

REFORMING OHIO'S FAILING "MONEY BAIL" SYSTEM

WHY IT MATTERS

Ohio's cash bail system makes Ohio a more dangerous place to live.

Under the current system, **accused murderers, child rapists, and armed robbers are arrested and released into our communities** because they have access to money, while **citizens accused of jaywalking, violating dress-codes, or failing to pay traffic tickets sit in jail for days, weeks, or even months** because they have little or no access to cash.

Ohio's cash bail system is an arbitrary approach that is **inherently prejudiced against poorer defendants and does little to protect communities** from truly dangerous defendants.

Ohio's cash bail system is **inefficient, expensive, and unfair**. It has proven to be **no guarantee to thwarting repeat offenders**.

83% of OHIOANS support ending



Ohio's CASH BAIL only **SYSTEM**¹

FIXING THE SYSTEM

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

1

LEVERAGE PROVEN TOOLS

Amend Ohio law to provide judges with proven tools to make better-informed pretrial detention and release decisions.



2

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

Give judges greater flexibility and resources to hold defendants accountable and to deny pretrial release when the accused poses significant risks to the community.



3

BETTER RESULTS FOR LESS MONEY

Save taxpayer dollars by creating a system where more defendants are safely released before trial, more defendants appear for trial, and less crime is committed by those awaiting trial.



DETERMINING FACTORS FOR CASH BAIL

Judge-assessed risk factors

1. What is the **defendant's criminal history**?
2. What has the **defendant been charged with**?
3. Has the defendant **missed prior court dates**?

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CASH BAIL



ELECTRONIC MONITORING



MANDATORY COUNSELING



ROUTINE CHECK-INS

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OHIO'S BAIL SYSTEM LETS DANGEROUS DEFENDANTS WALK

WHILE OTHERWISE INNOCENT CITIZENS SIT IN JAIL

» THESE **DEFENDANTS MADE BAIL & HURT MORE PEOPLE**

Man Murders Ex-Wife While Out on Bail After Initial Attack

In 2015, Dragan Sekulic of Stark County used his car as a battering ram attempting to kill his ex-wife. Sekulic's would-be victim survived the crash and Sekulic, who had been charged with domestic violence before, faced charges of felonious assault, domestic violence, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Working with a bail-bond agent, Sekulic posted the \$100,000 bond set by the court and walked free to await his trial. Two weeks later, free on the posted bail, Sekulic found his ex-wife and finished what he had started, shooting her dead.

Released on Bond, Rape Suspect Murders 10-Year-Old Victim & Family

Charged with raping his ex-girlfriend's 10-year-old daughter, Robert Seman allegedly murdered his victim and her grandparents by setting their home on fire. Prosecutors had indicted Seman for rape and sexually abusing the little girl for four years. Despite the serious charges, Seman posted his \$200,000 bail and was released under a court order requiring him to wear an ankle monitor and placing him under house arrest. Just hours before the start of Mr. Seman's trial, the home of the girl's grandparents went up in flames, killing the grandparents and the 10-year-old victim who were scheduled to testify.

Columbus Man Released on Bail Commits Armed Burglary

Victor N. Milton, a 20-year-old from the Columbus area, was in police custody just a week before he burglarized three people at gunpoint. Milton had been indicted for breaking and entering into 12 homes in Franklin County and stealing more than \$42,000 of property, but was released into the community after posting bail. A week later, Milton and two accomplices burglarized an apartment in the university district, robbing three residents at gunpoint.

» WHILE THESE **NONVIOLENT** »
CITIZENS WERE LOCKED UP
OVER INSIGNIFICANT OFFENSES

YOUNG MAN **JAILED 9 DAYS** FOR SAGGY PANTS AT BUS STATION

Markcus Brown spent nine days in jail after being arrested for violating the Dayton Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) dress code. RTA rules require patrons to dress and act in a certain way. Violating those rules amounts to trespassing. After his arrest, Brown's bail was set at \$150, which Brown and his family could not afford. Brown sat in jail until his mother secured a car title loan nine days later. He pleaded guilty and was assessed \$111 in court costs and banned from RTA buses.

FATHER OF 3 **JAILED A WEEK** FOR NOT PAYING TRAFFIC TICKET

Edward Lee Wright IV, Cleveland father of three, failed to pay a \$375 traffic ticket and it cost him a week in jail. Wright was ticketed for driving on a suspended license due to a lapse in car insurance. Wright could not afford the ticket, but the court agreed to accept \$50 per month until the ticket was paid. After forgetting to make two monthly payments, the court issued a warrant for Wright's arrest. He was arrested and given a choice of sitting in the Solon jailhouse or paying \$1,100 for bail. After sitting in jail for seven days, Wright pleaded no contest to a new charge of contempt of court for skipping out on his monthly court payments.

Learn more at:

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