

July 1, 2013

Kasich Guest Column: A budget that celebrates the freedom to succeed

Editor's Note: The following is a guest column by Ohio Gov. [John Kasich](#) about the new state budget.

This week we honor the birth of our great nation and the freedoms for which generations of Americans have fought and—sometimes—given their lives. It's a time to spend with friends and family and celebrate the liberty and opportunity that continues to make the United States a force for good in the world.

As a fitting companion to Independence Day, I recently signed into law a budget bill for our state which reinforces some of the best things about America and Ohio, especially the freedom to pursue our dreams and the opportunity to reach our God-given potential.

All too often we hear about fighting and gridlock in government and the inability for elected officials to get anything done. It frustrates me also and I do everything I can in my work as governor to cultivate a productive, civil atmosphere that allows Ohio's state government to work better and more efficiently for Ohio taxpayers. That's what happened in writing this budget, I'm proud to say, and why we were able to get so many needed reforms done.

Freedom from high, unfair taxes was part of what motivated our nation's first patriots and it's something for which we still strive today. This budget cuts income taxes by 10 percent and cuts taxes for almost every small business by 50 percent. Allowing Ohioans and small businesses—who employ half of Ohio's private sector workers—to keep more of their own money is essential if we want to continue Ohio's economic growth.

We know that these kinds of pro-growth policies work because of how they've helped propel Ohio's comeback in the past two years. Last month our state was the number one job-creator in the nation and a recent survey of CEOs by *Chief Executive* Magazine said Ohio has the most-improved climate for business in the nation. Our new budget will keep this success going.

Op-ed continued here: <http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/news/2013/07/01/kasich-ohio-budget-celebrates-freedom.html?page=all&ana=tw>

###