



# Group suggests fixes for Ohio property tax system

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A group assembled by Gov. Mike DeWine urged Ohio to allow seniors to defer property tax payments and create a program to help homeowners hit hardest by their tax bills.

The policies are among 20 recommendations issued Sept. 30 by the panel of former lawmakers, school district leaders and county auditors.

DeWine created the group after he vetoed property tax measures in the state budget, frustrating GOP lawmakers who argued the policies would help Ohioans.

“To try to bring more transparency and light to this process is really, really

important to those Ohioans who are also struggling with their property taxes and complaining about their property taxes,” said Ohio Business Roundtable CEO Pat Tiberi, who co-chaired the working group.

Members recommended a deferral program for seniors or people with disabilities who have lived in their home for at least 10 years and meet certain income requirements.

If Ohio had that in place last year, it would have cost the state an estimated \$144 million, according to the Department of Taxation.

The task force also suggested a circuit breaker, which would provide assistance to homeowners that spend a disproportionate share of their income on property taxes. Circuit breakers are

common in other states, but Ohio Republicans are wary of policies that require the state to spend more money.

There’s no guarantee any of the recommendations will become law. But state and local officials agree something must be done to appease angry homeowners. Advocates who want to abolish property taxes have started collecting signatures to put a proposed amendment on the ballot.

“We need to get the real estate tax issue in a place so that the public knows that we’re seriously dealing with that,” House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, told reporters Oct. 1.

Here are other policy ideas from the working group.

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# ‘Very surreal’



Annalise Wilson of Jackson Township plays with her golden retriever, Charlie. Wilson said Charlie loves to play with balls. That’s among the reasons Charlie was selected in a nationwide search to have a lead role in the “Air Bud Returns” movie, which is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2026. PHOTOS BY ED BALINT/CANTON REPOSITORY

## Jackson Township dog will star in ‘Air Bud’ movie

**Ed Balint** Canton Repository | USA TODAY NETWORK

JACKSON TWP. – Annalise Wilson said it was happenstance when she learned her golden retriever Charlie had a supreme knack for bouncing a volleyball off his nose.

Charlie was already well-established as a ball hound in the family, racing after softballs and footballs with gusto.

But when the 16-year-old Jackson High School student was playing volleyball in the backyard with friends in August, Charlie zoomed after the ball every time it was knocked out of play. And the nose bumping trait quickly developed.

He’s so good at it that 3-year-old Charlie was selected to be one of two golden retrievers featured in the new “Air Bud Returns” movie, the latest entry in the franchise and a sequel to the original “Air Bud” in 1997.



## What a government shutdown means for Stark County

**Janson McNair**  
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The federal government shutdown already is impacting Stark County.

The National First Ladies Library and Museum in Canton — which partners with the National Park Service — will be closed.

“We are deeply saddened by this news and stand in solidarity with our National Park Service partners who are directly impacted by the shutdown,” David Lee, president and CEO of the nonprofit, said in a prepared statement. “Our park partners provide essential interpretation and frontline services that help bring the First Ladies’ history to life.

“Many of them now face an uncertain period without pay, and our thoughts are with them and their families. We remain committed to working alongside the (National Park Service) and look forward to reopening our doors to the public as soon as the government resolves the budget process.”

### What happens in a government shutdown?

Federal government agencies and programs rely on annual funding appropriations passed by Congress. A government shutdown occurs when non-essential discretionary federal programs close due to a lack of funding following Congress’s failure to agree on a budget or temporary funding

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