108.6 billion in FY 2026 and \$110.7 billion in FY 2027.

Governor DeWine's 2026-2027 executive budget includes investments to:

- Sales/use taxes generate 32% of all revenue, with income tax at 23%
- Provide opportunities for parents to take part in Ohio's workforce through a refundable child tax credit.
- Make quality childcare more accessible and affordable for Ohio families.
- Promote access to children's physical and mental health including literacy, vision care, and other programs.
- Encourage talented Ohioans to keep their talents in Ohio as they forge careers in the most in-demand job industries.
- Support Ohio's law enforcement agencies with investments in more efficient and reliable emergency services and accessible, affordable training.
- Protect and improve water quality throughout Ohio.

General government operations account for 15.2% of spending, while primary/secondary education comprises 13.7% of the total budget. Tax revenues are expected to grow from \$28.4 billion in FY2025 to \$30.6 billion by FY2027.

Today, OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks testified on the General Revenue Fund budget, <u>click</u> <u>here for her testimony</u>. A legislative bill has yet to be introduced, <u>click this link to read more on the Governors budget initiatives.</u>

Transportation Budget Bill:

The Governor also proposed appropriating \$9.5 billion to the Department of Transportation over the next two years including \$380 million in spending for targeted safety upgrades.

ODOT's proposed budget also includes \$6.1 billion over the biennium for the reconstruction of the existing highway system and new highway construction. Another \$1.4 billion would be earmarked for maintenance operations, which include roadway replacement, snow and ice removal, culvert inspections and bridge maintenance.

The budget also calls for spending \$1 million over the biennium to research the development of a statewide Advanced Air Mobility strategy.

Other goals include:

- Maintaining a statewide average Pavement Condition Rating of 85 or higher for interstates and busier state highways and a rating of 80 or above for the rest of the system.
- Sustaining optimal bridge ratings on the state highway system by keeping 97% of bridges with spans of 10 feet or longer in good condition or fair condition.
- Increasing the prevention of roadway departure and pedestrian-related crashes through continued investment in safety projects.
- Continuing record-level investments in intersection safety, such as more turn lanes, better signs and signals, and an investment in life-saving designs, such as roundabouts.
- Collaborating with industry to assess new technology, both on the ground and in the air, to improve roadway safety and increase mobility for Ohioans.

Today, Director Pam Boratyn testified before the Ohio House Transportation Committee on <u>House Bill 54</u>, the transportation budget bill. <u>Click here for the Director's testimony.</u>

The Director said a 2023 study confirmed that the state's motor fuel tax alone will be insufficient in the future due to the growing costs and needs of Ohio's transportation infrastructure system. When questioned on indexing by a member of the House Committee,

the Director indicated the Department would like to have a conversation about ODOT funding needs.

National ACEC resource page:

For information on Executive Orders, Tariffs and other Congressional Action, ACEC has set up a new resource page. <u>Click here.</u>