



JOE UECKER

SERVING THE 66TH DISTRICT



State Representative Joe Uecker

Term in Office: 2nd
Hometown: Miami Township
Standing Committees:

- Commerce and Labor (vice-chair)
- Alternative Energy
- Health
- Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization
- Public Utilities

Dear Neighbors:

Here in the Ohio House, my colleagues and I are busy working on a variety of issues that are important to you and your family. Currently, we are implementing a new energy policy for Ohio as well as an economic stimulus package that would create new jobs and make investments in our economy.

We are also working to preserve the Great Lakes for future generations, protect children while they are in the classroom and ensure our veterans have access to the services they need. You can find more information about these issues inside this newsletter. Part of my role as your state representative is keeping you up-to-date on what is happening here at the Statehouse, and this newsletter is one way for me to do just that. I hope you find it useful.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions about these or any of the matters we are discussing at the Statehouse. You can reach my office by phone at (614) 466-8134, by e-mail at district66@ohr.state.oh.us or by writing me, State Representative Joe Uecker, 77 South High Street, District 66, Columbus, OH 43214. My staff or I will be happy to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Joe Uecker
State Representative
Ohio House District 66



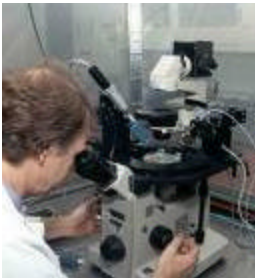
With hundreds of separate pieces of legislation to consider every year, legislators in Columbus need the opinions, advice and specialized knowledge of their constituents to guide them. It is impossible for any legislator to have detailed knowledge of the technicalities of every bill he or she must consider.

This means that even if you oppose a bill, legislators welcome your letters because you are providing them with knowledge they need to make well-informed decisions. ☞

Bringing New Jobs to Ohio

Making sure that we have a strong economic environment to foster growth and job creation is key to our success as a state. In recent weeks, my colleagues and I have proposed a new plan that will bring jobs to Ohio while at the same time ensure we are not burdening future generations of taxpayers with new debt.

In an attempt to stimulate economic development and job creation, the governor announced earlier this year that he wanted to borrow \$1.7 billion over the next 25 years. However, that package would have cost taxpayers almost \$3 billion when adding both the principal and interest payments. Fortunately, members



of the Ohio Legislature were able to work with the governor and bring forth a new plan that benefits the state economically while drastically reducing the amount of debt and speeding up the benefits to Ohio's economy by almost a year.

Our new proposal provides \$1.57 billion for job creation in the areas of the biomedical industry, advanced energy, infrastructure and higher education. This includes allowing voters to decide if we should continue funding for the Clean Ohio Fund – a program that helps revitalize brownfields in our communities and preserves green spaces and natural areas.

These efforts come on the heels of our efforts to lower taxes for all Ohioans. In the budget passed nearly three years ago, my colleagues and I implemented a 21 percent across-the-board personal income tax cut for all Ohioans. It was the largest tax cut of its kind in Ohio history and is still being phased in today. Such savings allow Ohioans to spend more of their hard-earned dollars in any way they see fit.



In addition to the tax reforms of three years ago, this past summer we passed another historic low-growth budget that included more tax cuts for Ohioans and investments targeted for job growth. We expanded the Homestead Exemption providing all homeowners over

the age of 65 or living with a disability with a tax exemption on the first \$25,000 of their home's value. This fall when the new exemption was made available more than 566,000 homeowners signed up. Unlike the governor's original proposal, our new bipartisan economic stimulus package will ensure this program is fully funded for years to come.



These accomplishments are moving Ohio forward by making our state more attractive for investment and economic growth and bringing new jobs to the Buckeye state. By adding a new and historic jobs package to our previous efforts we are ensuring our state is a much better place for new, high-paying jobs, and business investment.



Clearly, job creation is needed in Ohio and we in the Legislature are committed to passing a fiscally responsible economic stimulus package to grow our economy and bring more business to our state. By emphasizing fiscal responsibility, we can create jobs without penalizing future generations of taxpayers

Also a major part of the economic stimulus package is a partnership with the private sector to encourage and incentivize investments in higher education. By working in this partnership we can help to match the talents of our students to the job opportunities the market demands. ☞

New Investments Creating Jobs in Ohio

- **Workforce Internship Program** **\$250 million**
- **Bioproducts Development** **\$50 million**
- **Biomedical Research** **\$100 million**
- **Infrastructure** **\$400 million**
- **Advanced Energy** **\$150 million**
- **Clean Ohio Fund** **\$400 million**

MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Just like with your family budget, members of the Legislature are responsible for balancing budgets and keeping costs lower than revenues. And like you, we must act responsibly in an effort to find new ways to cut costs and allow taxpayers to keep more of their hard earned money.

Earlier this year the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced that Ohio will be



purchasing more compact vehicles as opposed to mid-size cars that are more expensive and use more gasoline. As gas prices rise above, \$3 per gallon and as our economy is experiencing some tough times, it is important to do

whatever is necessary to save taxpayer dollars for the most important needs and services.

By switching to compact cars, Ohio will put cheaper cars on the road that use less gas and have a smaller negative impact on the environment. Currently, midsize cars are used throughout the state and cost approximately \$16,000 while getting roughly 21 miles per gallon. In contrast, the smaller, more compact cars cost \$12,000 and get 28 miles per gallon.

The plan would call for the eventual overhaul of Ohio's 2,700 vehicle fleet, excluding state highway patrol cars and state construction equipment. By making this change our state should save nearly \$250,000 in the first year

of the program alone.

These savings are essential at a point when Ohio is facing uncertain times and potential budgetary shortfalls. While the details of our economic future may be unclear, it is imperative that measures are taken to reduce costs while not affecting important services. By changing the vehicles some of our state employees use to perform their jobs, state officials are providing new and innovative ideas to protect taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, the Legislature and other government agencies will continue providing new ideas to keep costs low. ☞



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

In 2007 a report was released that showed some school teachers across Ohio had clear shortcomings. According to the report published in the *Columbus Dispatch*, since the year 2000, at least 85 educators have had inappropriate relations with students. Additionally, nearly one in four teachers who emotionally, physically or sexually abused children still held a teacher's license and even more disturbing is the fact that more than 20 educators kept their licenses for at least two years after being charged with felonies against children.



As if this were not bad enough, in many of these cases parents, other school districts, the state or even the district itself was not informed of these situations or the severity of the crimes. Knowing that it is essential that we keep our children safe, members of the Legislature passed legislation tightening standards and strengthening a districts ability to review an instructor's record.

State Representative Cliff Hite (R- Findlay) introduced and passed House Bill 190 last year. The bill specifically requires school districts to conduct FBI and Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation background checks on all employees every five years. House Bill 190 was recently signed into law by the governor.

In addition to these efforts, state Representative Arlene Setzer (R- Vandalia) recently introduced House Bill 428, which contains several more measures designed to improve how information on teacher misconduct and discipline is reported and disclosed.

House Bill 428 also provides for the automatic revocation of an educator's license if a teacher is convicted of certain serious offenses such as rape, drug trafficking or unlawful sexual contact with a minor. Additionally, teachers who are arrested for any of these offenses would be immediately removed from the classroom.

While working on this issue, it is important to note the vast majority of our teachers are great men and women working to improve the lives our children. Their intentions are noble and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication.



Moving ahead, I look forward to continuing our work on this issue in an effort to provide more safeguards to protect our children while they are in school. ☞



CONSTITUENT SERVICES

It is important for me to hear the opinions and concerns of constituents in the district.

You can reach me by mail, phone, fax or e-mail. My staff or I will assist you in any way we can.

77 South High Street,
District 66
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Columbus Office:
(614) 466-8134

Columbus Fax:
(614) 719-3966

E-mail:
district66@ohr.state.oh.us

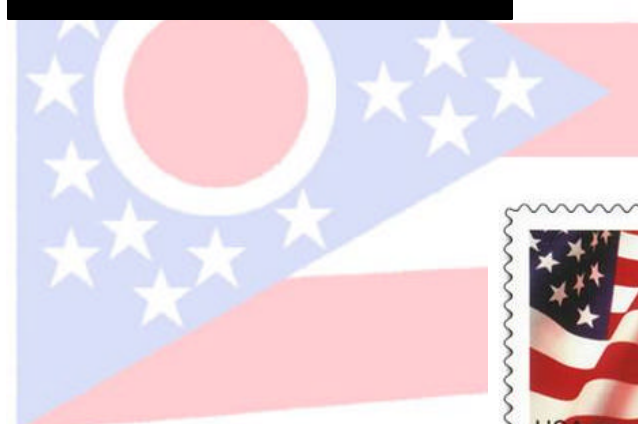
CONTACTING YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT:

HELPFUL STATE TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Attorney General Consumer Protection	800-282-0515
Child Support Hotline	800-686-1556
Crime Victim Assistance	800-582-CVSS
Home Energy Assistance Program	800-282-0880
Legislative Information	800-282-0253
Medicaid Consumer Hotline	800-324-8680
State Highway Patrol (Highway Help)	877-7-PATROL
Tax Questions	800-282-1780
Travel and Tourism	800-BUCKEYE
Unemployment Hotline	800-251-OBES
PUCO Call Center	800-686-PUCO
Workers' Compensation	800-OHIO-BWC
Ohio Web site	www.ohio.gov
House Web site	www.house.state.oh.us

Every legislator considers many bills on a wide range of subjects. Therefore, the first essential aspect of an effective letter to a legislator is a specific reference to the particular bill which interests you. The second important element is a brief description of the effect the bill's provisions will have on you. The third component of a convincing letter is your advice to your legislator as to how you think he or she should vote on the bill. ☞

HOW TO
WRITE
YOUR LEGISLATOR





State Representative

Joe Uecker

APRIL LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

66th House District

Your views on issues facing state government are important to me. Knowing where you stand on the issues helps me to better represent your views in the state Legislature. Please take the time to register your opinion on the following topics. I look forward to hearing from you.

	CONSTITUENT #1			CONSTITUENT #2		
	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
1. Do you think it is the responsibility of the state or Legislature to support renewable energy?						
2. Do you support legislation allowing Ohioans to use deadly force to protect their families and their homes from invaders?						
3. Do you support reforming the current term limitations placed on legislators, allowing them to serve 12 years instead of eight?						
4. Do you support legislation to allow children with special needs to attend the school that best meets their needs?						
5. Do you support the Governor's plan to use Keno gaming to fill a projected shortfall in Ohio's budget?						

Please list what you believe are the top three issues facing Ohio today. (Write answer below)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

COMMENTS: _____

If you would like to receive information and legislative updates through e-mail and/or by mail in the future, please provide the following information.:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

***Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the reverse side.**

Thank you very much for your time in thinking through and answering these questions. If there is anything I can do to better serve you, please contact me: state Representative Joe Uecker, 77 South High St., District 66, Columbus, OH 43215-6111; phone: (614) 466-8134; fax: (614) 719-3966; e-mail: district66@ohr.state.oh.us.

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State Representative Joe Uecker
77 S. High St., District 66
Columbus, OH 43215-6111