



House Ways and Means Committee  
House Bill 309 Testimony  
Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)  
June 11, 2025

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill (HB) 309. My name is Nicole Piscitani with the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). We represent boards of education for public school districts, career technical education centers and educational service centers.

OSBA is committed to working with the Ohio Legislature to find property tax reform solutions. Ohio's property taxation system is one of the most complicated in the country, and we are in support of simplifying it to help taxpayers.

OSBA understands that the sponsor intends for HB 309 to create uniformity and establish a clear set of actions for the 88 county budget commissions. While we appreciate this intention, the way our school district boundaries are determined could introduce *new* issues regarding uniformity if the bill is passed.

Many school districts are not confined to a single county. In fact, 255 districts span multiple counties, with one district covering parts of five counties. All residents of a school district, no matter which county they reside in, vote on school district levies. Our concern is that under the provisions of HB 309, a single county budget commission could lower the millage for the residents in its county, thereby creating uniformity issues for residents in the other counties.

In these instances, if the Ohio Legislature were to develop a framework where one county budget commission serves as the primary budget commission to decide all local taxes for a school district, we would create a situation where residents lose representation. If the bill intends to have decisions be made locally with a county treasurer, county auditor and county prosecutor who are elected by voters, the school district residents residing outside of that county will not be represented, because they can never vote for those individuals.

Take, for example, Miami Trace, the school district spanning five counties. If Fayette County were designated as the primary county, only the voters in that county could determine who is elected to the county budget commission. This would mean that district residents living in Clinton, Ross, Madison and Pickaway counties would lack representation or influence over the budget commission members who decide their local taxes — taxes they might have voted to levy. In practice, we believe this bill will not achieve its intended goals.

Chair Roemer and members of the committee, thank you for your time, and I would welcome your questions.