

BUDGET TESTIMONY

*Ohio Senate
Finance Committee*

May 5, 2011



Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board

**William E. Carleton
Executive Director**

The Ohio Statehouse - The People's House

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is responsible for maintaining the historic character of the Statehouse and Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in or visit the complex. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center coordinates tours of Capitol Square and provides information about the buildings, their history and Ohio's government.

The People's House

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Budget Testimony

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm William Carleton, executive director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB).

As you know, 2011 marks the sesquicentennial of the Ohio Statehouse. The building has been serving as the heart of Ohio democracy for the last 150 years. Throughout the state, the Ohio Statehouse stands as THE symbol of the legislative and executive branches of state government, and the people of Ohio.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) was created in 1988 to renovate and maintain the historic character and integrity of the Capitol Square complex while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in and visit the complex. The operation of the complex is controlled by the 13 members of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board. The Board is made up of four members representing the Ohio House of Representatives, four members representing the Ohio Senate, the Governor's Chief of Staff and four members appointed by the Governor. As you can see, there was a great deal of thought put into ensuring the needs of the Legislature were met when the agency was created in 1988. In addition to the House Clerk and the Senate Clerk, the current legislative members serving on our Board are Senate President Niehaus, Senator Kearney, House Speaker Batchelder and Representative Slesnick. Please utilize these members of the Ohio General Assembly who are part of the Board to ensure your concerns are being heard.

On behalf of the entire Board, let me say how grateful we are for the state funding which you and your colleagues in the General Assembly provide to the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to maintain this grand building, along with the entire Capitol Square complex.

My Board and I know that you and your colleagues in the General Assembly are faced with difficult decisions during the coming months as you analyze Ohio's operating budget for the next biennium and deal with the expected 8 billion dollar deficit. Governor Kasich's FY 2012/2013 budget, as amended by the House, will be adequate to operate and maintain the Capitol Square complex at a minimal level. However, any reduced allocation to this proposed budget will not provide sufficient funds to ensure that the buildings and grounds are operational and safe for the executive and legislative branches of state government and the people of Ohio.

The Statehouse is more than 150 years old, the Senate Building is 110 years old and the parking garage is 47 years old. While “sufficient funding” for the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board has been proposed in the Governor’s FY 2012/2013 biennial budget, it does not allow for major maintenance costs. A list of some of these projects that will be deferred under this budget recommendation is attached. In order to complete many maintenance items, CSRAB will continue to rely on the ability to utilize funds allocated in the parking garage appropriation.

A major cost facing CSRAB in the immediate future is the replacement of the two aging chillers that are used year round to both heat and cool the buildings. The cost for this replacement is going to be close to \$1 million. This is a project that is most suitable for a capital bill but due to the urgency, we do not have time to wait for this replacement. The House was kind enough to put a capital appropriation in the amount of \$900,000 in the Substitute HB 153 for this project with the requirement that CSRAB repays the debt service payments to the Ohio Building Authority in the amount of \$100,000 per year from the garage fund.

The House also added language clarifying that CSRAB is part of the legislative branch of government and is exempt from the Office of Information Technology (OIT). This clarification was necessary because we have been exempt from DAS oversight for purchasing of products and services but we were not specifically exempted from the OIT statute. All of our technology needs are managed by the Legislative Information System (LIS) that oversees the Capitol Square complex, common fiber infrastructure for the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. Being under the oversight of OIT in addition to LIS has created an unnecessary duplication of management and has delayed our ability to replace critical computer and other electronic equipment in a timely manner.

The CSRAB has utilized parking garage funds to maintain operations and invest in the future of the Statehouse. We will be using \$1.1 million from the parking garage fund this year alone for Capitol Square operations. The parking garage has been sustained by income received from parking revenues averaging \$3.1 million per year. Being required to use the earned garage revenue rather than having sufficient GRF continues to prohibit us from making important garage replacements and general maintenance to our parking facility.

The Statehouse continues to be a place for all Ohioans to come and see their government in action. In 2010 alone, there were nearly 75,000 students and visitors who participated in guided tours. In addition, 111,230 individuals attended 422 special events held at the Ohio Statehouse. And an additional 300,000 individuals visited our Capitol to meet with their legislators, attend hearings or participate in an advocacy day. This is a testament that Ohio’s citizens want to visit the “People’s House” and see their government in action.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board continues to work with the Capitol Square Foundation to achieve the goal of having every school aged child in Ohio visit the Statehouse before graduating high school. Together, we have set out to enrich the experience for school children, teachers and visitors with the Ohio Statehouse Museum. Since the museum opened in 2009, it has increased the visibility of the Statehouse and become a focal point for high-quality education for Ohio’s K-12 students.

Despite a reduction in the CSRAB's operating budget during the current biennium, we have continued to place a strong emphasis on educational programming. We have become part of the community fabric in Columbus, partnering with other cultural institutions and state agencies to ensure that the needs of thousands of children and families are met. Partnerships have provided us with the ability to continue free, family-friendly programming such as the annual holiday festival, Civil War encampment on the Statehouse lawn, performing arts presentations and countless educational presentations.

CSRAB has set a priority on keeping expenses as low as possible and increasing revenues through our special events, parking garage and museum shop. CSRAB has been and will continue to spend appropriated funds in a legitimate, efficient and economical way. Recent funding shortfalls have required our agency to implement additional cost-saving measures to meet the mandate. Examples include:

- Widening job descriptions so that our personnel can work across departments effectively and efficiently within the confines of the collective bargaining contract
- Reorganization of the education staff to effectively work with visitors
- More efficient energy use to reduce costs
- CSRAB staff reductions from 66 to 52 fulltime positions
- Using funds from the Capitol Square Foundation for the development of the Statehouse Museum and Education Center

Attached is a breakdown of CSRAB staff. As you review this attachment, please keep in mind that the Ohio Statehouse is open seven days a week and events are held here from 7 a.m. to midnight on any given day of the week. More than 60% of our 52 full-time employees are members of OCSEA union and as such, our labor costs and the ability to use our staff efficiently are tied directly to the collective bargaining contract.

We have a day and night cleaning staff of 11 full-time employees responsible for maintaining the interior of the Statehouse, Senate Building, Atrium, parking garage and stairwells and penthouses leading into the parking garage.

CSRAB has seven garage staff to cover four booths in the garage that are open 24 hours, seven days a week. We do not staff the parking garage the entire time it is open, but according to operational needs which vary greatly from day-to-day.

We have two full-time employees working in our events department who are responsible for communicating with clients and staffing and setting up the more than 400 events that take place seven days a week. CSRAB has two full-time people working in the Museum Shop that is open six days a week. These four employees are paid for from income generated from the events and Museum Shop sales.

In addition to our paid staffing, we rely heavily on the outstanding team of volunteers who lead the free tours provided daily here at the Ohio Statehouse. These tours would not be possible without our team of 64 dedicated volunteers.

Meeting the objectives in this building that is more than 150 years old on a budget that does not increase sufficiently as costs to maintain the buildings increase may create enormous obstacles that could be very costly to overcome in the future. The key to keeping capital expenses down in the future is to be diligent in executing the proper preventative maintenance. Our agency needs your help to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight Capitol Square and our programs. Attached to my testimony is a brief history of the Statehouse and Capitol Square. We welcome the opportunity to give you a personal, "Behind the Scenes" tour of the Statehouse to show you the mechanical and other areas not accessible to the public. This would help you in understanding the many challenges we face in operating and maintaining a building of this age and structure.

I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board
Maintenance Items to be Deferred under Executive Budget Recommendation
5/05/11**

Garage Maintenance Projects:

- Lighting replacement to reduce energy costs
- Repair and repainting of garage walls, ceilings and stairwells
- Repairs of floor leaks and repaving
- Replacement of garage revenue system

Statehouse Maintenance Projects:

- Metal wash/wax/touch-up and refinish as needed in atrium
- Interior painting of walls and doors
- Reduced window cleaning causing etching of glass
- Repair of window glass with cracked thermo seal
- Replacement of House Gallery handicap lift

Grounds Maintenance Projects

- Plaza upkeep of repairs and replacements of pavers

CAPITOL SQUARE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD

52 Full Time Employees (FTE)

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Executive Director
Administrative Assistant
(2 FTE)

**FINANCE AND HUMAN
RESOURCES**

(1) Assistant Director
(1) Human Resources Manager
(1) Purchasing Coordinator
(3 FTE)

MUSEUM AND EDUCATION

(1) Deputy Director
(1) Education Services Manager
(1) Historic Site Manager/Interpreter
(1) Interpreter/Volunteer Service
Coordinator
(4 FTE)

**HEALTH, SECURITY AND
SAFETY EDUCATION**

(1) Deputy Director/RN
(1 FTE)

COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Deputy Director
(1) Communications Assistant
(2FTE)

CUSTODIAL/HOUSEKEEPING

(1) Manager
(9) Custodial Staff
(11 FTE)
(1 Part Time)

SPECIAL EVENTS

(1) Assistant Deputy Director
(1) Special Events Coordinator
(2 FTE)

MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

(1) Deputy Director
(7) Maintenance Staff
(1) Work Order Manager
(1) A/V Tech Control Specialist
(1) Dock Manager
(11 FTE)

MUSEUM SHOP

(1) Manager
(1) Assistant Manager
(2 FTE)
(1 Part Time)

GROUNDS

(1) Grounds Supervisor
(4) Grounds Crew
(5 FTE)
(2 Interns)

**UNDERGROUND PARKING
GARAGE**

(1) Manager
(1) Accounts Receivable
(7) Cashiers
(9 FTE)
(2 Part Time)

Brief History of the Statehouse and Capitol Square

Serving as the heart of Ohio democracy since 1861



The people of Ohio are celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Ohio Statehouse throughout 2011. Throughout the state, the Ohio Statehouse stands as a symbol of the legislative and executive branches of state government, and the people of Ohio.

The Ohio Statehouse is considered to be one of the most significant architectural accomplishments of the early republic. Its Greek Revival architecture and its setting on Capitol Square, give the impression of permanence, elegance and grandeur deserved by the original State Legislature who passed a law in January 1838 to build the new Statehouse.

The cornerstone for the capitol was laid July 4, 1839. The Legislative Chambers and Governor's Office were occupied in 1857 and, after 22 years of construction, the Statehouse was completed in 1861.

The Statehouse renovation started in the early 1990's and was completed and rededicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony in July 1996. This restored the Statehouse to its 1861 design and elegance.

The annex, now the Senate Building, was completed in 1901. It was renovated in 1992. With its Grande staircase, it is the home of the Ohio Senate offices and hearing rooms.

The Atrium, added in 1993, with its large first floor area is used by numerous guests from non-profit organizations each year. The ground floor of the Atrium, with its Map Room, is used as the starting point of the tens of thousands of individuals who take guided tours of the Statehouse and Senate Building each year. The basement houses the mechanical systems for the Capitol Square complex and has been in operation for 19 years (since 1992.)