

# GETTING IT RIGHT!

## For Ohio's Future

EDUCATED WORKFORCE, FAIR FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 16, 2007

Contacts: Robin Hepler  
(614) 224-8114 ext. 265  
(614) 565-6525 (mobile)  
[rhepler@paulwerth.com](mailto:rhepler@paulwerth.com)

Jane Abel  
(614) 224-8114 ext. 230  
(614) 783-3965 (mobile)  
[jabel@paulwerth.com](mailto:jabel@paulwerth.com)

### **GETTING IT RIGHT FOR OHIO'S FUTURE ISSUES STATEMENT RESPONDING TO GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Campaign for Ohio's Future today issued the following statement in response to Governor Ted Strickland's budget proposal and first State of the State address:

"We appreciate Governor Strickland's expressed commitment to repairing Ohio's school funding formula, which remains unconstitutional since the first landmark Ohio Supreme Court ruling 10 years ago. However, we are disappointed that under his budget proposal, nearly half of Ohio school districts would receive no additional state dollars next year and nearly 250 would receive no additional funding for the two-year biennium.

"We trust that the Governor and legislature will work with all interested parties to achieve the common goal to gain adequate resources to educate Ohio's children. The sponsors of the amendment would welcome the opportunity to discuss a permanent comprehensive solution with the Governor and members to the General Assembly. Meanwhile, we anticipate that the constitutional amendment will be on the ballot this November so that the voters of Ohio can express their concerns as well. We are currently collecting signatures to ensure this process."

*Getting It Right for Ohio's Future* would:

- Guarantee accountability for results with public reports
- Identify the cost of high quality education and make the state pay a higher portion of the bill
- Reduce the number of property tax levies and require a higher state share of school funding
- Cut property taxes for senior citizen homeowners and disabled homeowners
- Protect state funding for school facilities, local government and higher education

During his State of the State address Wednesday, Governor Strickland outlined his vision for addressing school funding, which align with *Getting It Right for Ohio's Future* provisions in the following ways:

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

##### **Strickland:**

"...we must create a better system for knowing what we're getting for our money."

##### ***Getting It Right for Ohio's Future:***

"...the Education Accountability Commission... shall monitor and annually report to the Governor, the General Assembly, the State Board of Education and the public regarding... the components of a high quality education... are being delivered in a cost efficient and effective manner..."

QUALITY EDUCATION

**Strickland:**

“...too many teachers can still say, without fear of contradiction, that their districts lack the resources necessary to provide their students with the quality education they deserve as citizens of Ohio.”

***Getting It Right for Ohio's Future:***

“Each public school pupil has the fundamental right to the opportunity for a high quality public education.”

STUDENT NEED

**Strickland:**

“...we (will) focus our aid formulas to put the emphasis on meeting students' needs.”

***Getting It Right for Ohio's Future:***

Establishes a school funding system based on student need, consisting of “all of the necessary resources to provide a high quality public education for all public school pupils at every level and for every type of pupil...”

TARGETED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

**Strickland:**

“For those over 65, and the disabled, regardless of income, (expanding the *Homestead Property Tax Exemption*) will mean no property tax... on the first \$25,000 of value in their homes.”

***Getting It Right for Ohio's Future:***

Exempts senior homeowners and disabled homeowners from property tax on the first \$40,000 of the market values of their homes.

For more information about *Getting It Right for Ohio's Future*, visit [www.rightforohio.org](http://www.rightforohio.org).