



Governor DeWine's 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal reflects his ongoing commitment to making Ohio the best place in the country to live, work, and raise a family. From its major metro areas to its small towns and rural villages, Ohio is truly the Heart of it All, and every community is vital to the state's overall success. Governor DeWine's budget proposal focuses on offering valuable support that improves the safety and security of local neighborhoods, strengthens critical local infrastructure, enhances local quality of life, and invigorates local economies. Many of these targeted investments build on successful programs established in Governor DeWine's previous budgets, and all are structured to give every community in Ohio the opportunity to thrive.

Public Safety

- Because Ohio's first responders must be able to easily communicate and coordinate responses during emergencies, Governor DeWine's budget proposal continues to support local government users of **the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS)**, a wireless digital communications system used by approximately 2,500 public safety and public service agencies in Ohio. This priority continues to ensure that monthly fee costs will not hinder first responders from joining this critical network.
- Making Ohio's communities safer requires reliable and efficient emergency services. Governor DeWine's proposed budget recommends continued implementation of **Next Generation 911**. This system improves emergency response times and gives Ohioans the option to contact emergency services via text messages, which ultimately saves lives.
- Governor DeWine's budget increases Ohio's investment to fund **988**, the three-digit phone number that connects callers to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Anyone experiencing mental health distress can access compassionate, accessible care by dialing 988. The Lifeline also supports those concerned about a loved one who may need crisis support. This lifeline has received more than 440,000 calls, texts, and chats to date.
- As technology becomes more sophisticated, it remains critical that we protect and defend Ohio's infrastructure from threats. Governor DeWine's budget proposes to **bolster cybersecurity** for local governments and public water systems by funding risk assessments and the implementation of safeguards that protect local communities' most vulnerable resources.
- Affordable access to quality training for all Ohio law enforcement professionals is crucial to public safety. Governor DeWine's executive budget proposes continued financial support for law enforcement training and proposes to build a **state-of-the-art law enforcement training facility** to provide basic training and scenario-based training for Ohio peace officers.
- The number of overdose deaths in Ohio has dropped substantially for two consecutive years due, in part, to the work of Ohio's **law enforcement drug task forces**. Not only do they remove drugs and traffickers from the streets, but they've also gained national attention for their community engagement strategies that help support recovery. Governor DeWine's budget proposal provides new grant funding to support the critical work of these drug task forces.

- Governor DeWine’s executive budget proposes continued support for local jails through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s **Ohio Jail Safety and Security Program**. The program awards grants to local jails for renovation, construction, and safety projects.
- To help local communities proactively prevent storm-related infrastructure damage, Governor DeWine’s executive budget proposes the launch of the new **Ohio Hazard Mitigation Program**. Grants from this program would fund projects to protect against damage such as road erosion, which improves public safety and minimizes the need for local governments to fund costly post-storm repairs.
- Continuing his historic investments in Ohio’s **indigent defense system**, Governor DeWine is proposing to create a regional indigent defense hub pilot project. The Northwest Regional Hub will combine expertise and resources to support indigent defense in Allen, Hardin, and Putnam counties. A task force established by the Ohio General Assembly recommended the pilot project to examine indigent defense services across Ohio.

Economy

- Ohio’s transportation network is critically important to our nation’s economic prosperity and supply chain logistics given the state’s centralized location to more than 60% of our nation’s population. To ensure **safe and efficient travel** for everyone on Ohio’s roadways, Governor DeWine’s proposed transportation budget makes targeted investments in Ohio’s roadways.
- To strengthen Ohio’s economy, Governor DeWine has focused on promoting access to affordable housing in communities across the state. His executive budget proposal builds on this work by supporting investments in infrastructure and other costs associated with **housing development in rural and border counties**. Additionally, the executive budget proposes streamlined environmental permitting to help ensure homes are built in a timely manner.
- As Ohio continues to lead the nation in the development, manufacturing, and testing of **advanced air mobility** technology, Governor DeWine’s executive budget requires the creation and adoption of a statewide Advanced Air Mobility Strategy that will cement these technologies as a state priority and provide a vision for advanced air mobility and unmanned aircraft system technologies.
- High school students in Ohio have many opportunities to engage in work, internships, and other work-based learning experiences while they are in school, however, many teens lack transportation. Governor DeWine’s budget reduces financial barriers and time restrictions faced by high school students who seek **driver training**.
- The demand for energy is growing in Ohio and the state must be able to provide **reliable and affordable energy** to continue supporting economic development. Governor DeWine’s budget provides regulatory flexibility for energy generators to develop new, market-driven generation in Ohio while protecting residential ratepayers from bearing unnecessary costs.
- Ohio’s public libraries contribute to a healthy economy by promoting literacy and providing access to an abundance of information for everyone from students to job seekers. To support this important work, Governor DeWine’s executive budget proposes an increase to the share of state revenue devoted to the **Public Library Fund**. This same increase is also extended to the **Local Government Fund** to support

services in every community across Ohio.

- The **Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program** helps local communities invest in the future by leveraging the private redevelopment of historic buildings. Governor DeWine's executive budget proposes to support more historic preservation projects and target the rehabilitation of historic owner-occupied homes.

Quality of Life

- Ohio's abundance of water makes the state an ideal place for families, businesses, and tourists. Governor DeWine's executive budget continues funding for **H2Ohio**'s ongoing work to create high-performing wetlands in critical areas of the state, provide clean drinking water to communities across Ohio, and support farmers with implementing best practices on Ohio farm fields.
- To protect and preserve Ohio's natural wonders, Governor DeWine's budget proposal continues his administration's historic investment in **Ohio's 76 state parks**. Ohio is one of eight states in the country that provides access to state parks for free, giving everyone an opportunity to experience Ohio's natural beauty.
- Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal continues to invest in **Accessible Ohio**, a program that works to make Ohio businesses, communities, attractions, and venues more accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- To keep Ohio's communities clean and to ensure that the state remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family, Governor DeWine's budget provides new funding for local health departments to **improve oversight of Ohio landfills** and supports the clean up of abandoned landfills and nuisance dumps.