

Violent crime has worsened here in Ohio and across the country, yet Emilia Sykes has sought to eliminate protections for police and has accepted thousands of dollars from organizations who support defunding the police.

Throughout the last few years, Ohio has seen record highs in the number of killings, and juvenile murder charges:

- In 2020, Ohio saw the largest number of homicides in three decades, “and once again exceeded the national rate.” “The number of homicides in Ohio rose last year to its highest mark in three decades and once again exceeded the national rate, according to statistics released by the FBI.” (Tyler Buchanan, “Ohio’s homicide rate highest in decades,” [Axios Columbus](#), 10/12/21)

Editor’s Note: The statistics released by the FBI cover 2020.

- In 2020, Cincinnati “saw an all-time record high of 94 killings.” “As a Cincinnati city councilman in the summer of 2020, Democrat Greg Landsman penned a motion to pull \$200,000 from the city’s police budget to help fund the Citizen Complaint Authority, an independent group that investigates law enforcement officers. The proposal came as Cincinnati experienced an unprecedented number of homicides—the city saw an all-time record high of 94 killings in 2020, six more than its previous high of 88 in 2006.” (Collin Anderson, “Top Dem Recruit in Ohio Swing District Wrote Proposal To Defund Police Amid Homicide Spike,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 1/26/22)
- “With only days left in 2021, Cincinnati is set to see a second record year of homicides as killings remain elevated throughout the era of COVID-19.” (Cameron Knight, “Cincinnati approaches another record year of homicides,” [Cincinnati.com](#), 12/28/21)
- “More Ohioans died from firearms in 2021 than almost any year on record, according to preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Health.” (Jane Zuckerman, “Ohio gun deaths in 2021 near an all-time high,” [10 WBNS](#), 2/18/22)
- In 2021, Hamilton County, Ohio saw the “highest number of juvenile murder charges ever filed in one year.” “In 2021, thirteen juveniles have been charged with murder in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. That’s the highest number of juvenile murder charges ever filed in one year, according to the court.” (Craig Cheatham, “Record number of juveniles charged with murder in Hamilton County,” [ABC 9 WCPO Cincinnati](#), 11/4/21)
- In 2022, Cleveland, Ohio was rated to be one of America’s most dangerous cities as “the city attracts all types of violent crime.”

4. Cleveland, Ohio: One of America's most miserable cities

[Cleveland, Ohio](#), ranks third among America's most miserable cities, making it an unsafe place to live in. This city attracts all types of violent crimes from high unemployment, unfavorable weather, high taxes, and corrupt public officials. It's reported that 1,517 per 100,000 residents commit violent crimes each day. One in 59 individuals is more likely to become a victim of violent crimes. If you're living, studying, vacationing, or working there, keep your fingers crossed, hoping not to become a victim.

(Dana Hanson, "The 20 Most Dangerous Cities in America in 2022," [Money Inc.](#), 7/18/22)

Crime rates have reached record highs in the United States:

- **Police data shows that homicides and fatal shooting rates have increased in the United States.** "Philadelphia is not alone. At least ten other major cities lost historic numbers of residents to murder last year. Nationally, police data suggests homicides rose seven percent in 2021. And while many Americans know that 2020 was a particularly bloody year—with homicides surging 29 percent, with 77 percent of them involving firearms—few realize that gun violence has been rising across this country since 2014. Fatal shootings have increased by roughly 80 percent in the largest U.S. cities since then." (Thomas Abt, Eddie Bocanegra and Emada Tingirides, "Violent Crime in the U.S. Is Surging. But We Know What to Do About It," [Time](#), 1/12/22)
- **In 2022, 1,400 people in Philadelphia have been shot, "hundreds of them fatally, a higher toll than in the much larger cities of New York or Los Angeles."** "With her death, the 322nd of the year, the number of homicides in Philadelphia was on track toward becoming the highest in police records, passing the bleak milestone set just last year. So far in 2022, more than 1,400 people in the city have been shot, hundreds of them fatally, a higher toll than in the much larger cities of New York or Los Angeles." (Campbell Robertson, "Everybody Is Armed"; As Shootings Soar, Philadelphia Is Awash in Guns," [The New York Times](#), 8/11/22)
 - **"Alarms have sounded about gun violence across the country over the past two years, but Philadelphia is one of the few major American cities where it truly is as bad as it has ever been."** (Campbell Robertson, "Everybody Is Armed"; As Shootings Soar, Philadelphia Is Awash in Guns," [The New York Times](#), 8/11/22)
- **In 2020, Philadelphia reached an all-time high in the number of citizens murdered.** "Last year in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, 562 citizens were murdered—an all-time high and a 12 percent increase over 2020. Almost 90 percent of these homicides involved firearms, and the spike followed an even bigger surge in 2020, when killings were up by 40 percent. The numbers are sobering, but gun violence has been climbing in the city since 2013." (Thomas Abt, Eddie Bocanegra and Emada Tingirides, "Violent Crime in the U.S. Is Surging. But We Know What to Do About It," [Time](#), 1/12/22)

- “In 2020, murders in the United States spiked more than 27 percent – the largest percentage increase in at least six decades. Last year, murders went up again.” (German Lopez, “Examining the Spike in Murders,” [The New York Times](#), 1/18/22)

In the Ohio House, Emilia Sykes co-sponsored a resolution urging Congress to enact the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, legislation that would enact restrictions on policing practices, cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and eliminate protections for law enforcement:

- Emilia Sykes co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 20 for the 134th General Assembly.

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session
2021-2022

H. C. R. No. 20

Representatives Lightbody, Brent

Cosponsors: Representatives Blackshear, Boggs, Boyd, Brown, Crawley, Crossman, Denson, Galonski, Hicks-Hudson, Howse, Ingram, Jarrells, Kelly, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Liston, Miller, A., Miller, J., Miranda, O'Brien, Robinson, Russo, Sheehy, Skindell, Smith, K., Smith, M., SobECKi, Sweeney, Sykes, Upchurch, Weinstein, West

(The Ohio House of Representatives, “[House Concurrent Resolution 20 – 134th General Assembly: Cosponsors](#),” introduced 5/18/21)

- H.C.R. 20 was introduced “to urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.”

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 1280,
the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.

(The Ohio House of Representatives, “[House Concurrent Resolution 20 – 134th General Assembly: Cosponsors](#),” introduced 5/18/21)

- H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, would “establish reporting and oversight requirements” regarding policing data, “restrict the use of certain policing practices,” and “eliminate ‘qualified immunity’ protections for law enforcement officers,” among other things. “Passage of the bill that would establish reporting and oversight requirements related to policing data and restrict the use of certain policing practices by federal law enforcement agencies and state and local agencies receiving certain federal policing grants. It would restrict a number of policing practices by federal law enforcement agencies and state and local agencies that receive federal funding, including to prohibit the use of “no-knock warrants” to execute searches in drug cases; the use of deadly force, including chokeholds, except as a “last resort” to prevent imminent injury to an

officer or another person; and the use of deadly or "less lethal" force before exhausting reasonable alternatives, including deescalation tactics. It would prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement, authorize lawsuits regarding violations of the prohibition, and require agencies to implement racial profiling training and oversight procedures. It would eliminate "qualified immunity" protections for law enforcement officers by prohibiting legal defenses based on an officer acting "in good faith" or the purported absence of "clearly established" law. It would require federal law enforcement officers to use body cameras and dashboard cameras and require state and local agencies to use certain grant funding to purchase body cameras and develop protocols for their use. It would make it a crime for an officer to engage in a sexual act with an individual under custody. It would require the Justice Department to establish a national police misconduct registry, and it would establish a number of reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies, including on use of force, racial profiling, officer misconduct records and routine policing practices ~ with data disaggregated by demographics of officers and civilians involved. Among other provisions, it would require the Justice Department to analyze and recommend updates to law enforcement agency accreditation standards. It would authorize \$750 million annually through fiscal 2024 for grants to support independent investigations into police use of deadly force, including to create civilian review boards. It would authorize subpoenas by the Justice Department or state attorneys general for evidence related to potential violations of constitutional rights by law enforcement and authorize grants to states to support such investigations. It would authorize grant funding for activities related to community-based policing practices and non-police public safety initiatives. It would limit the transfer of military equipment from the Defense Department to state and local law enforcement agencies." (CQ, "[Policing Overhaul - Passage: House Roll Call Vote 60 - HR 1280: Description.](#)" 3/3/21)

Per the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1280 would cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and eliminate protections for law enforcement:

- **Per the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1280 would incur costs on “more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies” and cost “several hundred million dollars annually.”** “More than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide would be affected by the bill’s requirements. All would incur costs for training and for data collection, management, and reporting. Using information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement associations nationwide, CBO expects that more than 6,000 agencies would either need to upgrade or to invest in new technology to comply with the new reporting requirements. Also using information from the FBI and law enforcement experts, CBO estimates that the costs across all intergovernmental entities would total several hundred million dollars annually to collect, manage, and transmit data to DOJ. Those costs would be higher the first year after the bill was enacted, as agencies made significant investments in technology.” (Phillip L. Swagel, “Re: H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 3/9/21)
 - **H.R. 1280 would “cost local departments hundreds of millions of dollars in training, data collection and equipment costs.”** “A House Democrats’ bill to revamp policing and end racial profiling would cost local departments hundreds of millions of dollars in training, data collection and equipment costs, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.” (Jonathan Nicholson, “Democratic policing bill would cost departments hundreds of millions to comply with, says CBO,” [MarketWatch](#), 3/11/21)

- **H.R. 1280 would eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement.** “This legislation makes it easier for the federal government to successfully prosecute police misconduct cases, ends racial and religious profiling and eliminates qualified immunity for law enforcement.” (House Committee on the Judiciary, “[Issues: Justice in Policing Act](#),” accessed 11/1/21)
 - **Qualified immunity protects police officers “from civil lawsuits so long as their conduct does not violate clearly established law or constitutional rights of which a reasonable officer would have known.”** “Qualified immunity provides police officers with protection from civil lawsuits so long as their conduct does not violate clearly established law or constitutional rights of which a reasonable officer would have known. Further, qualified immunity does not prevent individuals from recovering damages from police officers who knowingly violate an individual's constitutional rights.” (International Association of Chiefs of Police, “[IACP Statement on Qualified Immunity](#),” accessed 11/1/21)
 - **Ending qualified immunity protections “would have a profoundly chilling effect on police officers and limit their ability and willingness to respond to critical incidents without hesitation.”** “Qualified immunity is an essential part of policing and American jurisprudence. It allows police officers to respond to incidents without pause, make split-second decisions, and rely on the current state of the law in making those decisions. This protection is essential because it ensures officers that good faith actions, based on their understanding of the law at the time of the action, will not later be found to be unconstitutional. The loss of this protection would have a profoundly chilling effect on police officers and limit their ability and willingness to respond to critical incidents without hesitation.” (International Association of Chiefs of Police, “[IACP Statement on Qualified Immunity](#),” accessed 11/1/21)

Emilia Sykes has taken thousands of dollars from and has been endorsed by groups, and subsidiaries of groups, that support defunding the police:

- Emilia Sykes has taken thousands of dollars from groups, and subsidiaries of groups, that support defunding the police.

Contributor	Amount	Date
NARAL Pro-Choice America PAC	\$2,500.00	5/26/22
PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF OHIO PAC	\$250.00	4/5/17
PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF OHIO PAC	\$500.00	10/11/16
NARAL PRO CHOICE OHIO PAC	\$500.00	11/30/20
NARAL PRO-CHOICE OHIO PAC	\$250.00	9/20/18

TOTAL:	\$4,000.00	
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- **Emilia Sykes has been endorsed by NARAL Pro-Choice America.** “Today, NARAL Pro-Choice America announced its endorsement of three candidates—Ohio State Representative Emilia Sykes, former Austin City Council Member Greg Casar, and Texas community leader Michelle Vallejo—running to represent their respective states in the U.S. House of Representatives.” (NARAL Pro-Choice America, “NARAL Pro-Choice America Endorses Champions and Future Leaders for Reproductive Freedom in Key U.S. House Races in Ohio and Texas,” [Press Release](#), 4/26/22)
- **Emilia Sykes said that she was “so happy” to receive the endorsement of Planned Parenthood Action Fund.** “Everyone benefits when we all have access to reproductive care! I am so happy to be endorsed by @PPact!” (Emilia Sykes, [Twitter](#), 4/28/22)



(Emilia Sykes, [Twitter](#), 4/28/22)

- NARAL Pro-Choice America supports defunding the police.

NARAL Pro-Choice America supports the demands of the Movement for Black Lives, including defunding the police and investing in Black communities, which are a response to hundreds of years of systemic oppression and the failure of reforms to address urgent needs and injustices. Budgets reflect our priorities. As such, the call to defund the police is also a call for investment in Black communities—in urgent needs that are currently underfunded, like access to healthcare, education, social services, and more. Through this investment, we can work to make sure every person, every parent, and every family is able to thrive.

(NARAL Pro-Choice America, "[Supporting Policies: Racial Justice](#)," accessed 7/20/22)

***Editor's Note:** At the time of their donation, NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio was a subsidiary of NARAL Pro-Choice America.*

- **Planned Parenthood has supported defunding the police.** “Planned Parenthood Action Fund – in solidarity with patients, staff, and supporters – stands with the Movement for Black Lives’ call to defund the police. Defunding the police means investing less in militarizing police forces and investing more in community-based solutions, education, and health care.” (Planned Parenthood Action Fund, “Defunding the Police: What it Means and Why Planned Parenthood Supports It,” [Blog](#), 7/9/20)
 - **Planned Parenthood Ohio is a subsidiary of Planned Parenthood.** “Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio is an affiliate of the most trusted reproductive health care organization in the world, Planned Parenthood Federation of America. In July 2012, Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio was created following the successful consolidation of Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio, Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Ohio. This consolidation promises to be very beneficial for our communities, our clients, and our supporters.” (Facebook, [Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio](#), accessed 3/11/22)