

Ohio (OH-09) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

MARCY
KAPTUR

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT



DEREK
MERRIN

REPUBLICAN



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

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

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