



Ohio's Emergency Management News



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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Governor Discusses Impact of National Economic Deterioration on Ohio Budget Calls for extraordinary partnerships and a spirit of cooperation to confront economic challenges

Visit <http://ohio.gov/news/> to read the complete press release and letter

(December 1, 2008) To ensure Ohioans are fully aware of the historic economic challenges confronting Ohio and the nation, Governor Ted Strickland and Budget Director J. Pari Sabety announced Monday that the state is facing not only a budget deficit in our current fiscal year, but is projected to face an exceptionally large - more than \$7 billion deficit - in the upcoming 2010-2011 operating budget.

"Our great state is confronted with challenges of historic proportions," Strickland said. "But armed with a true understanding of the conditions we face, Ohioans will be better equipped to honestly address these difficult circumstances with the same strong resolve and spirit of cooperation we have applied to trying times in our past."

Mirroring the national economy, Ohio's economic circumstances have deteriorated rapidly. A \$640 million shortfall is now projected for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This is in line with the Office of Budget and Management's recession-based scenario, outlined in January, which had forecast a \$1.9 billion total budget deficit if the economy fell into recession.

Strickland said that the need to initiate additional spending reductions to balance the current budget will be largely determined by whether considerable state aid is included in the federal government's recovery packet and if robust activity occurs in retail holiday sales. Any further reductions to the current budget will be in addition to the \$1.27 billion in budget adjustments already underway.

Based on current economic and revenue indicators, an approximate \$7.3 billion deficit is forecast for the FY 2010-11 operating budget. Even after assuming a 10 percent reduction to all state agency budgets, based on the February 2008 recalibrated spending levels, the projected deficit is approximately \$4.7 billion.

"Now is the for all Ohioans to join together, in an extraordinary partnership, to meet the challenges before us," Strickland said. "Working together in common purpose, I believe we will be able to address these circumstances with a consensus, bipartisan budget. There will be shared sacrifice, but we also recognize that historic opportunities lie on the other side of our current economic challenges."

Strickland asked his cabinet to begin conversations with all of their stakeholders to consider 2009 cuts, as well as the challenges we face in the next budget - asking for and encouraging creativity, flexibility and collaboration while planning for future budgeting.

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(Gov. Discusses Ohio's Budget - continued)

Recognizing the best long-term solution to address these challenges is to get the economy moving again, the Strickland Administration is pursuing an aggressive agenda of job creation through the \$1.57 billion bipartisan job stimulus bill and the recently enacted energy bill. And, the administration has made significant reductions to the size of state government, both through proactive efficiency initiatives and in response to declining revenues.

The state workforce has been reduced from 63,568 employees in March 2007 to 60,540 employees as of December 1, 2008. In February and again in September, the governor acted quickly to implement budget adjustment plans totaling \$1.27 billion for the biennium. Those actions included spending reductions, programmatic cuts and the closure of state institutions.

"Unfortunately, many of these difficult reductions have come at a time when people are relying more than ever on state services," Strickland said.

Repeating his call for an aggressive federal economic recovery package to include direct aid to states, Strickland said he believes significant federal help is essential to avoid the potentially severe effects of the projected budget shortfalls.

Governor Strickland and other governors traveled to Philadelphia on Monday to meet with President-elect Barack Obama to discuss the economy's impact on the states. "I believe that significant federal aid to states, and a willingness to make tough choices here in Ohio, are absolutely necessary to address this crisis in a way that will enable Ohio to continue investing in what matters to move our economy forward."

The governor also sent a letter to President-elect Obama that details Ohio's specific needs to help the economy recover.

Decker Assumes Post of IAEM's President



Russell Decker, CEM, and emergency manager for Allen County, assumed duties on November 20 as national president for the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers. Decker was sworn into office during ceremonies at IAEM's 56th Annual Conference in Kansas City, KS. The conference was attended by more than 1,500 emergency managers.

"This is an exciting time for our profession and our nation with the transition to a new administration in Washington, D.C.," said Decker. "There has never been a time for our country to better prepared to deal with all hazards facing our citizens whether from acts of nature, such as the wildland fires currently in California, or from intentional acts of terrorists."

Decker has served as the director of Allen County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management since 1998 and was president of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio during 2002-2003. Decker currently serves on the FEMA National Advisory Council and was a senior steering committee member in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security's *National Response Framework* document that was released in March of 2007.

Russell Decker holds a Master of Science degree from Tiffin University with undergraduate studies from The Ohio State University and the University of Northwestern Ohio. He is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Tiffin University and Rhodes State College.





Preparedness Tips to Take before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

Prepare your home and family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during (extreme) cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain usually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>November 30</i>	<i>December 1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
			Leadership and Influence (G241) Ohio EMA		Mission Tracker Ohio EMA- Ops Room	
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
		Community Mass Care (G108) Ohio EMA				
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
	Basic OpsCenter Ohio EMA- Ops Room	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA		Water TAC Ohio EMA		
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
Winter Begins				 <i>Christmas</i>		

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TAC - Technical Advisory Committee