



Tim Schaffer
31st District

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
Room 142, First Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-5838
1-800-282-0253
SD31@senate.state.oh.us
www.ohiosenate.gov/tim-schaffer

Committee:

Ways & Means & Economic Development, Chair
Agriculture Environment & Natural Resources, Vice Chair
Energy & Public Utilities, Vice Chair
Insurance, Commerce & Labor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2011

CONTACT:

Danielle Vandegriff
(614) 466-5838

Schaffer Votes to Enact State Budget

Tax cuts designed to grow economy; 21% income tax cut protected.

COLUMBUS OHIO...State Senator Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) voted today for the passage of the State of Ohio biennium budget proposal drastically curbing state spending.

“Ohio has been facing the prospect of an \$8 billion structural imbalance, the largest in state history,” Schaffer said. He cited the State of Ohio’s balance in the rainy day fund, the state’s “savings account,” which stands at \$1.78, as evidence that Ohio government needs to tighten its belt and do all it can to encourage job growth.

The Senate passed version of the budget decreases spending over the two year budget by \$3.1 billion dollars in Fiscal Year 2012 compared to Fiscal Year 2011 and about \$2.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2013 compared to Fiscal Year 2011.

Schaffer says, “The budget provides historic levels of property tax relief,” \$1.7 billion annually over the biennium for every Ohio homeowner. Eliminates the estate tax, provides full funding for children’s hospitals, and increases support to local governments especially our smaller, rural counties that have a greater reliance on that support.

As chairman of the Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development Committee, Schaffer supported eliminating the estate tax to stem the tide of capital flowing out of Ohio. “Ridding Ohio of the estate tax is something that I worked on closely with Senator Jordan,” Schaffer said, “and is crucial to growth in Ohio.”

The Senate passed version of the budget guarantees that every public school district in Ohio will not receive cuts in their level of basic state aid over the next two years, while also adding additional funding of \$30 million in incentives to reward high-quality schools that achieve a rating of either excellent or excellent with distinction.

As college tuition costs rise nationwide, Ohio is committed to making a university education affordable. The Senate budget caps annual tuition increases to no more than

3.5 percent. If Ohio is going to attract the nation's best, it is essential that we work to keep tuition costs affordable.

Senator Schaffer was successful in advocating for several amendments. He secured an amendment to protect the 21 percent income tax cut that he promoted in 2005, and successfully maintained his income tax bracket indexing plan, which keeps taxpayers from being inadvertently elevated to a higher tax bracket. Senator Schaffer was also successful in making sure Educational Service Center School Boards have the flexibility they need to make sure all School Districts serviced are represented on their board, and he secured an amendment to help eliminate unfair competition to private sector businesses by government offices trying to compete with them.

-30-

State Senator Tim Schaffer was elected to the Ohio Senate in 2006 after serving in the Ohio House of Representatives for six years. His legislative accomplishments include enacting anti-corruption reforms, income tax indexing, and stronger penalties on sexual predators. He and his wife reside in Lancaster.