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Congressional earmarks are back

Area projects secure over \$32M this budget cycle

Jordan Laird
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

From road and water infrastructure projects to security programs for Columbus Jewish institutions, U.S. Reps. Joyce Beatty, D-Columbus, and Mike Carey, R-Columbus, have secured more than \$32 million for projects in their districts this budget cycle.

Congressional earmarks are back

this 2026 budget cycle after last year's cycle, when lawmakers dispensed with earmarks.

"These investments reflect what happens when local priorities are matched with federal partnership," Beatty said in a press release. "They ensure communities have the resources they need to move projects forward and deliver real results for residents."

What earmarks did Carey secure for his district?

Carey said in a press release that he was proud of securing more than



Beatty



Carey

\$22 million for projects for Ohio's 15th Congressional District this cycle.

Members of the majority party, currently the Republicans, often get more money for their local requests.

Carey's district isn't just in Franklin County. It includes parts of eastern and southern Franklin County, as well as parts of Clark, Fayette, Madison, Miami and Shelby counties.

Projects Carey secured money for in the Columbus area are:

- \$3 million for the Emerald Connector in Dublin, a proposed Interstate 270 crossing from Tuller Road to Emerald Parkway that is intended to relieve traffic on Sawmill Road and aid access to the new Mount Carmel Dublin health care campus

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Several OSU buildings faced renaming attempts



A statue of William Oxley Thompson, Ohio State University's fifth president, stands outside the campus library bearing his name on Feb. 9. The library has faced a renaming request. PHOTOS BY ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Thompson Library, Bricker Hall among groups' targets

Sheridan Hendrix Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

When Yondris Ferguson was a member of Ohio State University's Undergraduate Student Government, he twice introduced resolutions calling for the university to remove Les Wexner's name from campus buildings. • Wexner, the New Albany billionaire retail mogul and former university trustee, has given millions to Ohio State since he graduated in 1959, including the university's largest single donation of \$100 million. That donation in 2011 supported a major expansion of Ohio State's health care infrastructure, including the university's Medical Center that now bears Wexner's name.

He is also the namesake of the Wexner Center for the Arts, a campus museum which opened in 1989 and was founded with \$25 million from Wexner.

But that philanthropic reputation was put under a microscope after more details emerged of Wexner's deep ties with disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who died in 2019.

"Wexner has contributed greatly to the university and that's wonderful, but you should really look at his



The bust of William Oxley Thompson greets visitors to the campus library. The library was named for Thompson in 1951.

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Volunteer Dan Reynolds hands out an "ICE OUT" towel to a football fan ahead of Super Bowl 60 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, on Feb. 8. TERRY COLLINS/USA TODAY

Anti-ICE protest held near big game

Police: No arrests during rally outside Super Bowl

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

SANTA CLARA, CA – They came, they marched, they chanted – all under a close watch. But it wasn't ICE agents who patrolled the streets on Super Bowl Sunday, as many had anticipated.

Hundreds of people on Feb. 8 took over a main thoroughfare less than 2 miles from Levi's Stadium, the site of Super Bowl 60 between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots, just before kickoff, railing against President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts using Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

Their voices got louder, echoing off nearby buildings while they chanted "no ICE, no KKK, no racist USA," "dare to struggle, dare to win," and "it's our right to resist, it's our right to rebel."

The protest capped a weeklong slew of rallies, marches and demonstrations in the area, all culminating in the biggest turnout on game day.

"We deserve to be seen and heard," said Lyla Salinas, 22, an organizer with CSO San Jose, one of the protest's nearly two dozen sponsors. "We need

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