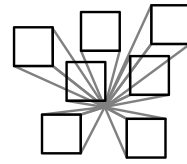


OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

**A BIPARTISAN COALITION OF MAYORS IN
OHIO'S LARGEST CITIES AND SUBURBS**

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

OUR MISSION AND PRIORITIES

Our mission is to strengthen Ohio's cities and metropolitan regions through collaboration, communication, improved advocacy, and stronger partnerships with policymakers. As we come together, we will advance policy priorities that bring communities and leaders together, ensure a high quality of life for our citizens, and strengthen the economic vibrancy of our communities and our state.

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Fellow Ohioans,

In 2016, we formed a new organization of mayors in Ohio's largest cities and suburbs called the Ohio Mayors Alliance. As a bipartisan coalition, we came together to speak with one voice about the issues that impact our communities and our constituents.

As local leaders, we know the important role that cities play in creating jobs and building vibrant communities. Since coming together, we have made it our mission to tell that story and to forge stronger partnerships with state and federal policymakers.

While there is still much work to do, our efforts have made a big impact in a short period of time. We have influenced state legislation that affects our cities, engaged our congressional representatives on key issues, and offered innovative solutions to help address one of Ohio's biggest challenges – the opioid epidemic.

We have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to come together with our colleagues and strengthen the collective voice of Ohio's largest communities. Please take a moment to review our first annual report and the work we have accomplished together in our first year.

Sincerely,

John Cranley
Mayor, City of Cincinnati

Lydia Mihalik
Mayor, City of Findlay

Tim DeGeeter
Mayor, City of Parma

Andrew J. Ginther
Mayor, City of Columbus

Don Patterson
Mayor, City of Kettering



WHO WE ARE

Left to right: Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, and Beavercreek Mayor Bob Stone address their fellow mayors at a meeting in 2016.

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

A BIPARTISAN COALITION OF OHIO'S LARGEST CITIES

The Ohio Mayors Alliance (OMA) is a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest urban and suburban communities. By coming together and speaking with one voice about the challenges and opportunities of Ohio's cities, we can more effectively advocate for our communities and our constituents.

Our mission is to strengthen Ohio's cities and metropolitan regions through collaboration, communication, improved advocacy, and stronger partnerships with policymakers. As we come together, we will advance policy priorities that bring communities and leaders together, ensure a high quality of life for our citizens, and strengthen the economic vibrancy of our communities and our state.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance is structured to ensure that there is bipartisanship and consensus building among cities. The board members must represent both political parties as well as both large and small member cities. Adoption of any official policy position by the Ohio Mayors Alliance must be approved by a supermajority, or two-thirds, of the total membership.





OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

HOW WE CAME TOGETHER

January 20, 2016 | A bipartisan group of Ohio mayors came together in Washington DC at the US Conference of Mayors' Winter Meeting. The dinner was hosted by Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley to discuss the idea of forming a new advocacy organization for Ohio's big city mayors.

May 6, 2016 | Over 20 mayors came together in Columbus for our first organizational meeting to discuss how we would structure this new organization and begin outlining our priorities.

August 19, 2016 | The Ohio Mayors Alliance officially forms. It adopts bylaws and elects board members Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, Findlay Mayor Lydia Mihalik, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, and Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter. The new group also hires Keary McCarthy as Executive Director.

November 11, 2016 | The mayors hold a press conference in Columbus to announce that they have formed the Ohio Mayors Alliance. The mayors make the case that cities are the engines of economic growth and this new organization seeks to forge a stronger partnership with state leaders to make our cities and our state stronger.

January 16, 2017 | Dinner at US Conference of Mayors' winter meeting to discuss legislative engagement efforts and proactive priorities.

February 28, 2017 | The Ohio Mayors Alliance hosts the first Mayors & Lawmakers Luncheon, bringing together over 100 state lawmakers from both parties to discuss ways to partner around shared goals such as strengthening Ohio's economy and confronting the opioid crisis.

June 9, 2017 | The Ohio Mayors Alliance hosts its quarterly meeting in Columbus to discuss what strategies local communities are undertaking to confront the opioid crisis. This discussion was accompanied by OMA's first research report: On the Front Lines. Mayor Andrew Ginther of Columbus and Mayor Bob Patterson of Kettering were elected as new board members, along with Mayor John Cranley of Cincinnati, Mayor Tim DeGeeter of Parma and Mayor Lydia Mihalik of Findlay.

June 23, 2017 | Meeting in Miami at US Conference of Mayors summer meeting to provide a state budget update and review engagement efforts.



OUTREACH

Left to right: Mayor John Cranley of Cincinnati; Tim Mayle, Director, Hancock County Economic Development Alliance; Mayor Lydia Mihalik of Findlay; Dr. David Harrison, President, Columbus State Community College; and Mayor Andrew J. Ginther of Columbus address a group of Ohio lawmakers about the importance of partnering to create jobs.

MEETINGS WITH STATE LEADERS

Before the Ohio Mayors Alliance announced its formation, the board members reached out to and met with Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, Senate President Larry Obhof, Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, and representatives from Gov. John Kasich's office on Nov. 15, 2016. The mayors' message to these state leaders was simple:

“Cities are the engines of economic growth and mayors can be important partners with state leaders to achieve our shared goals of job creation and economic prosperity across the state.”

MAYORS & LAWMAKERS LUNCHEON

On Feb. 28th, the Ohio Mayors Alliance hosted a luncheon at the Capital Club for all 132 Ohio House and Senate Members. The event was well attended with over 100 members from both chambers and parties attending. This luncheon served to introduce the Ohio Mayors Alliance to state lawmakers and reinforce our message that cities are engines of economic growth and that state and local leaders must work together. We also discussed the important role that cities play on the front lines of Ohio's ongoing opioid epidemic.



Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof addresses the luncheon.

ADVOCACY / STATE

Even before the Ohio Mayors Alliance officially announced, the mayors had already begun to engage state lawmakers. That advocacy would continue through the lame duck legislative session at the end of the year and the state operating budget in the first half of 2017. Below is a summary of the advocacy efforts that Ohio Mayors Alliance Members have done on behalf of their communities and constituents:

September 23, 2016 | Letter from Ohio Mayors sent to the Ohio House Tax 2020 Study Commission noting that cities are engines of economic growth, but that further changes to reduce revenue sharing and limit tax authority would weaken local economic development.

November 28, 2016 | The Ohio Mayors Alliance successfully pushed for changes to HB 235 that would have weakened Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) options for cities.

December 8, 2016 | After a rapid-response outreach effort, the Ohio Mayors Alliance members helped stop a change that would have prevented cities from taxing Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans (SERPs).

March 7, 2017 | Several Ohio cities and the Ohio Mayors Alliance testified before the Ohio House Ways & Means Committee to raise concerns about a new centralized municipal tax collection proposal, elimination of the “throwback provision,” and several other provisions that would impact cities.

March 13, 2017 | Following the introduction of the state operating budget, the Ohio Mayors Alliance hosted a conference call with the Ohio Municipal League to provide a legislative update.

April 5, 2017 | Along with several Mayors Alliance member cities, the OMA provided testimony to the Ohio House Finance Committee regarding several provisions in the state budget proposal.

May 23, 2017 | After an amendment was added to give the state sole authority to regulate lead abatement activities, OMA testified before the Ohio Senate Finance Subcommittee to remove the amendment and maintain local control. The amendment was removed.

June 1, 2017 | As the budget reached its final stages, the Ohio Mayors Alliance testified before the House Finance Committee pushing for additional changes.

June 13-14, 2017 | Members of the Ohio Mayors Alliance made one final push, meeting with leadership in the Ohio Senate to testify in committee to advocate for changing the centralized collection proposal, keeping the throwback provision, protecting the municipal direct fund, eliminating the lead abatement amendment, and removing a provision impacting Columbus.

June 29, 2017 | A veto request letter was sent by OMA and other individual OMA members. The provision relating to Columbus was vetoed by Gov. Kasich.



Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers, Grove City Mayor Ike Stage, and Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson testify before the Ohio House Ways & Means Committee.

ADVOCACY / FEDERAL

In addition to engaging at the Statehouse and advocating for our communities with state lawmakers, the Ohio Mayors Alliance has also weighed in on several critical federal issues that have local significance.



March 21, 2017 | The Ohio Mayors Alliance shared a letter from the US Conference of Mayors and echoed its concerns regarding federal healthcare reform legislation to US Senator Rob Portman.

June 9, 2017 | Mayor Andrew Ginther of Columbus and Mayor Lydia Mihalik of Findlay attend a White House briefing with President Donald J. Trump, along with a small group of local leaders from throughout the country, to discuss infrastructure needs.

June 26, 2017 | As legislation to reform the federal healthcare system seemed to be coming to head, the OMA organized conference calls with both US Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman to raise concerns over the potential loss of Medicaid funding for opioid addiction treatment.

July 26, 2017 | As the debate continued in Washington, the Ohio Mayors Alliance cautioned again about how the loss of Medicaid funding would limit addiction treatment and urged congressional leaders to form a bipartisan working group to find a common sense solution.

August 29, 2017 - The Ohio Mayors Alliance helps to coordinate with the White House Office of Intragovernmental Affairs to help schedule a meeting with Ohio mayors and county commissioners to meet with cabinet secretaries and ensure ongoing open lines of communication.





Ohio Mayors Alliance Quarterly Meeting, Aug. 19, 2016

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF STATE FUNDING CUTS

In advance of the legislative engagement strategy for the state operating budget, the Ohio Mayors Alliance researched and summarized the numerous state appropriation changes for Ohio's 30 largest cities. This research was presented to the mayors and used to lay the foundation for a shift in policy at the Ohio Statehouse. This data was also shared with the Ohio Municipal League for its strategic framework released in early 2017.



CITIES ARE ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Ohio's larger cities and suburbs are engines for innovation, opportunity and economic growth. Nearly one third of the state's total population (3.4million) lives in Ohio's 30 largest cities, and 90 percent of the state's GDP is created in our eleven largest metro regions. The Ohio Mayors Alliance presented a report to its members covering the following areas: The role of cities in the Ohio economy, public investment that can improve job growth, and urbanization trends in jobs, talent, and HQ locations. The presentation can be viewed here: <http://ohiomayorsalliance.org/research/economic-growth/>



88%

OF 24-34 YEAR OLDS WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE LIVE IN ONE OF OHIO'S METRO AREAS



90%

OF OHIO'S GDP IS CREATED IN OUR 11 LARGEST METRO AREAS



30%

OF OHIOANS LIVE IN OUR 30 LARGEST CITIES

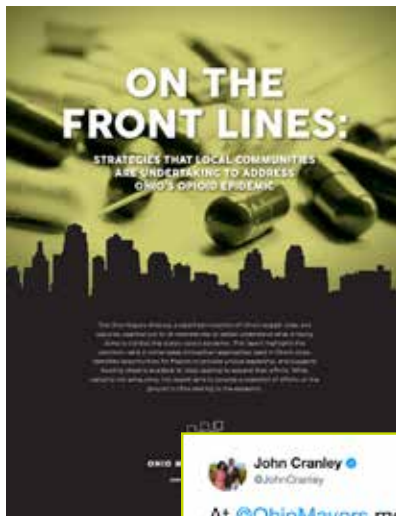
RESEARCH & COLLABORATION

ohiomayorsalliance.org/on-the-front-lines/

HOW CITIES ARE CONFRONTING OHIO'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The Ohio Mayors Alliance surveyed its member communities in April and May to understand what strategies were being deployed locally to confront the opioid epidemic. That research was compiled in a report called *On the Front Lines: Strategies that Local Communities Are Undertaking to Address Ohio's Opioid Epidemic*.

This report was shared with the mayors at the Ohio Mayors Alliance meeting on June 9, 2017. The mayors also heard from guest Speaker Greg McNeil of Cover2 Resources, a non-profit dedicated to providing information, expert opinions and resources to parents of children suffering from Opioid Abuse Disorder. After learning and sharing best practices, the mayors set forth a plan to engage state leaders and build partnerships to confront this opioid epidemic head on.



“But now that these community leaders who have been fighting the opioid fight at home have handed the governor an outline for the state-level response that will help them, he ought to embrace it. Ohio needs a statewide opioid-response plan and a drug czar in Columbus to implement it.”

toledoBlade.com

STATE BUDGET SUMMARY REPORTS

Opioid Funding Streams: Following the conclusion of the state operating budget, the OMA developed a summary of the various funding streams dedicated to opioid and addiction services throughout the budget. This report was shared with the mayors shortly after the conclusion of the budget and highlighted areas where cities could be eligible for funding or grant opportunities.

LGF Estimates: In addition to the opioid funding streams, the OMA also provided a report to its member communities estimating the Local Government Funding appropriations from the state. This report showed the County Undivided LGF appropriation for 2018 and 2019.

KEY IMPACTS

As we look back on the changes and policies that the OMA influenced in our first year, it is important to note that while there was progress made, there is still much work to do. The budget process still resulted in several policies that will have adverse impacts on cities, but that is why we are committed to stay engaged and enhance the advocacy efforts of Ohio's biggest cities.

It is also important to note that many local government allies – like the Ohio Municipal League, several municipal lobbyists, and regional mayors' groups – all contributed to the state legislative changes noted below. Our continued cooperation is critically important to help change the paradigm around the value of local governments at the Ohio Statehouse.

As mayors focused on getting things done, it's important for our organization to be results oriented. Here's a summary of OMA's successes in our first year:

STOPPED SERP CHANGE. Prevented loss of revenue in the state legislative lame duck session by persuading the Ohio Senate to remove a provision that would have prevented cities from taxing Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERPs).

IMPROVED TIF BILL (HB 235). The OMA pushed hard for changes to HB 235, which would have frozen property values of land under development. The changes allowed for local control and ensured that TIFs remain effective economic development tools.

INFLUENCED KEY POLICY PROPOSALS IN STATE BUDGET. OMA advocacy, outreach, testimony, and media relations work all helped reverse several key policy decisions that would have hurt cities. These include:

- **Prevented further reductions to the LGF.** The 1.66 rate of the County Undivided Local Government Fund (CULGF) was not reduced this budget.
- **Stopped “capacity-based” changes to the LGF formula** that would have redistributed nearly \$100 million away from cities with a higher taxing capacity.
- **Curbed the original centralized collection plan** from a mandatory state take-over of all municipal net-profits filings, to a voluntary option for businesses.
- **Maintained local control on lead abatement** by removing amendment that would have pre-empted cities from regulating lead-abatement activities.
- **Pushed for veto of issue impacting Columbus water services.** Following a veto request letter, Gov. Kasich vetoed a provision that would have withheld LGF to Columbus for non-compliance of new rules for water and sewer services.

OUTLINED FRAMEWORK FOR A MORE COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CONFRONT OHIO'S ONGOING OPIOID EPIDEMIC. In a letter to Gov. Kasich, the Ohio Mayors Alliance outlined an innovative set of recommendations to strengthen our collective response to the drug overdose crisis. The letter serves as a starting point for improved dialogue between state and local leaders about how they can work together to tackle some of Ohio's biggest challenges.



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

BOARD MEMBERS



JOHN CRANLEY
MAYOR OF CINCINNATI
Population: 298,165



ANDREW J. GINTHER
MAYOR OF COLUMBUS
Population: 835,957



LYDIA L. MIHALIK
MAYOR OF FINDLAY
Population: 41,098



DON PATTERSON
MAYOR OF KETTERING
Population: 55,705



TIM J. DEGEETER
MAYOR OF PARMA
Population: 80,015

MEMBERS



DANIEL HORRIGAN
MAYOR OF AKRON
Population 197,850



BOB STONE
MAYOR OF BEAVERCREEK
Population: 46,277



CHERYL STEPHENS
MAYOR OF CLEVELAND HTS.
Population: 45,181



DON WALTERS
MAYOR OF CUYAHOGA FALLS
Population: 49,210



NAN WHALEY
MAYOR OF DAYTON
Population: 141,003



GREGORY S. PETERSON
MAYOR OF DUBLIN
Population: 44,214



HOLLY C. BRINDA
MAYOR OF ELYRIA
Population: 53,972



KIRSTEN HOLZHEIMER-GAIL
MAYOR OF EUCLID
Population: 47,893



STEVE MILLER
MAYOR OF FAIRFIELD
Population: 42,770



RICHARD "IKE" STAGE
MAYOR OF GROVE CITY
Population: 38,519



PAT MOELLER
MAYOR OF HAMILTON
Population: 62,486



MIKE SUMMERS
MAYOR OF LAKEWOOD
Population: 50,926



DAVID J. BERGER
MAYOR OF LIMA
Population: 38,265



CHASE RITENAOUR
MAYOR OF LORAIN
Population: 63,776



LAWRENCE MULLIGAN JR.
MAYOR OF MIDDLETOWN
Population: 48,791



WARREN R. COPELAND
MAYOR OF SPRINGFIELD
Population: 59,956



PAULA HICKS-HUDSON
MAYOR OF TOLEDO
Population: 281,031



WILLIAM "DOUG" FRANKLIN
MAYOR OF WARREN
Population: 39,898



JOHN A. MCNALLY
MAYOR OF YOUNGSTOWN
Population: 65,062

The Vindicator

Editorial:

New Ohio Mayors Alliance can give cities united voice

“Such united advocacy brings potential to tackle a myriad of serious concerns befalling large and medium-sized municipalities in the state that impact a significant portion of Ohio’s population. After all, more than one-third of the state’s residents live in our 30 largest cities. A substantially higher proportion of people living in their metro areas identify strongly with those central cities for their economic livelihoods and overall quality of life.”



Ohio Mayors Seek Emergency Response Center for Opioid Crisis

“An organization representing Ohio big-city mayors wants Republican Gov. John Kasich to establish an emergency operations center to coordinate the state’s response to the opioid crisis.”

Mayors of Ohio’s largest cities team up to voice concerns at the Statehouse

CLEVELAND.COM



Toledo mayor questions Ohio tax proposal

TOLEDO BLADE

Mayors respond to the opioid epidemic

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL: EDITORIAL

“Most persuasive about the mayor’s recommendations is that they are the product of experience, city leaders at the front lines of what they accurately describe as an “unfolding catastrophe.” They applaud what the governor already has done, including the Medicaid expansion. They make the case for something more to respond effectively.”



Warren Copeland, Springfield's longtime mayor
Photo: Mike Maciag

With Less State Aid, Localities Look for Ways to Cope

GOVERNING.COM

Mayors of Ohio's 30 largest cities recently formed the Ohio Mayors Alliance to give them a greater voice at the state Capitol. As in many states, urban areas aren't well represented among the legislature's Republican leadership. When lawmakers negotiated with local officials, it had in the past usually been just with those from the three biggest cities: Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus. The alliance aims to change that. "These matters affect all of us," says Nan Whaley, the mayor of Dayton. "We've got to figure out a way to work with the state."



Kettering mayor named new board member for state group

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

"Mayors and elected leaders from different parts of the state need a forum to communicate, share ideas, and better understand the differences that sometimes divide us," said Patterson.



Ohio mayors ban together in new alliance

SPRINGFIELD NEW SUN

"Ohio is unique in that it has a large number of urban centers. That is why it is so important for us to come together with one voice to address the challenges and opportunities facing Ohio's cities," said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley at a Friday press conference unveiling the Ohio Mayors Alliance.



Cleveland Heights, Lakewood, Parma join Ohio Mayors Alliance

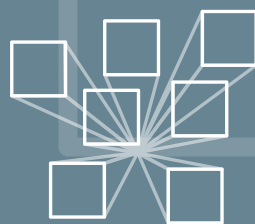
CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

"By coming together and speaking with a unified message about the issues that impact our communities and our constituents, we will demonstrate the important role that our state's cities play in creating jobs and stimulating economic growth," Summers said.



Ohio mayors creating new Ohio Mayors Alliance

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

**THE MORE ENGAGED WE ARE,
THE STRONGER OUR VOICE.**

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Ohio Mayors Alliance

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