

# Ohio (OH-09) 2026

## US House of Representatives

### THE ISSUES

MARCY  
KAPTUR

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT



DEREK  
MERRIN

REPUBLICAN



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See <a href="https://guides.vote">guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources.	<a href="https://marcykaptur.com">marcykaptur.com</a>	<a href="https://derekmerrin.com">derekmerrin.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	<b>Legal.</b> <a href="#">Opposes</a> a national abortion ban. "The <a href="#">criminalization</a> of reproductive healthcare must be fought in every instance." <a href="#">Said</a> the overturning of Roe v. Wade destroyed an "essential freedom." <a href="#">Voted</a> for a <a href="#">bill</a> that "prohibits governmental restrictions on...abortion services."	<b>Ban.</b> <a href="#">Is</a> "pro-life." <a href="#">Supported</a> a six-week abortion ban in Ohio in 2019. <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> in 2019 to " <a href="#">create</a> the capital offense of aggravated abortion murder and...abortion murder." In 2017 <a href="#">sponsored</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> prohibiting abortions "because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome."
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority?	<b>Yes.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against the One Big Beautiful Bill, saying it <a href="#">includes</a> "the largest rollback in clean energy investment in U.S. history." <a href="#">Supports</a> "energy diversity." In 2019, <a href="#">introduced</a> the 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act "to <a href="#">prevent</a> further climate change."	<b>Likely no.</b> " <a href="#">You unleash</a> America's energy to get energy prices down." <a href="#">Voted</a> in 2019 for a <a href="#">bill</a> that <a href="#">prioritizes</a> nuclear and coal over renewables an energy efficiency.
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b> How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	<a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to increase grant funding to train rural and small police departments. In 2021 <a href="#">supported</a> ending qualified immunity, which protects officers against lawsuits. In 2024, after "listening to police officers," <a href="#">reversed</a> that position. <a href="#">Opposes</a> cutting federal funding for law enforcement.	<a href="#">Would</a> "work to ensure [law enforcement officers] have the resources and manpower necessary in order to protect Northwest Ohioans." <a href="#">Supports</a> qualified immunity, which protects officers against lawsuits. <a href="#">Calls</a> for "tougher laws for criminals." In 2020 <a href="#">sponsored</a> a Stand Your Ground <a href="#">bill</a> .
<b>ECONOMY</b> Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	<b>Increase.</b> " <a href="#">For American</a> workers and manufacturers to succeed...we have to invest in them aggressively." <a href="#">Voted</a> against the One Big Beautiful Bill, <a href="#">saying</a> it cuts "the legs out from under working families" and drains "our safety net." <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to separate "the activities of commercial banks and investment banks."	<b>Cut.</b> <a href="#">Would</a> demand "fiscal responsibility." <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a resolution to " <a href="#">impose</a> fiscal restraints on the federal government." Says <a href="#">eliminating</a> "a lot of federal mandates" can lead to "a prosperous economy...more jobs" and lower "cost of consumer goods."
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	<b>Likely no.</b> In 2020 <a href="#">supported</a> increased federal funding for public schools. <a href="#">Voted</a> against the One Big Beautiful Bill, which <a href="#">includes</a> federal tax credits for donations to private school scholarships.	<b>Yes.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to expand the Ohio EdChoice <a href="#">program</a> which provides state funding for students to attend private school. " <a href="#">School</a> choice is about empowering parents & ensuring students have access to a great education - whether public or private - no matter their parents' wealth!"
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	<b>Tighten.</b> <a href="#">Opposes</a> cuts to Environmental Protection Agency funding. <a href="#">Proposed</a> targeting pollutants to curtail algal blooms in Lake Erie. <a href="#">Supports</a> the Great Lakes <a href="#">Restoration</a> Initiative to <a href="#">bring</a> "vital funding to protect our most precious natural resources." " <a href="#">Respect</a> for Mother Earth must be our North Star."	<b>Loosen.</b> <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a <a href="#">resolution</a> to urge the federal government to repeal Clean Air Act pollution standards. In 2017 <a href="#">voted</a> against <a href="#">expanding</a> Ohio EPA's role in policing environmental pollution.

ISSUES	KAPTUR (D)	MERRIN (R)
<b>GUN LAWS</b> Loosen or tighten gun laws?	<b>Tighten.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">expand</a> background checks and encourage states to pass red flag laws. <a href="#">Supports</a> restricting “large-capacity assault weapons.” <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill “to incentivize parents...to purchase firearm safety devices,” and provide “de-escalation training...to local educators.”	<b>Loosen.</b> <a href="#">Would</a> “fiercely defend the 2nd Amendment and protect the sacred right to self-defense.” <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a bill <a href="#">allowing</a> concealed carry without background check or firearms training.
<b>HEALTHCARE</b> Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	<b>Increase.</b> “ <a href="#">Will continue</a> to fight to lower the costs of healthcare.” <a href="#">Supports</a> strengthening the Affordable Care Act “so health care remains a right, not a privilege.” <a href="#">Voted</a> against the One Big Beautiful Bill, said the <a href="#">cuts</a> to health care “will <a href="#">cause</a> rising costs of health and pharmaceutical coverage for all Ohioans.”	<b>Likely decrease.</b> In 2017 <a href="#">sponsored</a> a <a href="#">resolution</a> “to urge Congress...to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act.” <a href="#">Supports</a> “better patient access through fewer regulations.” “We <a href="#">need to</a> focus on lowering our prescription drug costs.”
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration?	<a href="#">Supports</a> “secure borders and legal immigration.” <a href="#">Called</a> for “equitable funding for all border states.” “ <a href="#">ICE</a> officers should...wear visible identification, and use body cameras.” In 2020 <a href="#">opposed</a> the Remain in Mexico policy. <a href="#">Supported</a> a <a href="#">path</a> to citizenship for <a href="#">DACA Dreamers</a> .	“ <a href="#">We need</a> tough enforcement mechanisms.” <a href="#">Supports</a> “deporting...criminal illegal immigrants.” <a href="#">Would</a> introduce “a bill that says anyone that receives public assistance has to be a...citizen.” <a href="#">Would</a> withhold “federal funding from [sanctuary cities].” No position found on <a href="#">DACA</a> .
<b>IRAN WAR</b> Support the war in Iran?	<b>No.</b> “ <a href="#">It is cruel</a> and a stain on our nation.” Says the war is “unconstitutional” and was begun “without any strategy or clear objectives.” “ <a href="#">We need</a> to end the war of choice in Iran.”	<b>Yes.</b> “ <a href="#">I do trust</a> [Trump] on this issue...I hope the conflict with Iran comes to an end here very, very quickly.”
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> for the <a href="#">PRO</a> Act, which would protect organizing rights. <a href="#">Supports</a> collective bargaining for “better working conditions, good health and retirement benefits, and dignity on the job for all workers.” “ <a href="#">When</a> unions fight, workers win.”	<b>No recent position found.</b> In 2017 <a href="#">sponsored</a> a bill to “ <a href="#">remove</a> any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization.”
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	<b>Mostly expand.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. <a href="#">Voted</a> to enshrine the right to same-sex marriage in federal law. <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">require</a> parental consent for elementary and middle school students’ pronoun changes.	<b>Limit.</b> <a href="#">Pressed</a> for Ohio to acknowledge only the adoption rights of heterosexual couples. “ <a href="#">There’s</a> only two genders.” <a href="#">Opposes</a> gender-affirming care for minors. <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a bill that would require schools to “designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.”
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	<b>Yes.</b> <a href="#">Sponsored</a> the “Raise the Wage Act of 2025” to gradually raise the minimum wage to \$17 by 2030. “ <a href="#">The cost</a> of everything is up, but wages haven’t kept up.”	<b>No position found.</b>
<b>TAXES</b> Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	<b>Raise.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts, calling them “an immoral transfer of wealth from the working class to the ultra-rich.” <a href="#">Supported</a> Inflation Reduction Act for “closing tax loopholes and establishing a minimum corporate tax applied only to the 150 largest corporations.”	<b>Likely lower.</b> <a href="#">Supports</a> the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, <a href="#">extending</a> of the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the <a href="#">largest</a> corporate tax cut in U.S. history. <a href="#">Supported</a> eliminating income taxes in Ohio.
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Make voting harder or easier?	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against the SAVE America <a href="#">Act</a> , requiring proof of U.S. citizenship from anyone registering to vote in a federal election. <a href="#">Supports</a> mail-in ballots. “ <a href="#">The right</a> to vote is our most sacred...civic responsibility.” <a href="#">Supports</a> “free, equal, and fair access to the ballot box.”	<b>Harder.</b> <a href="#">Supports</a> the SAVE America <a href="#">Act</a> , requiring proof of U.S. citizenship from anyone registering to vote in federal elections. <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a bill that <a href="#">limited</a> acceptable forms of voter ID and reduced vote-by-mail options, and allowed one ballot drop box per county.

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