

NFIB OHIO

2025 TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

01

Prevent Tax Increases on Small Business Owners

- Ohio will face a fiscally tighter budget this biennium. Preserving the business income deduction (BID) is top priority. This tax benefit allows small businesses to reinvest in their operations and workforce.
- Property tax is a huge concern as many counties saw significant increases in valuation during the last triennial assessment. Policy makers have eyed residential property for relief. Commercial property owners cannot be asked to shoulder an even greater burden.

NFIB will work to preserve the BID and avoid shifting of property tax burden onto commercial class. Any erosion of the BID or increase in property tax is a tax increase on small businesses which NFIB opposes.

02

Unemployment Compensation Modernization

- Ohio's unemployment system has not achieved meaningful solvency targets in decades. When economic downturns occur, our state must borrow from the federal government to pay legitimate claims. Long-term borrowing results in tax increases on employers, even if they have no claims.
- Ohio must provide employers with certainty by putting the unemployment compensation trust fund on a path to solvency. Weeks of eligibility, dependency allowance, and taxable wage base should be analyzed and reformed to avoid the cycle of borrowing and employer tax increases.

NFIB supports modernizing Ohio's unemployment compensation system to provide long-term solvency and certainty for employers. Now is the time to make long needed reforms: unemployment rate is low and there are ample job openings that need filled.

03

Reduce Small Business Health Care Costs

- Ohio is a leader in hospital price transparency, enacting the most comprehensive state plan empowering employers and their employees with knowledge on costs of healthcare services. Ohio should build on this model and expand to other areas of healthcare such as pharmacy benefit management.
- Less than 60 percent of employers with 50 or fewer employees offer health insurance. Ohio should resist adding additional health insurance mandates which typically impact only small businesses and make health insurance less affordable.
- Ohio should explore new products coming available to small businesses and incentivize employers to offer health insurance to their employees through tax credits.

Cost of health insurance has been our members' top concern for nearly 40 years. NFIB supports cost transparency and incentivizing employers to provide this benefit. NFIB opposes policies that put upward pressure on health insurance premiums.

04

Prevent Energy Cost Increases on Small Business

- Ohio has secured significant economic development projects over the past several years, including multiple data centers. These projects have led to a huge increase in demand of electricity while supply remains limited.
- Cost of electricity was the #3 concern amongst Ohio members in a recent survey, the highest reading on this issue in over two decades.

NFIB supports policies that provide reliable and affordable energy. NFIB opposes policies that increase energy costs on small employers while giving large energy users discounted rates

05

Workforce Development & Licensure Reform

- TechCred has been a widely successful program allowing employers to upskill their employees while receiving reimbursement for the certification or training. The Ohio General Assembly should continue this program at current funding levels.
- The legislature reviews occupational licenses every three years to determine ongoing need and validity. There are opportunities for Ohio to reduce barriers of entry into vocations, one example is reducing cosmetology from 1,500 hours to 1,000 hours like several states have done.

NFIB supports TechCred to allow employers to be reimbursed for upskilling their workforce. NFIB believes opportunities exist to reduce barriers of entry into professions so individuals may practice their chosen vocation sooner and with less cost.