

# Budget

Continued from Page 1

to be on target with projections. Personal income tax and corporate franchise tax collections are 7.6 percent and 15.5 percent above projections respectively for the year.

"The personal income tax and corporate franchise tax were up, but when you look at the combined sales tax, it's below the estimate for the year," said Mr. Keen. "That sluggish performance throughout all of this is a slight cause of concern."

The budget passed by the Senate shortly after midnight yesterday would collect about \$1 billion less in taxes over the biennium thanks to planned reductions in personal income taxes and a shifting of business taxes away from profits and plant investments toward gross sales.

As a result, 196 of the state's 612 school districts would receive no additional state aid over the next two years; counties, cities, and libraries would see their support slashed; 25,000 working poor parents would lose Medicaid health coverage, and 15,000 extremely poor, medication-dependent Ohioans would lose government-supplied prescription drugs.

Schools will be watching any revised revenue projections closely. Total state spending for basic aid is set to increase an average of 2 percent over the next two years.

The Republican-controlled Senate decided to slow down some of its planned changes in the basic-aid distribution formula. The plan would gradually implement the changes and phase out over two years rather than immediately eliminate an adjustment that compensates some schools for a higher cost of doing business.

"The Republican budget picks winners and losers," said Sen. Teresa Fedor (D., Toledo), a former teacher, during debate on the budget. "Flat funding in an inflationary economy equals a cut, pure and simple."

The slowdown in implementing the changes worked to the benefit of Fostoria City Schools, divided among Wood, Hancock, and Seneca counties. Its 2005-06 state aid would jump 10.2 percent, one of the largest increases in the state. That compares to 7.8 percent under the earlier Senate plan that would have implemented the formula changes more rapidly.

As the formula changes advance in the second year, Fostoria's increase would slide to 1.8 percent.

Treasurer Jane Fruth attributes much of the increase to the restoration of the cost-of-doing-business factor and to parity aid boosting poorer districts.

"The most dangerous thing in the budget is the reduction of the tangible personal property taxes [on businesses]," she said. "We are 29th out of 612 school districts in percentage of impact. We receive \$2 million from personal property taxes."

The tax on business machinery, equipment, and other investments is slated to be gradually replaced along with the corporate franchise tax with a new tax on gross receipts. The budget does not spell out a permanent funding replacement beyond the five-year transition period.

The Senate plan adopted yesterday reversed Toledo Public Schools' fortunes. The district would receive increases of 2.5 and 4.3 percent over the next two years, instead of 4.9 and 2.6 percent respectively under the earlier, more rapidly paced version.

The budget opens the door for the first time for 18,000 students in struggling schools statewide to receive vouchers to attend private or religious schools of their choice and expands Cleveland's voucher program.

## SENATE SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Under the Senate budget proposal, 196 of the state's 612 school districts would receive no additional state aid over the next two years. Following are proposed funding levels for northwest Ohio districts.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2004-05	2005-06 (% Change)	2006-07 (% Change)
<b>DEFIANCE COUNTY</b>			
Ayersville	\$1.91 m	\$1.91 m (0.0%)	\$1.91 m (0.0%)
Central Local	\$5.23 m	\$5.51 m (5.3%)	\$5.61 m (2.0%)
Defiance City	\$9.67 m	\$9.81 m (1.5%)	\$9.81 m (0.0%)
Hicksville	\$3.78 m	\$3.86 m (2.2%)	\$3.86 m (0.0%)
Northeastern	\$2.16 m	\$2.16 m (0.0%)	\$2.16 m (0.0%)
<b>LUCAS COUNTY</b>			
Anthony Wayne	\$6.56 m	\$6.57 m (0.3%)	\$6.60 m (0.3%)
Maumee City	\$3.76 m	\$3.76 m (0.0%)	\$3.76 m (0.0%)
Oregon City	\$8.51 m	\$8.51 m (0.0%)	\$8.62 m (1.4%)
Ottawa Hills	\$1.70 m	\$1.70 m (0.0%)	\$1.70 m (0.0%)
Springfield Local	\$5.53 m	\$5.53 m (0.0%)	\$5.53 m (0.0%)
Sylvania City	\$14.24 m	\$14.24 m (0.0%)	\$14.30 m (0.5%)
Toledo City	\$201.15 m	\$206.24 m (2.5%)	\$215.17 m (4.3%)
Washington Local	\$16.31 m	\$16.43 m (0.7%)	\$16.67 m (1.4%)
<b>FULTON COUNTY</b>			
Archbold Area	\$2.94 m	\$2.94 m (0.0%)	\$2.94 m (0.0%)
Evergreen Local	\$4.79 m	\$4.87 m (1.6%)	\$4.92 m (1.0%)
Gorham Fayette	\$2.30 m	\$2.44 m (6.0%)	\$2.54 m (4.1%)
Pettisville Local	\$1.74 m	\$1.74 m (0.0%)	\$1.74 m (0.0%)
Pike-Delta-York	\$6.28 m	\$6.28 m (0.0%)	\$6.28 m (0.0%)
Swanton Local	\$4.26 m	\$4.26 m (0.0%)	\$4.26 m (0.0%)
Wauseon	\$7.92 m	\$8.08 m (2.0%)	\$8.17 m (1.2%)
<b>HANCOCK COUNTY</b>			
Arcadia Local	\$1.65 m	\$1.65 m (0.0%)	\$1.65 m (0.0%)
Arlington Local	\$2.71 m	\$2.87 m (6.1%)	\$3.01 m (5.1%)
Cory-Rawson	\$2.61 m	\$2.63 m (0.4%)	\$2.66 m (1.1%)
Findlay City	\$16.5 m	\$17.16 m (4.2%)	\$17.53 m (2.2%)
Liberty Benton	\$5.02 m	\$5.07 m (1.1%)	\$5.22 m (2.9%)
McComb Local	\$3.06 m	\$3.10 m (1.2%)	\$3.13 m (0.8%)
Van Buren	\$633,521	\$633,521 (0.0%)	\$633,521 (0.0%)
Vanlue Local	\$1.42 m	\$1.48 m (3.8%)	\$1.51 m (2.5%)
<b>HENRY COUNTY</b>			
Holgate Local	\$2.15 m	\$2.15 m (0.0%)	\$2.15 m (0.0%)
Liberty Center	\$4.96 m	\$5.10 m (2.8%)	\$5.12 m (0.3%)
Napoleon City	\$7.37 m	\$7.45 m (1.1%)	\$7.70 m (3.2%)
Patrick Henry	\$4.06 m	\$4.06 m (0.0%)	\$4.06 m (0.0%)
<b>OTTAWA COUNTY</b>			
Benton-Carroll-Salem	\$3.77 m	\$3.77 m (0.0%)	\$3.77 m (0.0%)
Danbury Local	\$674,161	\$674,161 (0.0%)	\$674,161 (0.0%)
Genoa Area	\$5.95 m	\$5.99 m (0.6%)	\$6.03 m (0.7%)
North Bass	\$22,154	\$22,154 (0.0%)	\$22,154 (0.0%)
Port Clinton	\$3.09 m	\$3.09 m (0.0%)	\$3.09 m (0.0%)
Put-in-Bay	\$17,219	\$17,219 (0.0%)	\$17,219 (0.0%)
<b>SANDUSKY COUNTY</b>			
Clyde-Green Springs	\$8.63 m	\$8.72 m (1.1%)	\$8.81 m (1.1%)
Fremont	\$12.18 m	\$12.49 m (2.5%)	\$12.71 m (1.7%)
Gibsonburg	\$5.16 m	\$5.37 m (4.1%)	\$5.53 m (3.1%)
Lakota	\$5.15 m	\$5.15 m (0.0%)	\$5.15 m (0.0%)
Woodmore	\$3.36 m	\$3.36 m (0.0%)	\$3.36 m (0.0%)
<b>SENECA COUNTY</b>			
Bettsville Local	\$1.07 m	\$1.07 m (0.0%)	\$1.07 m (0.0%)
Fostoria City	\$8.73 m	\$9.62 m (10.2%)	\$9.79 m (1.8%)
Hopewell-Loudon	\$2.05 m	\$2.05 m (0.0%)	\$2.05 m (0.0%)
New Riegel	\$1.84 m	\$1.84 m (0.0%)	\$1.84 m (0.0%)
Old Fort	\$1.65 m	\$1.65 m (0.0%)	\$1.65 m (0.0%)
Seneca East	\$3.56 m	\$3.56 m (0.0%)	\$3.56 m (0.0%)
<b>WILLIAMS COUNTY</b>			
Bryan City	\$5.12 m	\$5.12 m (0.0%)	\$5.12 m (0.0%)
Edgerton Local	\$2.25 m	\$2.28 m (1.3%)	\$2.29 m (0.8%)
Edon-Northwest	\$2.93 m	\$2.93 m (0.0%)	\$2.93 m (0.0%)
Millcreek-West Unity	\$2.56 m	\$2.56 m (0.0%)	\$2.56 m (0.0%)
Montpelier	\$4.60 m	\$4.63 m (0.6%)	\$4.63 m (0.0%)
North Central	\$2.70 m	\$2.78 m (2.9%)	\$2.89 m (3.9%)
Stryker Local	\$1.97 m	\$2.03 m (3.0%)	\$2.06 m (1.1%)
<b>WOOD COUNTY</b>			
Bowling Green	\$7.04 m	\$7.04 m (0.0%)	\$7.04 m (0.0%)
Eastwood Local	\$6.48 m	\$6.48 m (0.0%)	\$6.48 m (0.0%)
Elmwood Local	\$5.50 m	\$5.62 m (2.1%)	\$5.62 m (0.0%)
Lake Local	\$4.28 m	\$4.40 m (2.9%)	\$4.40 m (0.0%)
North Baltimore	\$3.22 m	\$3.35 m (4.1%)	\$3.35 m (0.0%)
Northwood	\$2.52 m	\$2.52 m (0.0%)	\$2.52 m (0.0%)
Otsego Local	\$5.57 m	\$5.65 m (1.3%)	\$5.65 m (0.0%)
Perrysburg	\$8.50 m	\$8.86 m (4.3%)	\$8.86 m (0.0%)
Rossford	\$2.04 m	\$2.04 m (0.0%)	\$2.04 m (0.0%)

SOURCE: OHIO SENATE

THE BLADE

private or religious schools of their choice and expands Cleveland's voucher program.

Sen. Joy Padgett (R., Coshoc-ton), chairman of the Senate Education Committee and also a former teacher, noted that students in the statewide program would be eligible for vouchers only after having spent three consecutive years in a failing

school. "How many years would you expect a student to have to go to a school in academic emergency before we give them an opportunity to go somewhere where real learning is taking place?" she asked.

Contact Jim Provanca at: jprovanca@theblade.com or 614-221-0496.

# Perch

Continued from Page 1

davit), tampering with records, and receiving stolen property. The charges all are felonies, varying from first-degree to fifth-degree and carrying penalties on conviction of up to 3 to 10 years in prison.

Identified in that case are Port Clinton Fish Co., Port Clinton, its owners Lee and Richard Stinson, and company employees Lori Colvin, Billy Mitchell and his son Mark Mitchell, and Mike Maloney.

The second case includes 10 counts covering the same range of felony violations alleged in the other indictment.

It names:  
● Smith Fisheries, Inc., Sandusky, a fishing and wholesaling operation, owners Joseph and Elizabeth Smith, and employee Roy Green;

● Westwater Fisheries, Inc., Vermilion, a wholesaler, its owners Darlene and Vito Ernande;

● Gary Rowan, Cleveland, doing business as State Fish Co., Inc., a wholesaler,  
● and Lake Fish Inc., Sandusky, and Dale Trent, Jr., and Craig Carr, owners.

Jamie Dalton, a spokesman for the Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office, said that arraignments on the charges are set for June 15 in county common pleas court.

Mr. Ramsey said he could not divulge the quantities of fish handled by the illegal operations, but he added: "We're not talking about a few hundred pounds or we wouldn't be talking about these [felony] indictments."

But he added that the com-

“Without a doubt, these are the biggest cases of their kind in our history.”

Steve Gray, state wildlife chief

## WHAT'S AT ISSUE:

■ Substantial underreporting of commercially caught yellow perch in violation of state-set annual catch quotas.

■ Illegal marketing of those catches by some wholesalers in cities from Port Clinton to Cleveland.

■ Potential negative impact on Lake Erie yellow perch stocks, which have been rebuilt through a decade of strict, cooperative, international conservation efforts.

mercial licenses involved — in other words, the fishing operations — were held by Port Clinton Fish Co. and Joseph Smith.

"We want those nets out of the water — out!" asserted Mr. Ramsey. "We've seen enough."

Mr. Ramsey added that the state intends to press for restitution for losses to the perch fishery.

The state is filing liens against the equipment allegedly involved in the operations, including boats, nets, and fish-cleaning equipment, Mr. Ramsey said.

Perch stocks in Lake Erie had dwindled in the early 1990s because of poor hatches and overfishing, and agencies around the lake from Ohio, Ontario, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York agreed to strong con-

servations restrictions to help stocks rebuild.

The sport limit in Ohio, for example, was set at 30 per angler per day in the mid-1990s after years of a 50-limit and unlimited daily catches prior to that. The 30-fish limit remains in place.

The stock has recovered well, but conservative sport and commercial allotments are being expanded slowly as fishery managers cooperate to conserve the healthier stocks.

The marketing scam under scrutiny revolves around overfishing the quotas set on certain licenses, and then failing to report and then marketing the over-quota catches.

"The investigation continues in other venues and we are not ruling out other indictments against other parties," Mr. Ramsey said.

He said that while the investigation has focused on the period 2001 to 2003, the illegal marketing may have gone on longer.

The impact of the underreported fishing and marketing on Lake Erie's perch stocks was not clear immediately, although underreporting possibly belies the commercial fishing quotas allotted by the state in keeping with international management agreements on the lake's fish stocks.

"The Lake Erie fisheries resource is obviously very important to Ohio, and we've put a lot of effort into conserving the resource, including the commercial fisheries," Chief Gray said. "But for conservation to work, everyone has to abide by the rules and regulations."

Contact Steve Pollick at: spollick@theblade.com or 419-724-6068.

# Arena

Continued from Page 1

the first one tentatively set for June 15.

Dan Steingraber, chairman of River East Associates, a non-profit economic development agency that serves East Toledo, said he thinks "the city just paid someone \$70,000 to put the arena downtown."

Councilman Bob McCloskey, who represents East Toledo and is now running for an at-large seat on City Council, said the outcome was predictable. He claimed Mr. Carroll and others are determined to put the arena downtown to shift the financing burden to Lucas County and to help downtown businesses.

He said the arena would undermine the Docks restaurant complex in International Park, across Main Street from the existing sports arena and the planned Marina District site.

"What about the millions of dollars that's been spent on The Docks? What about the millions of dollars that's been spent on the Marina District?" Mr. McCloskey said. "They want the county's involvement and the county needs to bail out the convention center."

Bruce Rumpf, a downtown businessman who has pushed for a downtown location for the arena, said he wants the

city to move forward with a Marina District plan so East Toledo can see that the project will succeed without the arena.

Mr. Rumpf said a destination retailer such as Bass Pro Shops Inc. would be a better fit for the Marina District and would draw people year-round. He claimed Bass Pro is a business that would do for the Marina District what Cabela's outdoors superstore has done for commercial growth in Dundee, Mich.

"Dundee's coffers are full of tax dollars because of Cabela's," Mr. Rumpf said, suggesting the former Acme power plant as a unique building for such a store.

Mr. Carroll has confirmed that the city is in discussions with a large destination retailer for the north end of the Marina District property. The attraction for an outdoors retailer would be an opportunity to be located directly on the Maumee River to connect with a marina and to hold demonstrations, he said.

One who didn't conceal his glee at the study's support for a downtown site was Jim Donnelly, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Toledo Convention and Visitors Bureau and the SeaGate

Convention Centre.

"I read it, reread it, [and] jumped up and down for joy," he said of the study. "It is the right decision. Absolutely, positively. I don't think it should be any other place than right here adjacent to us because of the synergy that develops between all three projects — the convention center, the ballfield, and a new arena."

Alva Caple, owner of Durty Bird restaurant and tavern, 2 South St. Clair, said the arena would help keep struggling businesses in the Warehouse District going when the baseball stadium is not in use.

"It would tie everything hand in hand and keep downtown thriving in the direction it's already moving," he said.

Mark V'Soske, president of the Greater Toledo Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber doesn't have a position on the location of a new arena.

"We need to just move forward on getting it done," Mr. V'Soske said. "There's pros and cons of both."

Contact Tom Troy at: tomtroy@theblade.com or 419-724-6058.

# N.Y. air-traffic controllers' union criticized as 'inefficient, wasteful'

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration released an investigative report yesterday that attacked its own air-traffic controllers at a New York facility and blamed a union for "inefficient and wasteful" scheduling practices and excessive overtime costs.

The 55-page report comes ahead of an expected battle this summer over a new contract for the union, which represents 14,525 air-traffic controllers. The current contract, which determines pay, staffing, and other work conditions, expires in September. The negotiations over a new agreement come as air traffic is growing rapidly and following an FAA admission that the agency has a serious shortage of new controllers.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association plans to launch an aggressive advertis-

ing campaign this summer to portray the federal work force as dutiful public servants who keep the skies safe. Union-sponsored polls have found many people have a positive view of air-traffic controllers, the union's president has said.

The report released by the FAA paints a far different picture — at least of the union's presence at the New York facility. The location handles traffic at the region's three major airports and this year has had an alarming increase in operational errors, or incidents in which planes were flying too close together.

The FAA's report, compiled by a 25-member team over 60 days at the site, found that air-traffic controllers at the New York facility spend only 3½ hours handling aircraft during an eight-hour workday.

It stated that the controllers routinely abused sick leave and

overtime. The result, the report found, was that 21 controllers earned more than \$200,000 last year excluding benefits, and one out of four controllers will earn \$200,000 this year.

The New York facility spent \$4 million on overtime pay last year — more than double any other comparable facility, the report said.

The facility employs about 225 controllers, the report said. The report assigned some fault to FAA managers who entered into agreements with the local union years ago that allowed the union to control staffing rules and scheduling.

The report also blamed a union culture of "intimidation" and "harassment" under which nonbargaining-unit employees could not be interviewed by FAA investigators without the presence of a union official.



OUR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS are like the ideal friendship: strong, stable and very low maintenance.

Save \$50 PLUS NO Interest on each window or door when you purchase 6 or more\* for 12 months\*

For beautiful, custom-made windows, put your trust in Renewal by Andersen. Our windows, made with patented Fibrex® material, help turn your house into a comfortable home. And you can always count on us for reliable, professional installation and service.

- To arrange for a free in-home consultation:
- Call 1-866-854-1977 (toll-free)
- Visit [rbaohio.com](http://rbaohio.com)
- Exclusively available: **Maumee Business Center 420 West Dussel Dr.**

renewal  
BY ANDERSEN®  
window replacement

\*DETAILS OF OFFER — Offer valid May 1, 2005 - July 5, 2005. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. \*12 months interest free\* subject to credit approval, minimum monthly payment required. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. License number available upon request. \*Renewal by Andersen® and the Renewal by Andersen logo are registered trademarks of Andersen Corporation. All other marks were denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. © 2005 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.