



THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS CANCELLED; FUNDRAISERS FLOURISH

*By Catherine Turcer and Leontien Kennedy
Ohio Citizen Action's Money in Politics Project
October 15, 2009*

The People's Business Cancelled; Fundraisers Flourish

Since the beginning of the 128th General Assembly, the Ohio House has cancelled 24 or half of their scheduled sessions. The Ohio Senate cancelled 16 or more than one-third of their originally scheduled sessions. Members of the General Assembly and the caucuses held 243 fundraisers during this time period. Of these fundraisers, three were cancelled.

Number of Bills Passed by the Ohio General Assembly	Number of sessions held in both chambers	Number of sessions cancelled in both chambers	Number of fundraisers held by members of the Ohio General Assembly	Number of fundraisers cancelled by members of both chambers
9	52	40	243	3

January 1, 2009 – October 10, 2009

So far each bill cost taxpayers more than \$6 million

Number of bills passed by the Ohio General Assembly	Number of members of the Ohio General Assembly	Operating Budget for the Ohio House, Ohio Senate, Legislative Service Commission (LSC) and Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR)
9	132	\$55,420,287

The budget total does not include the Capitol Square Advisory Board.

The total operating budget for the 128th General Assembly for 2009 comes in at over \$55 million. So far, the Ohio General Assembly has passed 9 bills between January 1, 2009 and October 10, 2009.

Ohio is in crisis

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released an examination of poverty in the United States. Of the top 10 poorest cities, three are in Ohio -- Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo. No other state has more than one. Ohio's unemployment rate was 10.8 percent in August (641,000 workers unemployed), according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Department of Labor. According to second quarter Mortgage Bankers Association figures, one

in seven mortgage holders in Ohio is either delinquent on payments or in foreclosure. It is estimated that 235 homeowners each day are losing their homes to foreclosure.

Bills Passed By the 128th General Assembly

Of the nine bills passed by the 128th General Assembly, six of them were connected to the Operating Budget for 2010-2011.

House Bill 1 (Vern Sykes)	Operating Budget-Fiscal Years 2010-2011
House Bill 2 (Peter Ujvagi)	Transportation Budget- Fiscal Year 2010-2011
House Bill 15 (Vern Sykes)	Workers' Compensation- Fiscal Year 2010-2011
House Bill 16 (Vern Sykes)	Industrial Commission Fiscal Year 2010-2011
House Bill 67 (John Carney)	Sixteen-Year Olds- Donate blood with parental consent
House Bill 150 (Peter Ujvagi/ Ross McGregor)	Interim Budget July 15-21,2009/ Military Family Month- August
House Bill 245 (Vern Sykes)	Short-Term Operating Appropriations July 8-14, 2009
Senate Bill 73 (Tom Niehaus/Jason Wilson)	Coal Mining- Revise Laws/Severance Tax/Security/Reclamation
Senate Bill 79 (Jimmy Stewart)	State & Local MRDD Agencies- Change name to refer only to developmental disabilities

Highlighted bills are connected to the State of Ohio's Budget/Appropriations

Ohio General Assembly history

During similar time periods in the past few years, the Ohio General Assembly has enacted more than twice the number they have this year.

Time Period	Ohio General Assembly	Bills Enacted
From January 1 – October 10, 2003	125	27
From January 1 – October 10, 2005	126	38
From January 1 – October 10, 2007	127	23
From January 1 – October 10, 2009	128	9

Comparisons with other states

The Michigan Legislative Service Bureau reported on September 30, 2009 that 98 bills have become law since the beginning of the year. Like Ohio, the Michigan Senate is Republican and the Michigan House is Democratic. The Wisconsin State Legislature has passed 49 bills so far this season. Since January 2009, the Indiana General Assembly passed 181 bills that were signed into law. From January through May 2009, the State of Illinois' General Assembly passed 791 bills. Further from home, this year the California Legislature passed 872 bills and according to the *Sacramento Bee*, this is the lowest number in more than 40 years. During Florida's 2009 session, 238 bills were passed by both of Florida's chambers.

House Joint Resolution 2/Issue 2

When the General Assembly wants to move quickly, it can. House Joint Resolution 2, which is the first step towards amending Ohio's Constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, was introduced on June 18, 2009. It was sponsored by Allan Sayre (D-Dover) and Margaret Ruhl (R-Mount Vernon), and the Ohio House passed HJR 2 out of the Ohio House in less than a week. On June 25, it was introduced in the Ohio Senate, was heard on the Senate floor and successfully passed on July 6, 2009. HJR 2 had 58 co-sponsors of both political parties from the House and 16 from the Senate.

Appendix

Although nine bills were passed by the Ohio General Assembly between January 1, 2009 and October 10, 2009, 306 bills have been introduced in the Ohio House and 183 in the Ohio Senate. Of the 306 introduced bills in the Ohio House, seven moved through both Chambers and 19 were passed out of the House and are awaiting review in the Ohio Senate. Of the 183 introduced in the Ohio Senate, two were passed by both Houses and 18 were sent to the House and are pending.

Number of bills introduced in the Ohio House	House Bills passed by both chambers	Number of bills introduced in the Ohio Senate	Senate Bills passed by both chambers
306	7	183	2

January 1, 2009 – October 10, 2009

Pending Bills Passed only by the Ohio House of Representatives

House Bill 3 (Mike Foley/Denise Driehaus)	Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis
House Bill 5 (Mark Okey/ Dan Dodd)	Winning Candidates Transition Funds
House Bill 6 (Matt Patten/Mark Schneider)	Tax Credit- Motion Picture Productions
House Bill 9 (Ted Celeste/Mike Foley)	Foreclosure/Rental property—Notify tenants/tenancy converts to month-to-month
House Bill 10 (Edna Brown)	Protection Order—Child’s Dating Partner/ Domestic Violence—Include foster parents
House Bill 12 (Matt Lundy & Mark Schneider)	Higher education institutions—No credit card marketing
House Bill 19 (Sandra Stabile Harwood)	School Districts- Dating violence policy/education
House Bill 28 (Ronald Gerberry)	Sheriff candidates-Education/experience requirements
House Bill 48 (Peter Ujvagi)	Two Weeks Leave- Spouse/Parent of active duty/injured service member
House Bill 50 (John Domenick)	Vehicle Registration Certificate- Include duplicate omitting address
House Bill 64 (Connie Pillich)	Armed Services Members- Ordered to deploy/ Move-Terminate rental agreement
House Bill 68 (Dan Dodd)	Healthy farms/Healthy schools grants/ Nutrition education
House Bill 71 (Bob Hagan/Bill Batchelder)	Requirements for Contract Carriers Transporting Railroad Employees
House Bill 95 (Mike Skindell)	Prohibits Name Change if Sex Offender or Committed Identity Theft
House Bill 102 (Todd Book)	Umbilical Cord Blood Donations
House Bill 103 (Lorraine Fende & Sandra Stabile Harwood)	Threatening/harming/killing judge-Increase penalties
House Bill 165 (Peter Ujvagi)	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
House Bill 176 (Dan Stewart/Ross McGregor)	Unlawful Discrimination Practice- Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
House Bill 190 (Lorraine Fende)	Dentists/Dental Hygienists- Regulatory Procedures

Pending Bills Passed only by the Ohio Senate

Senate Bill 1 (Jim Hughes)	Implement Constitutional Debt Authority- Conservation/Revitalization
Senate Bill 2 (John Carey)	Distribute Federal Stimulus Funds
Senate Bill 3 (Keith Faber)	Small Businesses- Impact of Rules/ Create Ombudsperson/Review Board
Senate Bill 5 (Steve Buehrer)	Grants for Graduates Program
Senate Bill 7 (Mark Wagoner)	Auditor Establish Fraud Reporting System- Fraud and misuse of public funds
Senate Bill 9 (Tom Patton)	Motion Picture Investments- Income Tax Credit
Senate Bill 42 (Tim Schaffer)	Sex Offender-Residential Restrictions
Senate Bill 51 (Sue Morano)	Ohio Turfgrass week—last week of May
Senate Bill 57 (Bob Gibbs)	16-year-olds-donate blood with parental consent
Senate Bill 58 (Jim Hughes)	Bodily substances- Prohibit Collecting Unless Privileged to do so
Senate Bill 69 (Gary Cates)	Students Living in On-Campus Housing— Meningitis/Hepatitis B Vaccination
Senate Bill 77 (Dave Goodman)	DNA Testing of Criminals
Senate Bill 85 (Jimmy Stewart)	Political Subdivisions- Contract for repair and maintenance of water storage tanks
Senate Bill 89 (Sue Morano)	Out-of-State Nurses- Prescriptive Authority/ Hospitals & Nursing Education
Senate Bill 93 (Steve Buehrer)	War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission
Senate Bill 96 (Jim Hughes)	ALS Awareness Month
Senate Bill 106 (Steve Buehrer/ Eric Kearney)	Estates and Trusts-Revise Law
Senate Bill 131 (Karen Gillmor, Capri Cafaro)	State Agencies/ Higher Education—Biobased Product Purchase Program

Joint Resolutions

Joint Resolutions Passed By the Ohio General Assembly

HJR 2 (Allan Sayre & Margaret Ruhl)	Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board
SJR 1 (Timothy Grendell & Charles Wilson)	CA- Persian Gulf—Afghanistan/Iraq conflicts— Compensate veterans
SJR 6 (Bob Gibbs & Charles Wilson)	Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board

Joint Resolution Passed By the Ohio Senate

SJR 5 (Jon Husted)	U.S. House-Revise Redistricting Process
--------------------	---

Concurrent Resolutions Passed By the Ohio General Assembly

HCR 1 (Matt Szollosi)	Committee to inform Governor GA in Session
HCR 2 (Matt Szollosi)	Joint committee to attend inauguration of President
HCR 3 (Matt Szollosi)	Convene Joint Session—Declare election results
HCR 4 (Matt Szollosi)	Joint convention/committee to wait upon Governor—State of State Address
HCR 5 (Matt Szollosi)	Legislative Code of Ethics
HCR 24 (Matt Lundy)	Joint Select Committee on the Impact of the Changing Automobile Industry in Ohio
SCR 3 (Tom Niehaus)	Joint Rules for 128 th GA
SCR 16 (Bill Harris)	Arguments for/against constitutional amendments—Delegate preparer appointment

Concurrent Resolutions Passed only by the Ohio House

HCR 26 (W. Carlton Weddington)	Summer Learning Day in Ohio—2009 and 2010
--------------------------------	---

Concurrent Resolutions Passed only by the Ohio Senate

SCR 7 (Robert Schuler)	Deep—Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month— March 2009
SCR 8 (Tim Grendell & Bob Gibbs)	Petition EPA/Congress-No new regulation- Livestock greenhouse gas emissions
SCR 12 (Tim Grendell)	Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure-Amend to provide for open discovery
SCR 13 (Timothy Grendell & Keith Faber)	Assert state sovereignty
SCR 15 (Chris Widener)	Congress-Do not enact Cap & Trade Bill/states have own renewable energy portfolios

Budget for the Ohio General Assembly

Budget for the Ohio House	\$22,046,081
Budget for the Ohio Senate	\$12,261,401
Budget for the Legislative Service Commission	\$20,709,805
Budget for the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review	\$403,000
Total Budget for the Creation of Legislation and the Rules for Implementation	\$55,420,287

The budget total does not include the Capitol Square Advisory Board.

Methodology

This study examines the amount of legislation passed from January 1 to October 10, 2009. The legislative information included in this study is based upon the Legislative Service Commission's *Status Report of Legislation- 128th General Assembly* which is available at the Bill Room and on-line at www.lsc.state.oh.us/statusreport.html.

A sample was taken of a handful of other states' legislative processes during the same time period. Information about legislative bodies in other states was available on states' websites and through phone calls when this information was not readily available. The *Sacramento Bee* provided information about California's history—
www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/capitolalertlatest/026166.html.

The fundraisers included in this study reflects only those publicly reported and was provided by Gongwer News Service (www.gongwer-oh.com).

House Bill 119 of the 127th Assembly, the operating budget bill for 2008-2009, provided the information about the amount allotted to the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Senate, Ohio Legislative Service Commission and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). It does not include the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board operating budget which is responsible for maintaining the Statehouse and Capitol Square. These numbers were then verified by the Office of Budget and Management. For an overview of the budget, visit www.lbo.state.oh.us/fiscal/budget/BudgetInDetail/BID127/BudgetInDetail-HB119-EN.pdf.

The information about the challenges that Ohio is facing was provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the U.S. Department of Labor, the Mortgage Bankers Association.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Turcer of the Money in Politics Project at 614-221-6077 or send her an email at cturcer@ohiocitizen.org.