PURPOSE STATEMENT
MISSION & PRIORITIES
OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE MEMBERS
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD
YEAR IN REVIEW
POLICY PRIORITIES
MAYORAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SUMMIT
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ABOUT THE OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE
MEMBER CITIES & STAFF
The Ohio Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio’s largest cities.

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.

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.
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,

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Mayor John Cranley
Cincinnati

Mayor Tim DeGeeeter
Parma

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
Columbus

Mayor Lydia Mihalik
Findlay

Mayor Larry Milligan Jr.
Middletown

Mayor Don Patterson
Vettersing

Mayor Nan Whaley
Dayton
YEAR IN REVIEW

MAYORS GATHER IN WASHINGTON D.C.
JANUARY 25, 2018
10 Ohio mayors traveled to DC to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting and make the rounds on Capitol Hill. The Ohio Mayors Alliance hosted the group for dinner and a discussion about our priorities for 2018.

MAYORS MEET IN BOSTON
JUNE 8, 2018
With many Ohio Mayors Alliance members serving in leadership positions with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a strong contingent of Ohio mayors attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting in Boston. The Ohio Mayors Alliance hosted a meeting followed by a reception.

MAYORS CONVENE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SUMMIT
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
The Ohio Mayors Alliance convened a summit to discuss the role communities can play in supporting Ohio’s educational attainment goals. The mayors convened business leaders, stakeholders from school districts and universities, and both Lieutenant Governor candidates, Betty Sutton and Jon Husted.

MAYORS OUTLINE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
JULY 19, 2018
At our membership meeting, the Ohio Mayors Alliance outlined its policy recommendations for the two gubernatorial candidates. The Ohio Mayors Alliance, in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, published a report that highlighted the economic impact of cities and Ohio’s metropolitan regions.

MAYORS BEGIN BUILDING PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION
DECEMBER 6, 2018
In the last membership meeting of the year, the Ohio Mayors Alliance began building in-roads with the newly-elected Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine. The mayors discussed the importance of investing in Ohio’s transportation infrastructure and heard from representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau.

MAYORS & LAWMAKERS LUNCHEON
MARCH 13, 2018
The Ohio Mayors Alliance hosted its second annual luncheon with Ohio House and Senate members for a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of Ohio’s cities.
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.
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.

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

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.

“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

“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.”

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

“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

“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.”

FINDLAY MAYOR
LYDIA MIHALIK
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

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

ON THE FRONT LINES

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.

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

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.

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 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.
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**

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