

DOGE in Ohio? House Republicans launch their own DOGE Caucus

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COLUMBUS, Ohio --Republicans in the Ohio House have launched their own DOGE Caucus.

It's named after Tesla founder Elon Musk's federal Department of Government Efficiency, but don't expect Ohio's GOP to start emailing public employees for lists of five things they accomplished this week.

That's not how this DOGE Caucus plans to operate. For one thing, they don't have executive authority to slash state agencies the way Musk does.

"Other than the name, because it's great for branding, we're going about this a totally different way," said state Rep. Tex Fischer, a Mahoning County Republican.

His goal for Ohio's DOGE Caucus is to get "like minded" legislators together regularly to talk about issues and ways to make state government more "smart, lean and cost effective."

"I think we all share the same goal that government should be very effective at the things that it does, but the things that should be focused on the basics: education, infrastructure, public safety," Fischer said.

Lawmakers at nearly every level of government form caucuses (groups) that unite around shared policy priorities. Ohio has a Black Legislative Caucus, Conservative Caucus and Women's Caucus.

The House DOGE Caucus has 25 Republican members so far, including Ashtabula County state Rep. Dave Thomas, who is leading the GOP's work on property tax reform.

Property taxes are an area the DOGE Caucus wants to focus on fixing.

"Ask the public what's a mill," said Rep. Ty Matthews, a Republican from Findlay. "I think simplifying our language is really big, so people can truly understand what is going on."

(For those wondering, a mill is a rate of taxation that represents \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value on a property.)

No Democratic lawmakers have joined Ohio's DOGE workgroup.

"Kicking veterans off health insurance, denying seniors access to services and cutting funding for after school programming are not about efficiency," Cincinnati state Rep. Dani Isaacsohn said. "We can be fiscally responsible and morally compassionate at the same time."

Isaacsohn said he'd been willing to work on targeting tax fraud or cutting kickbacks for special interests. But he doesn't approve of how Musk runs his federal task force.

The U.S. House of Representatives [has its own](#) DOGE Caucus. It was created to work with Musk and potentially pass laws to help the Trump administration implement reforms.

U.S. Rep Greg Landsman, a Cincinnati Democrat, told [NewsNation](#) he's willing to join.

"Oh, yeah, you got to be in the room," Landsman said. "If you want to affect change and have an impact, you want to be in the room."

As for whether Ohio's DOGE Caucus would ever want an executive DOGE agency, Fischer said that's something they're talking about.