

Mid-Biennium Review should focus on investments, not tax cuts

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The Kasich administration's most recent round of tax proposals [would continue to shift the weight](#) of state taxes from the most affluent to middle- and lower-income Ohioans. The billion-dollar-a-year income-tax cut he proposed in the Mid-Biennium Review, much of which would be financed by increases in other taxes, fails to address the problems that years of state budget cuts have created in our communities: unrepaired potholes and cracks in roads, longer emergency response times, dimmed streetlights and growing use of fees for young athletes to play sports at school.

Tax cuts are promoted as boosting the economy, [but they haven't worked in Ohio](#). Instead of tax cuts for the wealthy, we should restore and expand funding to local governments, public schools, health and human services and post-secondary education. This approach would improve communities, build opportunities for children and create the needed infrastructure for businesses. Below are some investments – far from a comprehensive list – that could benefit *all* Ohioans.

Investing in Our Communities

Keeping our communities safe

- \$100 million to restore 1,000 police and 675 firefighters to neighborhoods

World-class educational opportunities

- \$121 million to let Ohio schools rehire 1,570 teachers
- \$85 million to restore need-based grants for low-income college students

Thriving families

- Increase the poverty-level wages of workers who help aged and disabled Ohioans
- \$26 million to cut Ohio's high infant mortality rates
- \$160 million for a 10 percent, refundable earned income tax credit to help pull families and children out of poverty
- \$50 million a year to meet local needs for food and nutrition aid

Giving our youngest residents the best possible start

- \$67.3 million to provide preschool for 14,000 more kids
- Restore eligibility levels for publicly funded day care; extend the sliding scale to allow phase-out of benefits at the family self-sufficiency level

Better commutes, healthier communities

- \$75 million to restore cuts in public transit and create walkable communities

Helping our neighbors in need

- \$20 million to fund the protection of our seniors from abuse and neglect
- \$20 million to restore funding for child protective services
- \$32.9 million for the first year of a ten-year plan to cut the waiting list of 22,000 developmentally disabled Ohioans who need immediate services

Sources available online at www.policymattersohio.org/invest-apr2014.