

Local Innovation. Statewide Collaboration.



**OHIO
MAYORS
ALLIANCE**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OHIOMAYORSALLIANCE.ORG





Dear Fellow Ohioans:

Since we formed in late 2016, we have brought together Ohio's mayors in a bipartisan way to speak with one voice about the needs of our communities.

Our mission has been to bring together Ohio's mayors to share best practices and foster local innovation. It also includes building stronger relationships with state leaders to promote statewide collaboration. It is this combination of Local Innovation and Statewide Collaboration that defines our work.

In 2023, our efforts to promote collaboration have taken us from the White House to the Ohio Statehouse. We held our annual Mayors & Lawmakers Luncheon this year, and we brought a smaller group of state and local leaders together during our second regional meeting. In 2022 it was in Cleveland and this year it was in the beautifully redeveloped Dayton Arcade.

One of the new initiatives that we launched this year to foster local innovation was our Public Safety 360° Initiative. This effort brought mayors, law enforcement professionals, and national experts together to share knowledge about emerging public safety strategies. We also partner with other organizations to use data more effectively, connect our cities to state and federal resources, and implement sustainability strategies in our cities.

Lastly, as a bipartisan coalition of mayors, we know how important it is to find common ground and work across the aisle. We hope to see more bipartisan cooperation at every level of government in the months and years ahead. In the meantime, please take a moment to review our 2023 Annual Report and learn more about the work we do together.

Sincerely,

Ohio Mayors Alliance Board of Directors:

Mayor Dan Horrigan,
City of Akron

Mayor Bob Stone,
City of Beavercreek

Mayor Andrew Ginther,
City of Columbus

Mayor Christina Muryn,
City of Findlay

Mayor David Scheffler,
City of Lancaster

Mayor Tim DeGeeter,
City of Parma

Mayor Jamael Tito Brown,
City of Youngstown



About Our Organization

What is the mission of the Ohio Mayors Alliance?

As a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's 30 largest cities, our mission is to strengthen Ohio's cities and metropolitan regions through collaboration, communication, improved advocacy, and stronger partnerships with policymakers. We advocate for and advance policies 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.

What are the organization's priorities?

Each year we update our policy priorities, but we have three consistent, core priorities as an organization:

Protect the fiscal health of our cities and support economic development in Ohio

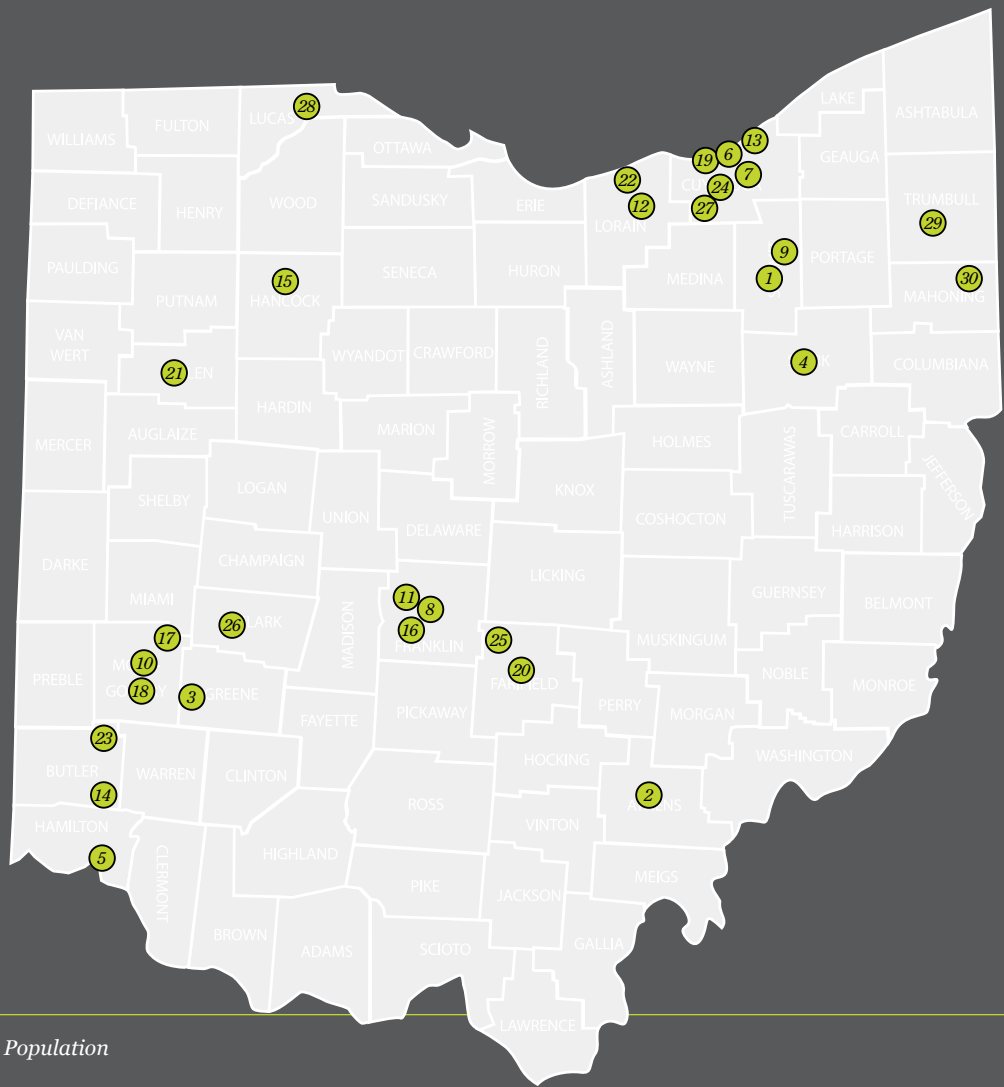
Preserve local self-governance (home rule) and advance innovative local solutions

Promote bipartisanship and the importance of working together to get things done.

2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

- Economic Development and Fiscal Stability for Cities
- Local Self-Governance and the Right to Home Rule
- Public Safety and Effective Policing Practices
- Affordable, Accessible, and Quality Housing
- Water, Transportation, and Digital Infrastructure
- Education, Civic Learning, and Workforce Development
- Public Health and Addiction Prevention
- Sustainable and Climate Resilient Cities

2023 OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE MEMBER CITIES



MEMBER CITIES

Mayor | Population

1 AKRON
Daniel Horrigan
190,469

2 ATHENS
Steve Patterson*
23,849

3 BEAVERCREEK
Bob Stone
46,549

4 CANTON
Tom Bernabei
70,872

5 CINCINNATI
Aftab Pureval
309,317

6 CLEVELAND
Justin Bibb
372,624

7 CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
Kahlil Seren
45,312

8 COLUMBUS
Andrew Ginther
905,748

9 CUYAHOGA FALLS
Don Walters
51,114

10 DAYTON
Jeffrey Mims
137,644

11 DUBLIN
Jane Fox
49,328

12 ELYRIA
Frank Whitfield
52,656

13 EUCLID
Kirsten Holzheimer Gail
49,692

14 FAIRFIELD
Mitch Rhodus
44,907

15 FINDLAY
Christina Muryn
40,313

16 GROVE CITY
Richard "Ike" Stage
41,252

17 HUBER HEIGHTS
Jeff Gore
43,439

18 KETTERING
Peggy Lehner
57,862

19 LAKEWOOD
Meghan George
50,942

20 LANCASTER
David Scheffler
40,552

21 LIMA
Sharetta Smith
35,579

22 LORAIN
Jack Bradley
65,211

23 MIDDLETOWN
Nicole Condrey
50,987

24 PARMA
Tim DeGeeter
81,146

25 REYNOLDSBURG
Joe Begeny
41,076

26 SPRINGFIELD
Warren Copeland
58,662

27 STRONGSVILLE
Thomas Perciak
46,491

28 TOLEDO
Wade Kapszukiewicz
270,871

29 WARREN
William D. Franklin
39,201

30 YOUNGSTOWN
Jamael Tito Brown
60,068



Strong Cities for a Stronger Ohio

**Ohio's
metro
economies
provide:**

84%
of Ohio jobs

90%
of Ohio's
wage income

87%
of the real Gross
State Product

2023 Projected Numbers



How does the Ohio Mayors Alliance support mayors and cities?

- 1 We **advocate for our cities at the Ohio statehouse** on a common set of bipartisan policy priorities and legislative issues.
- 2 We help **connect our cities to state and federal resources**, including grant opportunities, program support, and technical expertise.
- 3 We help **facilitate best-practice sharing between our mayors** to promote innovative local solutions and address difficult policy challenges.
- 4 We **promote the value and importance of our cities on Ohio's economy**. We also highlight the innovative work that is happening in our cities.

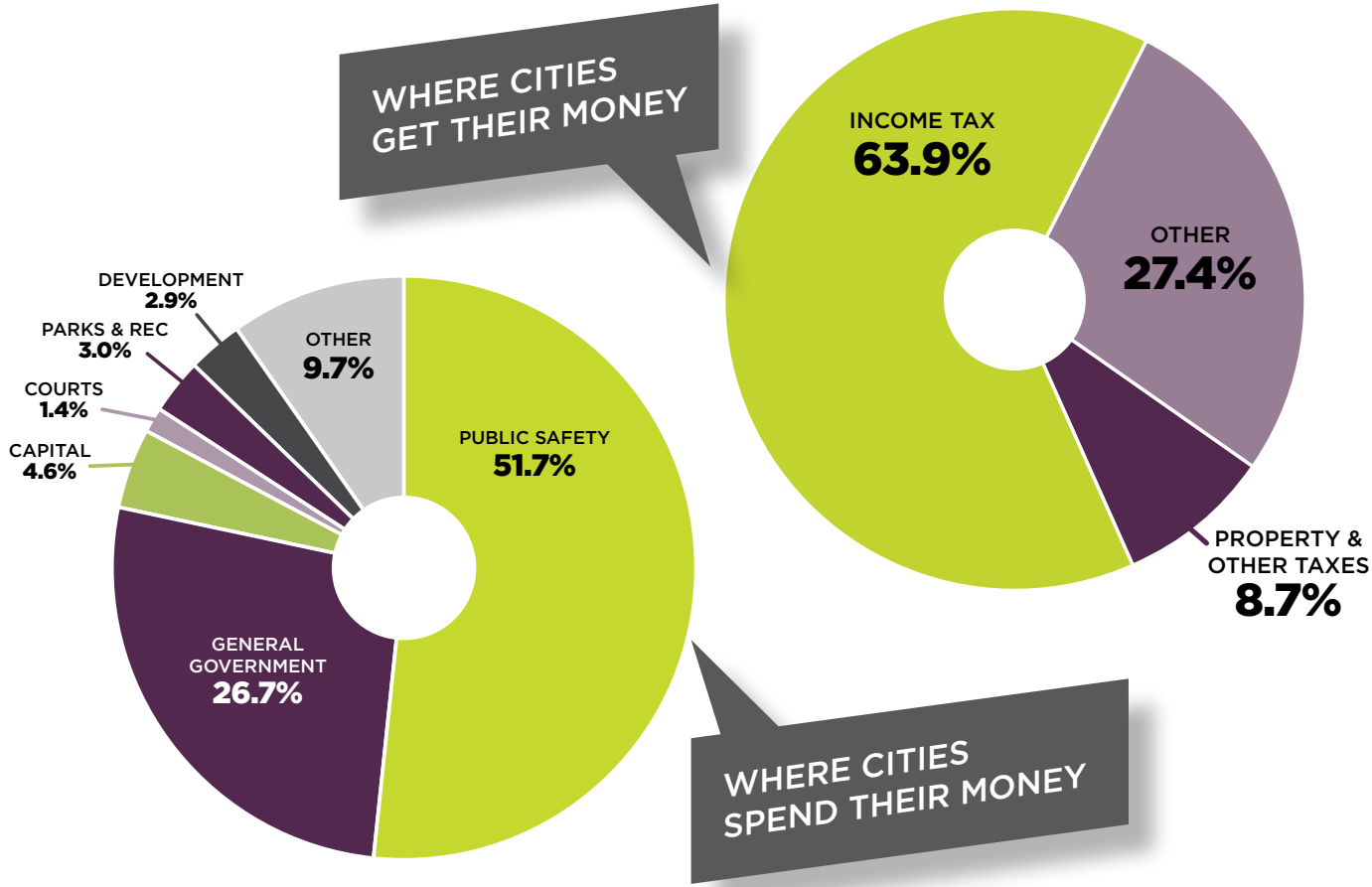
How do our cities support Ohio's statewide economic success?

Strong cities make for a stronger Ohio. This is because Ohio's cities drive regional growth and Ohio's overall economic success. Our cities are the economic centers of our metropolitan regions, where 80 to 90 percent of the state's jobs and GDP are generated. The health of the largest cities in a region directly impacts the entire region and the entire state. When our cities are strong and fiscally stable, our regions thrive, and our state economy succeeds.

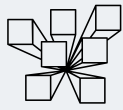


Why are cities so important?

Cities deliver critical frontline services like public safety, which is the biggest expenditure for all of our communities. Cities spend over half of their budgets on public safety, with some communities spending as much as two-thirds of their budget on police, fire, and EMS services. Cities are also major job centers and key hubs for entertainment districts, conventions, and sporting events that put the eyes of the world on Ohio. Cities support strong regions, and strong regions power Ohio’s economy.



2023 MEMBERS



**OHIO
MAYORS
ALLIANCE**

BOARD MEMBERS



MAYOR
DAN HERRIGAN

Akron



MAYOR
BOB STONE

Beavercreek



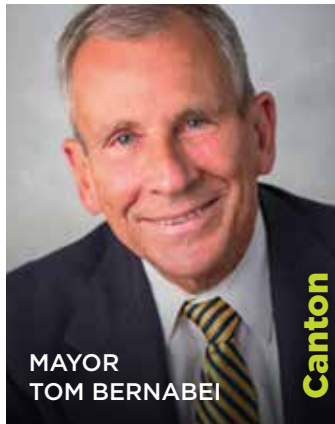
MAYOR
ANDREW GINTHER

Columbus



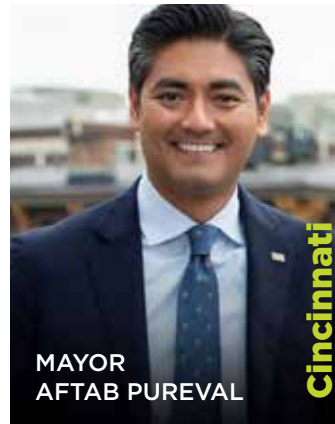
MAYOR STEVE
PATTERSON*

Athens



MAYOR
TOM BERNABEI

Canton



MAYOR
AFTAB PUREVAL

Cincinnati



MAYOR
JUSTIN BIBB

Cleveland



MAYOR
FRANK WHITFIELD

Elyria



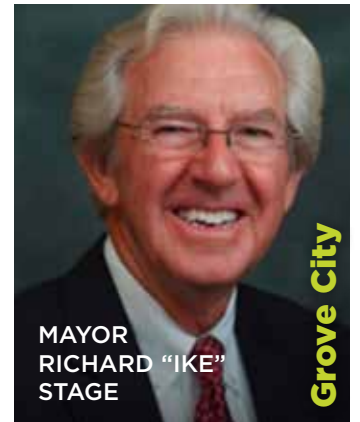
MAYOR KIRSTEN
HOLZHEIMER GAIL

Euclid



MAYOR
MITCH RHODUS

Fairfield



MAYOR
RICHARD "IKE"
STAGE

Grove City



MAYOR
JACK BRADLEY

Lorain



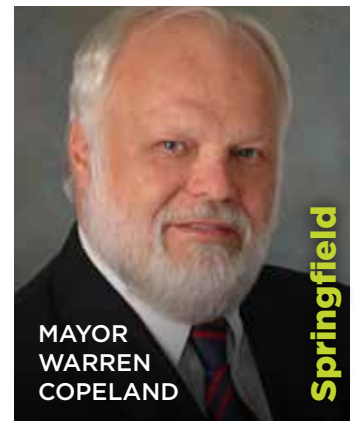
MAYOR
NICOLE CONDREY

Middletown



MAYOR
JOE BEGENY

Reynoldsburg



MAYOR
WARREN
COPELAND

Springfield



MAYOR
CHRISTINA MURYL

Findlay



MAYOR
DAVID SCHEFFLER

Lancaster



MAYOR
TIM DEGEETER

Parma



MAYOR
JAMAE TITO
BROWN

Youngstown



MAYOR
KAHLIL SEREN

Cleveland Heights



MAYOR
DON WALTERS

Cuyahoga Falls



MAYOR
JEFFREY MIMS

Dayton



MAYOR
JANE FOX

Dublin



MAYOR
JEFF GORE

Huber Heights



MAYOR
PEGGY LEHNER

Kettering



MAYOR
MEGHAN GEORGE

Lakewood



MAYOR
SHARETTA SMITH

Lima



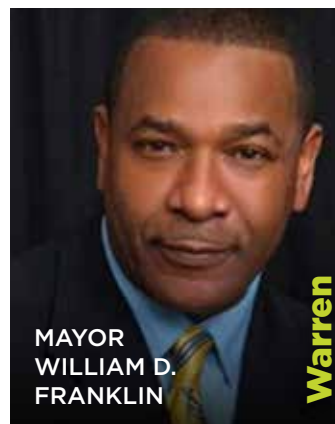
MAYOR
THOMAS PERCIAK

Strongsville



MAYOR WADE
KAPSZUKIEWICZ

Toledo



MAYOR
WILLIAM D.
FRANKLIN

Warren

*Chair of Mayors' Partnership for Progress, representing mayors and city managers from Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington counties.

Welcome New Mayors

This year, 19 of our 30 cities had municipal elections with voters deciding on issues, council members, and mayors. Several of our mayors retired, chose not to run again, or were term-limited, ushering in a new, outstanding group of Ohio mayors!



Shammas Malik
Mayor-Elect of Akron



Don Adams
Mayor-Elect of Beavercreek



William Sherer
Mayor-Elect of Canton



Kevin Brubaker
Mayor-Elect of Elyria



Don McDaniel
Mayor-Elect of Lancaster



Jodie Perry
Mayor-Elect of Mansfield



Elizabeth Slamka
Mayor-Elect of Middletown



Rob Rue
Mayor of Springfield

We are excited to welcome these new mayors to our organization in 2024.

Local Innovation. Statewide Collaboration.



What do we mean by **LOCAL INNOVATION** and **STATEWIDE COLLABORATION**?

Local control allows for local innovation. That is why it is important to preserve local self-governance and protect the right to home rule. Not every community in Ohio is the same, and local leaders must have the flexibility to establish innovative policy solutions to the unique challenges of their communities.

Ohio's success depends on strong local, regional, and statewide collaboration. While we recognize the differences among our diverse communities, we also seek to find and elevate our common interests. We promote statewide collaboration because our cities and our state benefit when we find common ground and bipartisan leaders work together.

Local Innovation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BOB STONE

Committee Co-Chair,
Mayor of Beaver Creek



SHARETTA SMITH

Committee Co-Chair,
Mayor of Lima

The Mayors and Police Chiefs Leadership Committee has bipartisan Co-Chairs and is comprised of eight mayors and seven police chiefs from across Ohio.

For a complete committee member list scan below or visit:
OhioMayorsAlliance.org/our-work



Mayors and Police Chiefs Leadership Committee

Led by Co-Chairs Mayor Sharetta Smith of Lima and Mayor Bob Stone of Beaver Creek, the committee this year created and led the new Public Safety 360° Initiative, recruiting Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb to help convene workshops that provided opportunities for mayors, city staff, and law enforcement agencies to collaborate, share knowledge, and learn from national experts on a variety of ways to prevent and reduce crime in our cities.

Public Safety 360°



Sharing Public Safety Best Practices

This new initiative provided opportunities for mayors and local law enforcement professionals to connect with each other, as well as national experts, to share evidence-based approaches to enhance their capacity to prevent and solve violent crimes. Three workshops over the course of the year focused on using gun crime intelligence tools to solve gun crimes, implementing community violence intervention models to prevent violent crime, and implementing co-responder and care response models to ensure that police and community responses to emergency calls involving mental and behavioral health issues are resolved appropriately and provide needed treatment to individuals in crisis.



Mayors Education Advocacy Leadership Committee

The Education Advocacy Leadership Committee flourished this year under the leadership of Co-Chairs Mayor Peggy Lehner of Kettering and Mayor Frank Whitfield of Elyria. Focusing on how mayors partner with their school districts and other community partners to promote civic learning, the committee spearheaded the release of our civic learning report, *Students to Citizens*.

Civic Learning



City Partnerships to Promote Civic Learning and Develop Engaged Citizens

Ohio mayors are leading the way in engaging children and youth in their cities in civic education activities—implementing, leading, and sharing civic education and leadership opportunities.

Cities of all sizes and types are stronger when residents are engaged in local action to establish and protect their neighborhoods and communities. As a bipartisan coalition of mayors, we are committed to working together to foster opportunities for diverse members of all communities to seek out and act on common interests.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



FRANK WHITFIELD
Committee Co-Chair,
Mayor of Elyria



PEGGY LEHNER
Committee Co-Chair,
Mayor of Kettering

The Mayors Education Advocacy Leadership Committee has bipartisan Co-Chairs and is comprised of nine mayors and seven superintendents from across Ohio.

For a complete committee member list scan below or visit:
OhioMayorsAlliance.org/our-work



Driving Innovation with American Rescue Plan Funds

In October, we released a report on how our cities are obligating and spending their American Rescue Plan funds. The report highlights how cities are investing federal dollars to catalyze and advance innovative local projects and initiatives, spotlighting some of the new and novel ways cities have allocated funds to advance public safety, economic development, and workforce development.

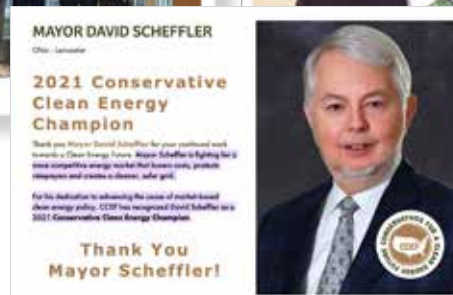


Data Innovation Initiative with Results for America

This year, four OMA cities joined a first-of-its-kind cohort of cities working collaboratively to seek What Works Cities certification, which incentivizes and rewards cities that adopt data-driven and evidence-based practices to set priorities, endure crises, tackle challenges, budget equitably and effectively, and better engage their communities. Congratulations to Cleveland, Dayton, Lima, and Reynoldsburg for their work to join Cincinnati in achieving What Works Cities certification!



Power A Clean Future Ohio



Partnering to Support Sustainable Cities

Our partnership with Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) is crucial to ensure that our cities have the information and resources they need to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy use in Ohio. This year, OMA and PCFO worked together to support our cities' success in securing federal and state grant money to improve energy efficiency and promote renewable energy sources, expanded the number of OMA members who are also PCFO communities, and collaborated to share strategies for implementing Justice40, a White House initiative that ensures that federal climate investments flow to communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and the impacts of climate change.

Statewide Collaboration.



December 2022 | Columbus, Ohio

Annual Membership Meeting

Our mayors gathered in Columbus for our annual year-end meeting, where we reflect on our work of the previous year and plan for our efforts in the next. While we had the mayors in town, we met with Ohio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Steve Stivers, to discuss shared policy priorities and strategies to support local economic development and job creation. We also met with Attorney General Dave Yost to discuss state and local partnership on public safety.

During the meeting, our mayors highlighted the importance of bipartisanship and state and local partnerships in smart policy making. The theme of our 2023 policy priorities announced at the meeting – Local Innovation. Statewide Collaboration. – emphasizes working together to deliver meaningful results for Ohioans.



January 2023 | Washington D.C.

Ohio Mayors Attend White House Event

Several Ohio mayors gathered in Washington D.C. in January 2023 for the 91st winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. During the event, a bipartisan group of mayors from across the country attended an event at the White House. Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther introduced President Joe Biden at this event and thanked the administration for their partnership and investments into Ohio cities.



Statewide Collaboration.



MAYORS & LAWMAKERS LUNCHEON

February 2023 | Ohio Statehouse

Mayors and Lawmakers Luncheon

In February we brought together our mayors and state legislators for our annual Mayors & Lawmakers Luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse. While we were at the state capital, we convened several important discussions with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, and other important state leaders.

During the luncheon, we heard from mayors from different parties and different communities from across the state. We also heard from one of our former mayors, Ohio Development Director Lydia

Mihalik, who discussed the important work her agency is doing in communities across the state.

We emphasized the importance of preserving local control, protecting the fiscal health of cities, and promoting bipartisanship. We also used our time together to build stronger ties between our state and local leaders, as well as a shared understanding of the important role that cities play in driving regional growth and supporting Ohio's statewide economic success.



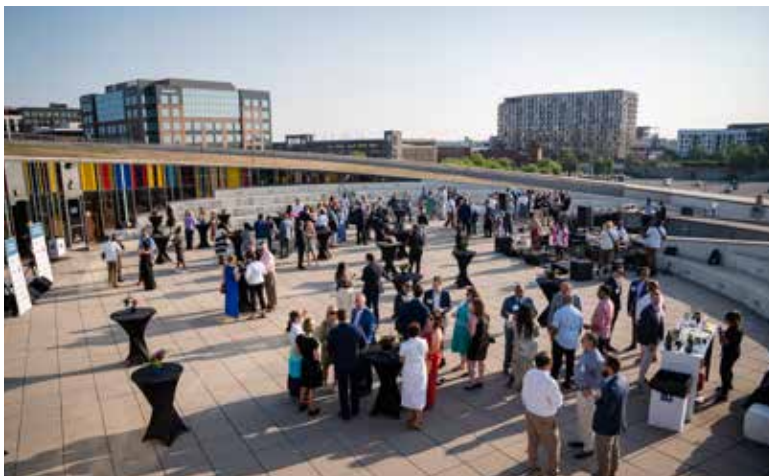
Statewide Collaboration.



OHIO IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

June 2023 | Columbus, Ohio

U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting



Columbus Mayor Andy Ginther welcomed mayors and guests from across the country to Columbus in June for the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting. Mayor Ginther was inducted into his new role as First Vice President of the U.S. Conference, putting him in line to be President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors next year.

As part of the festivities, OMA hosted a reception for mayors, sponsors, and supporters on Sunday, June 4, at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.



Statewide Collaboration.



August 2023 | Dayton, Ohio

Mayors and Lawmakers Regional Meeting

This summer, we convened mayors and lawmakers in Dayton for a discussion about the importance of state and local collaboration.

We met in the new, beautifully renovated Dayton Arcade, a facility that is catalyzing the redevelopment of downtown Dayton and will undoubtedly have an economic impact across the region.

The success of the Dayton Arcade required both public and private-sector leadership, as well as state and local collaboration. It was the perfect backdrop for our meeting and a reminder about the important role cities play in driving regional growth and strengthening Ohio's economy.

In addition to working together on economic development in our cities, the mayors also highlighted other areas where more state and local collaboration is needed, such as housing policy, improved public safety, and reducing gun violence in Ohio. The conversations were honest, forthright, and productive.



Honoring Our Outgoing Mayors



Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan

After serving as a teacher in his early career, Mayor Horrigan pivoted to public service where he first served on Akron City Council and then was elected as Clerk of Courts. In 2015, he was elected the 62nd Mayor of Akron, where he quickly got to work revitalizing downtown, building key partnerships with community and education leaders, and winning a nationally competitive \$5 million federal grant to support downtown redevelopment. Mayor Horrigan was elected by his fellow mayors to the Ohio Mayors Alliance Board in 2018 and has been a steadfast leader through some extraordinarily challenging times.



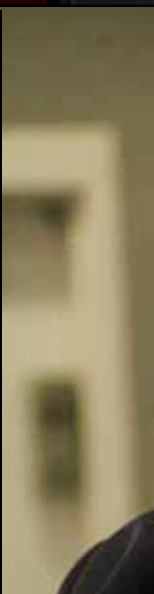
Beavercreek Mayor Bob Stone

Mayor Stone has a long history of service to his community and his country. A Vietnam War veteran and 2023 inductee into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Mayor Stone has dedicated much of his professional life to serving the Beavercreek community. He has brought that same sense of service and humility to the Ohio Mayors Alliance Board of Directors, where he has served since 2022. Mayor Stone's passion for public service and commonsense approach has helped lead the Ohio Mayors Alliance forward.



Canton Mayor Thomas M. Bernabei

After serving in the U.S. military in Vietnam, and as a lawyer, prosecutor, and county commissioner, among other things, Mayor Bernabei was elected Mayor of Canton in 2015. He joined the Ohio Mayors Alliance in 2016, and his administration has been active in OMA's Federal Resources Collaboration Lab as well as the Mayors and Police Chiefs Leadership Committee. Through his leadership as mayor, the city has prospered and the Pro Football Hall of Fame has completed a multimillion renovation and expansion.



Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield

Mayor Frank Whitfield was elected in 2019 after serving his community through the non-profit sector and as Urban League President. Mayor Whitfield has been a strong voice for Elyria in our statewide coalition of mayors. He has served as Co-Chair of the Ohio Mayors Alliance Education Advocacy Leadership Committee and been active in the Federal Resources Collaboration Lab. He brought his passion for public service to the mayor's office and will no doubt continue to contribute his time and talent to his community, making the State of Ohio a better place for all residents.



Lancaster Mayor David Scheffler

Elected as mayor in 2019 and appointed to the Ohio Mayors Alliance Board in 2020, Mayor David Scheffler has been a leader in his community and statewide through our bipartisan coalition of mayors. He's been a voice of sound judgement and clarity through some very challenging times. In addition to serving his community, Mayor Scheffler previously served in the US Army and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2023.

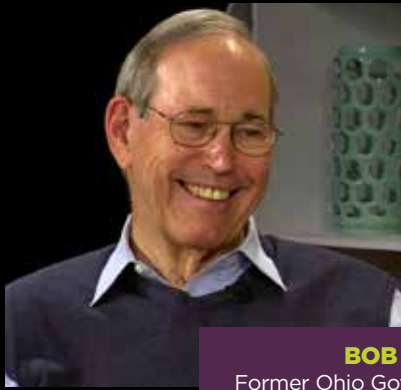
Middletown Mayor Nicole Condrey

Mayor Nicole Condrey has brought an important and unique perspective to the Middletown Mayor's Office and the Ohio Mayors Alliance. Having served in the U.S. Army and then the US Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer, she served tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan. Mayor Condrey is also a professional sky diver and trainer. In 2019, she qualified as a member of the U.S. Parachute Team and represents the United States on the international stage. Mayor Condrey has been a tireless advocate for her community and an important member of the Ohio Mayors Alliance.



Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland

Warren Copeland has dedicated a lifetime of service to the Springfield community. Mayor Copeland served over 35 years on the Springfield City Commission, and as mayor from 1990 to 1994 and from 1998 to 2023. He was also the first person directly elected mayor by the voters in 2003. In addition to serving the city, Mayor Copeland was also a distinguished professor of Religion and Director of Urban Studies at Wittenberg University. He was honored with the university's most prestigious teaching recognition, the Alumni Association's "Distinguished Teaching Award," in 1995. Dr. Copeland also taught OMA Executive Director Keary McCarthy at Wittenberg and was an extraordinary example of living a life of service to him and so many other students.



BOB TAFT
Former Ohio Governor



MICHAEL B. COLEMAN
Former Columbus Mayor



JANE CAMPBELL
Former Cleveland Mayor

BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP

The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation is led by a bipartisan group of former state and local leaders. Keary McCarthy serves as the Executive Director of both the Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation and the Ohio Mayors Alliance.

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

F O U N D A T I O N

The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation is an affiliated 501(c)(3) that provides non-partisan policy research and education support for the Ohio Mayors Alliance. The shared mission of the two organizations is to strengthen Ohio's cities and metropolitan regions through collaboration, communication, improved advocacy, and stronger partnerships with policymakers.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation supports our mayors as they establish a common set of priorities, share best practices, and lift up their collective voices to advocate for their cities and their constituents. The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation serves as an important vehicle to foster this collaboration and maximize the potential impacts that mayors can have when they work together.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation is led by a bipartisan group of former state and local leaders. The board of directors includes former Ohio Governor Bob Taft, former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and former Cleveland Mayor Jane L. Campbell.

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

Federal Resources Collaboration Lab
Joyce Foundation

Students to Citizens: Civic Learning
Dayton Learn to Earn and the Kettering Foundation

Ensuring Cities' Fiscal Health
George Gund Foundation

Supporting Sustainable and Resilient Cities
Energy Foundation and Power a Clean Future Ohio

State Preemption of Local Control
Voices for Healthy Kids and the American Heart Association

Meet Our Team



Tristina Allen
Operations &
Events Manager



Keary McCarthy
Executive Director



Sarah Biehl
Policy Director



Shawn Kasych
Statehouse Advocate
Principal, Kasych Group LLC

The Ohio Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of mayors of Ohio's largest cities.

Following years of state budget cuts to local governments, mayors from both parties came together in 2016 to form the Ohio Mayors Alliance. This unique, state-based, bipartisan coalition of mayors formed to leverage the mayors' collective voices and improve their advocacy efforts at the state and federal level.

“

“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.”

*Former Kettering Mayor and OMA
Board Member, Don Patterson*



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE
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