



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

BROWNS TIGHT END DAVID NJOKU WILL BECOME A FREE AGENT IN MARCH, AND THE NINE-YEAR VETERAN SAID GOODBYE TO THE BROWNS AND THE CLEVELAND FANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. C1



COLUMBUS

Bill on Ten Commandments in classrooms advances



A bill would let Ohio public schools choose from a list of "founding documents" to display in classrooms, including the Ten Commandments. But interpretations of the Ten Commandments vary across the Judeo-Christian spectrum. Harry Cabluck, AP

Questions remain, though. Ohio school boards could choose from a list of "founding documents" to display, but which version of the holy text?

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COLUMBUS — The Ohio Senate has greenlit a bill that would allow public schools to display the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms, although there's an attached nuance that has yet to be addressed properly.

Senate Bill 34, also known as the Historical Educational Displays Act, would allow Ohio school boards to choose from a list of "founding documents" to display in classrooms — this includes the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Northwest Ordinance and, most contentiously, the Ten Com-

mandments. Critics argue that the inclusion of the holy directives creates civil disparities, but supporters insist they influenced early moral thought in the country.

Sen. Catherine Ingram has been a vocal critic of the bill ever since it was introduced in early 2025. In November, during the last meeting of the upper chamber's Education Committee, she made one final attempt to have the Ten Commandments removed from the list by proposing an amendment.

While making her case, the Democratic ranking member raised concerns about which version would be displayed in classrooms and pointed out that interpretations vary across the Judeo-Christian spectrum.

She then cited testimony previously delivered by Rabbi Megan Doherty of the National Council of Jewish Women, underscoring the broader implications of displaying only one of countless religious texts on school walls.

"The commandments set forth in the Hebrew Bible, known to Christians as the

Old Testament, are generally considered revered religious scripture for both Jews and Christians," Doherty wrote. "Treating this sacred scripture as just another item up on the wall in the classroom of a secular school, as SB 34 would, demeans and trivializes a text that is holy to many and will inevitably exclude students of minority faiths."

She continued, "If school boards were to choose to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms or elsewhere, it would be impossible to select a version that is inclusive of all Jewish and Christian believers. Jews, Protestants and Catholics each have a version of the Ten Commandments that is distinct in form and meaning from the others, and this is before issues of differing translations and interpretive traditions are introduced."

Doherty also noted that even if school boards settled on an exclusively Jewish version of the Ten Commandments, displaying it in public school classrooms would still be a violation of the faith and its core principles.

SEE COMMANDMENTS BILL, A2

PROPERTY TAXES

New Ohio bill targets property tax relief for all local levies

A GOP proposal would require the state to reimburse local governments for homeowner tax credits on levies passed after August 2013.

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COLUMBUS — If you've voted for a local levy in the past decade, an Ohio lawmaker wants the state to cover part of it.

"Restoring the owner-occupancy credit in full is the next logical step to supporting homeowners," said Rep. Jason Stephens, a Republican from Lawrence County.

He introduced House Bill 673 to do just that. The proposal would require Ohio to give a property tax discount for all levies on a homeowner's bill — not just those passed before August 2013. And although some legislators like the idea, they also ask how the state would pay for it.

Ohio spends \$1.5 billion a year reimbursing schools and local governments for these existing rollback credits.

Expanding that discount to newer levies would increase costs, though the total would depend on how many levies have passed since 2013 and how much they raise.

"Candidly, it may be very expensive," Stephens said. "But at the same time, this is what voters are clamoring for."

WHY THE CREDIT WAS CUT

When Ohio created the state income tax in the 1970s, lawmakers promised homeowners a break on their property taxes to soften the blow.

- Homeowners received two reductions:
> A 10% rollback on residential property taxes.
> An additional 2.5% discount for people who live in their homes.

Instead of schools or cities losing that money, the state reimbursed them from the general fund. That changed in 2013.

Former Gov. John Kasich and Republican lawmakers decided to cut income taxes and stop applying the rollbacks to new or replacement levies.

Their argument was straightforward: If the state was lowering income taxes, it no longer needed to subsidize property taxes.

Ohio still covers its share for levies passed before August 2013. But for anything approved after that date, homeowners pay the full amount.

HB 673 would reverse that decision. "It could have a real impact on people's property taxes," Stephens said.

That's especially true because of a separate change that Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law late last year.

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IMMIGRATION

Jordan wants to end 'sanctuary cities' after ICE clashes

The Ohio Republican wants to eliminate such cities through legislation.

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WASHINGTON — Convinced that sanctuary cities that refuse to turn undocumented immigrants over to federal authorities are at the root of today's violent clashes over immigration, House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan hopes to eliminate them through legislation.

The Champaign County Republican says his committee plans to mark up legislation this month to end sanctuary cities, and is finalizing implementation and enforcement details.

"Do you look at funding? Do you look at some kind of, some kind of penalty?" Jordan said in an interview with cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer. "We're struc-



U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, a Champaign County Republican who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, says his committee is finalizing legislation that would end sanctuary cities. Sabrina Eaton, cleveland.com

turing that bill, but we're looking to do a markup in two weeks on that issue."

Sanctuary cities are jurisdictions that

have adopted policies limiting their cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. These policies typically prevent local law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status during routine interactions, prohibit the use of local resources to enforce federal immigration laws, and decline to honor U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests — which ask local jails to hold individuals beyond their release date so federal agents can take them into custody.

Proponents argue these policies encourage immigrant communities to report crimes and cooperate with police without fear of deportation, while critics contend they shield criminals from federal authorities and undermine immigration enforcement. The specific policies vary widely by jurisdiction, with some cities maintaining complete non-cooperation with ICE while others cooperate in cases involving serious crimes.

SEE SANCTUARY CITIES, A2

EPSTEIN FILES

Bondi is combative

With victims of Epstein seated behind her, AG Pam Bondi forcefully defended her agency's handling of the files that have dogged her tenure. A6

EMPLOYMENT

Good news on jobs

The job market, sluggish for months, added 130,000 to payrolls last month, a surprising showing after economists were predicting 75,000. A6

