

## State Representative Anne Gonzales

### Ohio House District 19



#### Summary

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##### Legislative Biography

State Representative Anne Gonzales is currently serving the 19th Ohio House District in her fourth and final term at the Ohio House of Representatives. The district includes the cities of Westerville, Gahanna and New Albany; Sharon, Blendon, Plain and Mifflin Townships; the Village of Minerva Park and portions of Columbus.

During her time as a state representative she has served as Chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Chair of the Health and Aging Committee, member of the Public Utilities Committee, and member of the Finance Committee.

A long-time resident and former mayor of Westerville, she began her community service through the Westerville Telecommunications Commission and the Westerville Re-Investment Housing Council. During her eight years on the Westerville City Council she also served as Vice Mayor, member of the Recreation Advisory Board, Westerville Parks Foundation, Planning Commission, Fire Advisory Board and COTA Westerville Advisory Council. In addition, she is a recipient of the Making Your Tax Dollars Count Award.

Representative Gonzales is a realtor and a graduate of Otterbein University. She and her husband, John, have three children: Jennifer, Lois, and Richard.

[Ohio House of Representatives, [Accessed 8/17/18](#)]

**ALEC membership/ties**

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Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force Member, 2011

Attended ALEC's 44th annual meeting in Denver, Colorado in July 2017

**ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored**

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Bill Number	Title	Description	ALEC Model Bill
SB 331 (2017)	Living Wage Mandate Preemption Act	Prohibit local governments from passing minimum wage increases (among other provisions)	Similar in effect to ALEC legislation
SB 310 (2014)	Electricity Freedom Act, Resolution on Renewable Energy Resources in a Competitive Electricity Marketplace	Freeze renewable energy and efficiency standards	Similar in effect to ALEC legislation

**Gonzales voted for a bill that that expressly preempts political subdivisions from establishing minimum wage rates higher than that of the state.** In 2016, Gonzales voted for SB 331, which, among other things, prevented localities from passing minimum wage rate that are different from the minimum wage rate specified in the Ohio Constitution. The legislation is aimed, in part, at restricting local jurisdictions from enacting laws regulating minimum wage, employee schedules, and employee benefits with respect to private employers. It was passed against the backdrop of recent events in Cleveland to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, in Youngstown to impose predictive scheduling and mandate that part-time employees receive the same proportionate benefits as full-time employees, and the possibility of cities imposing paid sick leave requirements on private employers. Opponents of Senate Bill 331 filed actions in courts across the state. A Franklin County judge ruled that the parts of the law that address "animal welfare and protection" can stand. The rest are unconstitutional. [The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, 1/6/2017; Cleveland.com, [6/4/2017](#); [SB 331, Passed Senate 21-11, 5/25/2016](#)]

**In 2014, Gonzales voted for a bill that froze the state's energy efficiency and renewables standards.** Critics voiced concerns about HB 310, stating that the proposal makes it harder for the state to meet new clean-air regulations from the EPA. Scientists from across the country wondered aloud why Ohio chose

to be the first state to renege on its renewable standards. (Columbus Business First, [6/13/2017](#); NRDC, [7/20/2015](#)). [[HB 310, Passed House 55-42, 5/28/2014](#)]

#### **Additional Items**

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##### **Representative Gonzales raised ethical concerns by promoting her real-estate business on Twitter and forwarding her business ads directly to state lobbyists.**

On a Twitter account that she had used primarily in her capacity as a state legislator, Gonzales tweeted: "I am real estate agent! Let me know how I can help you with listing or buying a home." It included a link to her business page. A few months later, "a number of lobbyists received an email from the Westerville Republican this week that included her picture and the solicitation: 'If this time of year finds you beginning to consider a new residence, allow me to assist. I am a member of the Sotheby's International Realty network and take great pride in finding the right home for you.'" Tony Bledsoe, the legislative inspector general who oversees Statehouse ethical issues, said he advises to "never target a solicitation to the lobbying community." Asked if it's a problem that some of those solicitations go to Statehouse lobbyists, Gonzales said: "My database consists of family and friends, and I do the best I can to manage that list"[The Columbus Dispatch, [5.28.15](#)].

##### **Representative Gonzales received her largest campaign donations from a businessman who was later found guilty of coordinating illegal contributions to Republican campaign funds in 2012.**

The business man, Benjamin Suarez, donated \$36,500 to Gonzales's reelection campaign between 2012 and 2013. Suarez started making contributions to Gonzales in April 2012 as she ran for her second term. Suarez also made donations to the campaigns of John Kasich, Auditor Dave Yost and Secretary of State Jon Husted. Following Suarez's indictment, these candidates donated to charity amounts equal to Suarez's contributions. Rep. Gonzales did not take similar action [The Columbus Dispatch, [11/2/13](#)]

##### **Representative Gonzales voted for a bill to "protect ministers and religious societies that refuse to officiate at a marriage."**

In 2018, Anne Gonzales voted for HB 36, which would allow ministers and religious groups exemptions from performing same-sex marriages. From the Plain Dealer, "Meanwhile, even with a new speaker, the House's Republican majority is holding fast to a GOP tradition - taking periodic swipes at gay and lesbian Ohioans. On Wednesday, the GOP-run House passed House Bill 36, sponsored by Rep. Nino Vitale, an Urbana Republican. The bill would supposedly protect ministers and religious societies that refuse to officiate at a marriage 'that does not conform to the minister's or society's sincerely held religious beliefs.' The bill, which now moves to the Senate, evidently resulted from the fears of some ministers and sects that they might be successfully sued for refusing to marry same-sex couples. Why any couple would want someone who opposes their marriage to officiate at their wedding is a mystery." [The Plain Dealer, [6/30/18](#); [HB 36](#), Passed House 61-30, 6/27/18]