

MAIN COURSE

Ensuring science-based policy making

Imposing restrictions on Ohio businesses that dramatically diverge from federal policy and neighboring states puts our business-friendly climate at risk.

PFAS Bans threaten to increase costs for restaurants by banning the sale of foodware and cookware with intentionally added PFAS in less than 12 months, restricting essential food and cooking equipment before viable and scalable alternatives exist.

Proposed Allergen and Sodium Warning Labels would put consumers at risk by mandating ineffective allergen warning labels on menus and ignoring allergen cross-contamination concerns in the dynamic kitchen environment. It would also mandate the most aggressive sodium warning labels in the country for chain restaurants.

Managing costs for business owners

The rising cost of doing business, including energy costs and swipe fees, pressures operators' already thin margins and puts their businesses' viability at risk.

Data from the National Restaurant Association shows that in 2025, **42% of restaurants in the U.S. were not profitable.** Rapidly rising natural gas and electricity prices squeeze our operators' already thin margins. Paired with rising rates for fees from credit card processors, Ohio must take action to help the businesses that keep local communities vibrant.

Opportunities for employment & workforce development

Programs like Ohio ProStart® & HOPES help connect people from all age ranges to career pathways & valuable skills.

Continued state funding for the Ohio ProStart program, HOPES (Hospitality Opportunities for People (Re)Entering Society) program and the Hospitality Ohio CTSO (Ohio Career and Technical Student Organization) helps ensure high schoolers get valuable skills, and people reentering society have the best opportunity following their release.



SIDES

No Tax on Tips

Ohio has not yet eliminated state income tax on tips.

Penny Rounding

The lack of federal or state guidelines after the end of penny production created confusion on how to handle cash change without pennies.

Non-economic Damages Cap

Raising non-economic damages caps places increased pressure on our operators as insurance premiums are sure to rise in tandem.

Property Tax

Concerns related to the alternative tax methods necessary to make up lost revenue from eliminating property tax.

14 & 15 Year Old Work Hours

Extending the latest time 14- and 15-year olds can work on weekends will give teens the option for more opportunities to learn and earn.

DRINKS

Hemp Derived THC Beverages

Hemp derived THC products should be regulated rather than banned, including permitting the sale of low dose THC beverages at bars & restaurants.

Sunday Liquor Sales

Ohio should allow Sunday liquor sales for all class D permit holders and eliminate ballot approval requirements for Sunday liquor sales.