



Established 1959

PACE

February 20, 2026

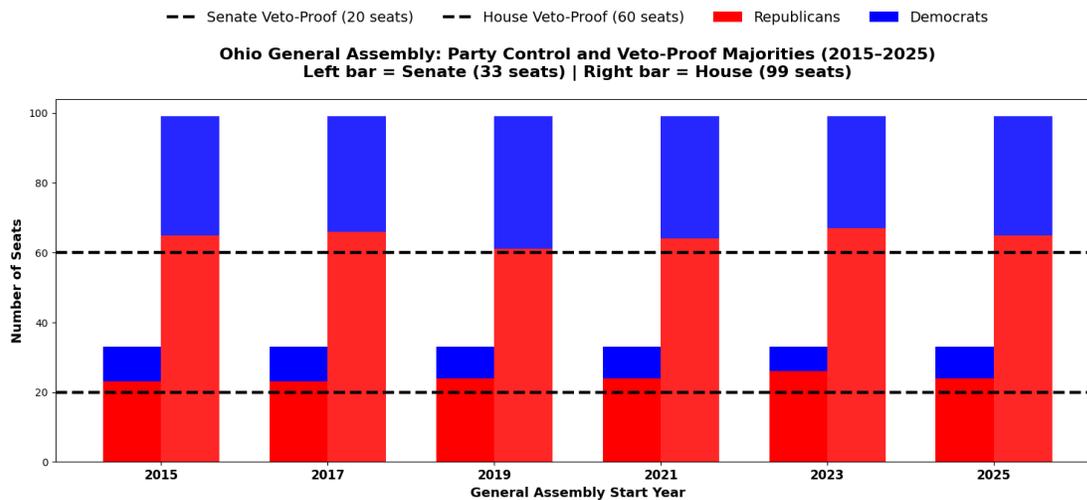
A Publication of Canton Professional Educators' Association

1327 Market Avenue, North, Canton, OH 44714

(330) 455-2158

MISSION STATEMENT: *The Canton Professional Educators' Association initiates and supports positive changes in the public school system, promotes the educational profession, and actively serves as an advocate for its*

BECAUSE THEY FU..ING CAN A.K.A. SUPERMAJORITY



Key takeaway: Republicans held veto-proof supermajorities in BOTH chambers for every General Assembly shown.

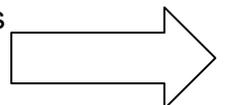
Seven hundred educators sat in stunned silence as the numbers rolled across the screen. Cuts. Shortfalls. Unfunded mandates. A state that promises support for public education while siphoning public dollars into private and charter experiments. The question lingered in the room: *Why would they do this?*

Because they can.

For fifteen years, Ohio has been governed by a supermajority that no longer has to worry about compromise, negotiation, or even meaningful public accountability. Supermajorities do not fear opposition. They do not fear vetoes. They do not fear voters when districts are carved to guarantee safe seats. And when power is insulated for that long, it operates in the shadows—quietly rewriting laws, restructuring funding formulas, and erecting barriers that make it harder for local communities to pass levies to save their own schools.

This is how corruption grows. Not overnight, but in the comfort of unchecked authority. When one party controls the House, the Senate, the executive branch, and the redistricting process, oversight becomes a formality. Transparency fades. Decisions move underground, protected from public scrutiny. The result is predictable: scandal after scandal, and yet no structural change—because the structure protects itself.

Many rank-and-file Republican voters believe they are supporting fiscal responsibility, local control, and strong communities. Instead, they are watching public funds eroded, public institutions



weakened, and union rights chipped away piece by piece. This is not about conservative versus liberal values. It is about concentrated power versus democratic accountability.

Public education is not failing. It is being deliberately starved.

And what makes it even more sinister is this: the diversion of public funds comes with no meaningful accountability. No strings attached. No uniform standards. No public oversight. Taxpayer dollars flow to private and religious institutions without the same testing requirements, without the same curriculum transparency, without the same civil rights safeguards. Public schools are audited, graded, sanctioned, and scrutinized. Private recipients of public money operate behind closed doors. The separation of church and state—once a foundational guardrail of American democracy—is treated as an inconvenience rather than a principle. This is not “school choice.” It is publicly subsidized privatization with no reciprocal public responsibility.

When power goes unchecked, it stops explaining itself. When it stops explaining itself, it stops answering to anyone.

They do it because they can.

So we return to the question that hung in that room of 700 professionals who dedicate their lives to children: What are we prepared to do about it? What are we prepared to defend? What are we prepared to demand?

Because they will not stop on their own.

They do it because they can.

What are we going to do about it?

2025 – 2026 CPEA “EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR”

Nominate an Outstanding Educator!!!

Any CPEA member can nominate a colleague or Individuals can apply directly.

Nominations Packets Must Include:

- Completed Nomination Form
- Letter from Nominator
- Letter from one Student
- Letter from 2 other colleagues

Selection Process:

- Reviews completed by CPEA, ELT
- Up to 5 finalists selected (if necessary)
- Finalists presented at April BLR Mtg.
- BLRs vote following 5-min presentations

Important Dates

- April 6, 2026- *Nomination Forms must be returned to the CPEA Office by 4:00 P.M.*

-April 6, 2026- If necessary, the ELT narrows the field to 5 finalists

-April 13, 2026- BLRs will hear presentations and select “Educator of the Year”

-May 5, 2026- The award will be presented at the CPEA Banquet at La Pizzaria!

Ways to Get a Form: Building Rep, www.cpeaohio.com, or call the office 330-455-2158

Recognize excellence — submit a nomination!