

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



**OHIO
MAYORS
ALLIANCE**



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THE OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE IS A BIPARTISAN COALITION OF MAYORS IN OHIO'S LARGEST CITIES.

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.

Mayor David J. Berger, City of Lima

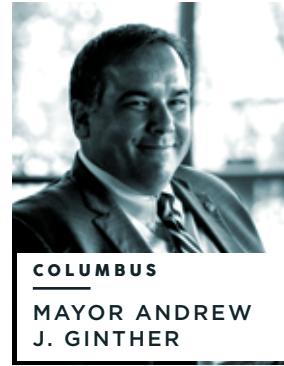
BOARD MEMBERS



CINCINNATI
MAYOR JOHN CRANLEY



PARMA
MAYOR TIM DEGEETER



COLUMBUS
MAYOR ANDREW J. GINTHER



KETTERING
MAYOR DON PATTERSON



FINDLAY
MAYOR LYDIA MIHALIK



MIDDLETOWN
MAYOR LARRY MULLIGAN JR.



DAYTON
MAYOR NAN WHALEY

MEMBERS



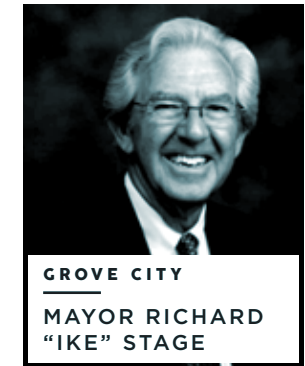
ELYRIA
MAYOR HOLLY C. BRINDA



EUCLID
MAYOR KIRSTEN HOLZHEIMER GAIL



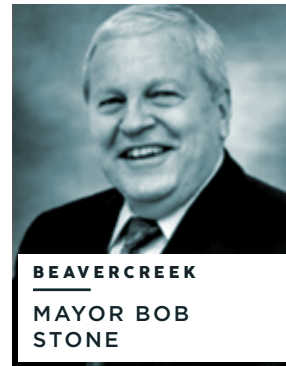
FAIRFIELD
MAYOR STEVE MILLER



GROVE CITY
MAYOR RICHARD "IKE" STAGE



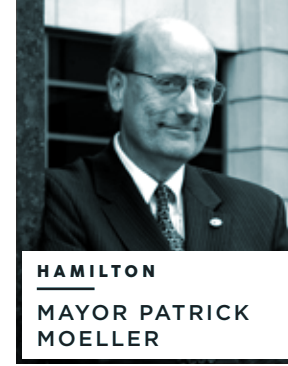
AKRON
MAYOR DANIEL HORRIGAN



BEAVERCREEK
MAYOR BOB STONE



CANTON
MAYOR TOM BERNABEI



HAMILTON
MAYOR PATRICK MOELLER



LAKWOOD
MAYOR MIKE SUMMERS



LIMA
MAYOR DAVID J. BERGER



LORAIN
MAYOR CHASE RITENAUER



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
MAYOR CAROL ROE



CUYAHOGA FALLS
MAYOR DON WALTERS



DUBLIN
MAYOR GREGORY S. PETERSON



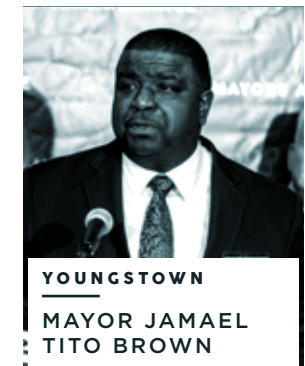
SPRINGFIELD
MAYOR WARREN R. COPELAND



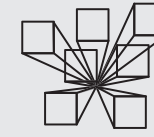
TOLEDO
MAYOR WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ



WARREN
MAYOR WILLIAM D. FRANKLIN



YOUNGSTOWN
MAYOR JAMAEL TITO BROWN



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

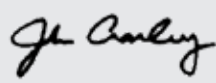


Fellow Ohioans,

In this time of partisanship and polarization, we are incredibly proud of our work to come together — as Democrats and as Republicans — to advocate for issues that impact our communities. Since our formation in 2016, we have been a consensus-oriented organization, yet we haven't been afraid to take on challenging issues.

As local leaders, we have the important task of not only governing our cities, but also working with state and federal partners. While we may be from different parties, we all want to improve the well-being of the residents of our cities and throughout the state. As a bipartisan coalition we are able to work together to find solutions to the complex problems that take many different viewpoints and values into consideration, resulting in better public policy for Ohioans.

In the past year, we have had important impacts on congressional redistricting, Ohio's education and workforce, the opioid crisis, and local government funding. Though there is still much work to be done, we are excited to partner with the new administration and General Assembly to improve the lives of our constituents and advance the state from the ground up.


Sincerely,

MAYOR JOHN CRANLEY
CINCINNATI

 MAYOR TIM DEGEETER
PARMA

 MAYOR ANDREW J. GINTHER
COLUMBUS

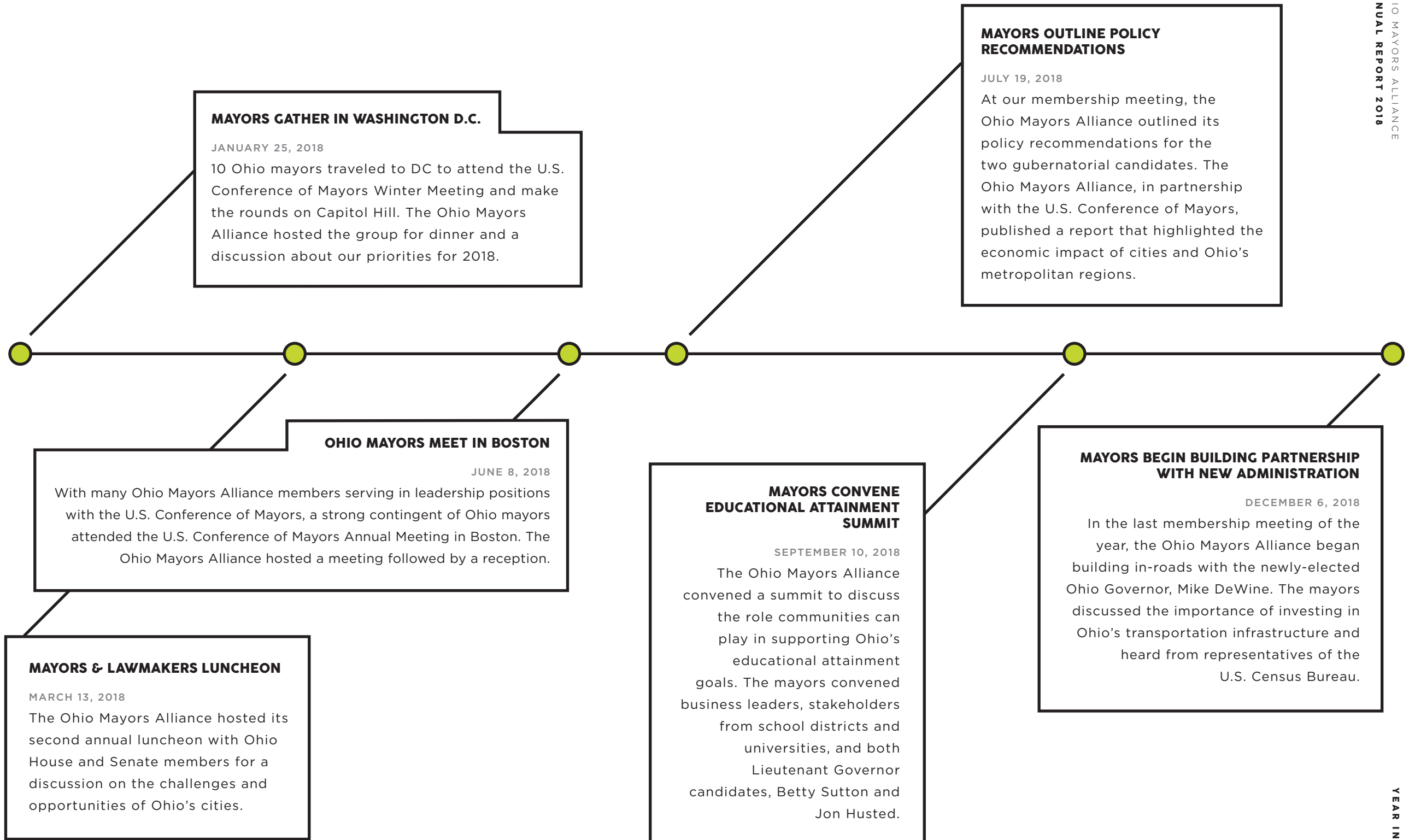


MAYOR LYDIA MIHALIK
FINDLAY

 MAYOR LARRY MULLIGAN JR.
MIDDLETOWN

 MAYOR DON PATTERSON
KETTERING

 MAYOR NAN WHALEY
DAYTON



The Ohio Mayors Alliance held its quarterly membership meeting in July 2018 with special presentations by U.S. Conference of Mayors' President, Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina and Mayor Marty Walsh of Boston, Massachusetts.

MAKING AN IMPACT



THE OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE IS A BIPARTISAN COALITION OF MAYORS IN OHIO'S LARGEST CITIES.



“

It's time to reinvest in our cities and reaffirm the importance of local governance. By investing in cities and local communities, we can better align state and local economic development priorities and support struggling communities dealing with serious challenges.

”



CINCINNATI MAYOR
JOHN CRANLEY

The following are our policy priorities for 2018/2019:

CONFRONTING OHIO'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

As a coalition of local leaders on the front lines of Ohio's ongoing opioid epidemic, the Ohio Mayors Alliance will continue to share best practices for responding to the opioid crisis. We also believe Ohio needs a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to the opioid epidemic, which is why we are encouraging the new administration to **establish a state-level Office of Drug Policy.**

INVESTING IN OUR CITIES AND GROWING OUR ECONOMY

With more than 90 percent of the state GDP generated in the largest metropolitan regions, cities are the engines of economic growth that are driving Ohio's economy. The Ohio Mayors Alliance will continue to communicate the important role that cities play in driving the state economy, as well as advocate for improved revenue sharing that supports business development and job growth in Ohio's cities. That is why we are advocating for the **creation of a grant program for cities called the Ohio Community Reinvestment Fund.**

STRENGTHENING OHIO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Mayors Alliance believes that a strong transportation infrastructure is critical to economic opportunities in Ohio and its metropolitan regions. As leaders in Ohio's largest cities, we intend to advocate at both the state and federal level for the necessary resources to make sure that the arteries of our economy are strong. We believe a **statewide, bipartisan coalition must be convened to address Ohio's transportation infrastructure needs.**

PROTECTING HOME RULE

Home rule authority for local communities is a protected right in the Ohio Constitution, and the Ohio Mayors Alliance will actively oppose state legislation that undermines our communities' ability to govern themselves and erodes Ohio's constitutional rights to home rule. To address the ongoing erosion of local control, we are **proposing that a framework be developed, called the Ohio Home Rule Compact.**

IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education is critically important to fostering the talent and workforce that is needed to grow Ohio's economy. We have convened education stakeholders to strategize how communities can help improve Ohio's educational opportunities. We are also seeking to **reform the academic distress commission process.**

STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

To ensure that our democracy is responsive and that our congressional representatives understand the challenges and opportunities in Ohio's cities, the Ohio Mayors Alliance worked closely with the legislative leaders to help pass a bipartisan congressional redistricting reform plan. The measure was placed on the Primary Election Ballot and overwhelmingly approved by voters in May of 2018. The Ohio Mayors Alliance is also preparing for the 2020 Census and **working to ensure that all of our communities have a complete and accurate count.**

POLICY PRIORITIES

As we continue to grow as an organization, we realize the important perspective mayors bring to a wide range of policy conversations. Our mayors have leveraged their role as conveners to bring various perspectives to the table on critical Ohio issues.

This year, we started the discussion on how Ohio can improve its education system and ensure our children are prepared for the work of the future.

This conversation focused on workforce development and the economy. Tied in with education is the prospect of preparing our children for the work of the future. The state's economy depends on the strength of its cities, and as mayors we want to ensure our individual economies are strong. This means having the talent to retain jobs and attract new employers. We are working on the local level to ensure our workers are prepared and our cities have amenities employers expect from major cities, including quality transportation infrastructure.

Sixty percent of the nation's population is within a day's drive of Ohio, but we have let our infrastructure be underfunded for too long. Our communities are connected by Ohio's highways and our own roads are funded for only maintenance and upkeep. It is time for Ohio to reinvest in and modernize our infrastructure. We have joined with other municipal organizations and transportation stakeholders to discuss what steps Ohio needs to take to improve its transportation and transit infrastructure.

After a presentation by Nationwide Foundation at our July Membership Meeting, The Ohio Mayors Alliance joined the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance (OOEA). The OOEA is committed to raising awareness about the opioid crisis and providing information and resources to help prevent the next generation from abusing prescription opioids. The OOEA has over 30 members and is continually growing. Members include the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, American Electric Power, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and The Ohio State University.



“

Previous state budget cuts have hurt our ability to strengthen our communities and foster economic development. We intend to communicate that, but we also intend to build a positive relationship with state partners around our shared goals of job creation and economic growth.”

PARMA MAYOR

TIM DEGEETER



“

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. The Ohio Mayors Alliance provides that forum and I'm glad to be a part of it.”

KETTERING MAYOR

DON PATTERSON



“

As mayors, we know Ohio's approach to the addiction crisis must be comprehensive, including prevention, treatment, and awareness. This is why the Ohio Mayors Alliance is proud to be an Ohio Opioid Education Alliance partner. By working together across the state, we can help to ensure the next generation knows the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.”

FINDLAY MAYOR

LYDIA MIHALIK



MAYORAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SUMMIT

Ohio's big goal is by 2025, 65 percent of Ohioans age 25-64 will have a degree, certificate or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace. With a higher concentration of Ohioans with postsecondary education credentials this could mean increased career opportunities, stronger communities, a more robust tax base, and a stronger economy.

In September, the Ohio Mayors Alliance, in partnership with Learn to Earn Dayton, held the first Mayoral Educational Attainment Summit in Columbus. Mayors, Chamber of Commerce and business leaders, teacher associations, and superintendents from cities and towns across Ohio convened to discuss how we can all work on a local level to overcome Ohio's current attainment challenges.



“ Mayors chart the course for the future of their communities and, although most of us don't have direct authority over our local schools, we must still be advocates for our education system and ensure that all of our young people have the credentials they need to succeed. I'm thrilled that so many of my fellow mayors attended the summit with key leaders from their communities to talk about how we can all work toward the common, statewide goal of an educated, well-prepared workforce. ”

DAYTON MAYOR
NAN WHALEY



Eric Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University



Secretary of State Jon Husted, candidate for Lt. Governor



Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Former Governors Bob Taft and Ted Strickland

The conversation was shaped by informative speeches by Eric Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and John Friedman, Associate Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs at Brown University.

Education is an important issue that both state and local leaders need to be working together to address. The Summit invited both lieutenant gubernatorial candidates to discuss their ticket's plans for education and workforce development. Former Governors Taft and Strickland also had a conversation about how they approached education during their time in office and how state and local leaders can work together to find effective solutions.



John Friedman, Associate Professor of Economics and International Public Affairs, Brown University

MAYORS' RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

As Ohio transitions into a new administration, the Alliance knows this is the time to reestablish a working partnership between Ohio's state and local governments. This includes working with the new governor to communicate the needs of our cities and how cuts to the Local Government Fund have impacted a variety of issues, especially as we continue to fight the addiction crisis. In our Recommendations Report, we outlined five areas we would like to see addressed by the governor and legislature.

- Convene state and local leaders to develop an "Ohio Home Rule Compact"
- Create a "Community Reinvestment Fund" to strengthen and support cities and local communities
- Establish a state-level "Office of Drug Policy" to enhance communication and cooperation between state and local governments
- Convene a statewide, bipartisan coalition to identify opportunities to address Ohio's transportation infrastructure needs
- Suspend the current process for implementing academic distress commissions for school districts and develop a more consensus-driven approach



“Cities are the economic engines of our state. The mayors' recommendations support Ohio's cities and small towns, and bring together state and local leaders to help address some of our biggest challenges.”

COLUMBUS MAYOR
ANDREW J. GINTHER

OHIO METRO ECONOMIES: GMP AND JOB GROWTH

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND OMA REPORT

In partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, we released a joint report on the importance of Ohio's city metro areas to the future growth of the Ohio economy. The report highlights that in 2017, 83.5 percent of the state's jobs and 86.1 percent of its wages were generated in Ohio's 14 metro areas. 85.1 percent of the state's economic output in 2017 occurred in its metro regions. Since 2000, Ohio's city metros accounted for all of the state's job gains and 87 percent of its economic output gains.



“As this report indicates, Ohio's metro regions are the drivers of the State's economy. And it is clear that the future prosperity of Ohio rests with the ability of state and local governments to align economic development priorities and for regional economies to grow.”

MIDDLETOWN MAYOR
LARRY MULLIGAN JR.

MODERNIZING OHIO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

TRIP REPORT

The Ohio Mayors Alliance worked with TRIP, a transportation research organization, to announce the release of "Modernizing Ohio's Transportation System" report the which detailed the dire state of Ohio's transportation infrastructure. By working with the mayors in Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo, we organized press conferences to highlight how our infrastructure impacts our economic competitiveness and our residents' quality of life.

ON THE FRONT LINES

STRATEGIES THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE UNDERTAKING TO ADDRESS OHIO'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Last year, the Ohio Mayors Alliance surveyed its member communities to understand what strategies were being deployed locally to confront the opioid epidemic. This research was then compiled into the report. The report is meant to inform state leaders about how cities are dealing with the opioid epidemic and how they can work together in partnership to confront the epidemic head on.

ABOUT THE OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

The Ohio Mayors Alliance was formed in 2016 to advocate for our communities and our constituents by speaking with one voice about the challenges and opportunities of Ohio's cities.

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.

MEMBER CITIES

CITY	MAYOR	POPULATION
AKRON	DANIEL HARRIGAN	196,411
BEAVERCREEK	BOB STONE	46,784
CANTON	TOM BERNABEI	70,239
CINCINNATI	JOHN CRANLEY	299,092
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS	CAROL ROE	44,037
COLUMBUS	ANDREW J. GINTHER	880,182
CUYAHOGA FALLS	DON WALTERS	48,938
DAYTON	NAN WHALEY	140,317
DUBLIN	GREGORY S. PETERSON	46,514
ELYRIA	HOLLY C. BRINDA	53,553
EUCLID	KIRSTEN HOLZEIMER GAIL	46,794
FAIRFIELD	STEVE MILLER	42,507
FINDLAY	LYDIA L. MIHALIK	41,502
GROVE CITY	RICHARD "IKE" STAGE	40,739
HAMILTON	PAT MOELLER	61,857
KETTERING	DON PATTERSON	55,000
LAKEWOOD	MIKE SUMMERS	49,595
LIMA	DAVID J. BERGER	37,044
LORAIN	CHASE RITENAUER	63,853
MIDDLETOWN	LAWRENCE MULLIGAN JR.	49,075
PARMA	TIM J. DEGEETER	78,511
SPRINGFIELD	WARREN R. COPELAND	58,025
TOLEDO	WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ	276,172
WARREN	WILLIAM D. FRANKLIN	39,254
YOUNGSTOWN	JAMAE TITO BROWN	63,510

STAFF

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