2022 ANNUAL REPORT

STRONG CITIES FOR A STRONGER OHIO

PARTNERSHIPS • COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • ADVOCACY
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.
Fellow Ohioans,

As we close out 2022, we reflect on this year of growth as an organization both in our work and in our membership. This year, we welcomed a class of new mayors to the organization, both newly elected mayors of member cities and an expanded list of eligible cities as a result of the 2020 Census.

With this expanded membership and the formation of the Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation, an affiliated 501(c)(3), we were able to offer more programming and resources to our communities, through initiatives like the Federal Resources Collaboration Lab and enhanced statehouse advocacy. And thanks to our collective and individual advocacy, the State of Ohio allocated resources down to local communities for shared priorities, including federal fiscal support and infrastructure money and state grants for public safety and economic development.

When we announced our “Strong Cities for a Stronger Ohio” initiative in December 2021, we wanted to re-emphasize the critical role Ohio’s cities play in our statewide economy and ensure Ohio’s cities had the resources necessary to serve their residents and workers. This message still resonates today and we look forward to our continued collective advocacy in 2023.

We hope you will take a moment to read through our 2022 Annual Report and learn more about our organization, our collective work, and how we are working together to solve today’s toughest challenges.

Respectfully,

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
2022 POLICY PRIORITIES

Recovery, Equity, and Opportunity
Economic Development and Budget Stability
Public Safety, Violence Prevention, and Justice
Educational Attainment and Workforce Readiness
Clean Energy Solutions and Sustainable Cities
Promoting Democracy and Bipartisanship
Public Health and Addiction Prevention
Preserving Local Control
21st Century Infrastructure and Housing Support
Local Innovation and City Solutions

BIPARTISANSHIP AND CONSENSUS

The Ohio Mayors Alliance is structured to ensure that there is bipartisanship and consensus building amongst the cities. The board members must be from different parties and include representation from the larger cities and the smaller ones under 80,000 in population. Adoption of any official policy position by the Ohio Mayors Alliance must be approved by a supermajority or two-thirds of the total membership.

OUR WORK

• State and federal advocacy
• Connecting our cities to agencies and resources
• Collaboration and best practice sharing
New Year, New Faces

In 2022, we added a total of nine new mayors to our coalition. In the municipal elections of 2021, six of our member cities elected new mayors. Additionally, we had three new cities join our coalition: Cleveland, Huber Heights, and Reynoldsburg.

Our membership is comprised of the top 30 cities in Ohio based on population counts from the US Census. The 2020 Census brought us a new class of cities eligible for participation. This new group of local elected leaders brings with them fresh perspectives and experiences, adding to the strength of the coalition.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Dayton Mayor Jeffrey Mims Jr., Lima Mayor Sharetta Smith, Kettering Mayor Peggy Lehner, Huber Heights Mayor Jeff Gore, Fairfield Mayor Mitch Rhodus, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, Cleveland Heights Mayor Kahlil Seren, Reynoldsburg Mayor Joe Begeny
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
*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.
At the end of 2021, we launched our *Strong Cities for a Stronger Ohio* campaign to promote the value and importance of Ohio’s cities to Ohio’s statewide economic success. The campaign focuses on the important role cities play in supporting regional growth and driving Ohio’s economy.

In 2021, Ohio’s metro economies were home to 84 percent of the state’s jobs and 86 percent of Ohio’s real gross state product (GSP), according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and IHS Markit.

Ohio’s metro- and micropolitan regions are continually recognized for being dynamic centers for growth in the country. Findlay was named the top micropolitan in the country for the 8th year in a row by *Site Selection Magazine*, and Dayton was ranked first for a region of its size for new development projects.

Our cities are not alone in driving Ohio’s economic success, but they are a key component of the networks of businesses, employers, non-profits, and local governments that make our metro- and micropolitan regions strong.

*Strong Cities for a Stronger Ohio* provides a platform for our mayors to communicate the critically important role their cities play in supporting regional growth and driving Ohio’s statewide economic success.
We are all in this together.

Examples of regional collaboration that are helping to drive statewide economic success:

**AKRON**

The Akron metro economy has capitalized on the region’s automotive industry, with tires, parts, and stamping plants. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and Bridgestone/Firestone anchor the Akron metro area’s tire-manufacturing industry. And with more than 400 polymer-related companies, Akron is one of the nation’s leading polymer research and development centers.

**CINCINNATI**

Cincinnati’s approach to regional inclusive growth – encompassing its economic development plans as well as its strategic approach to developing its workers, space, and community assets – was profiled by the Brookings Institution in 2022 as a model for how to rebuild local economies. Leveraging the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital to create the Cincinnati Innovation District, Cincinnati has fostered the growth of STEM-educated workers in the region. A key component of the region’s plans - supporting all residents by focusing on entrepreneurship among the city’s historically underserved communities and residents - has led to more women and minority-owned startups and community entities.

**FINDLAY**

For the eighth straight year, the City of Findlay was named by Site Selection magazine as the top micropolitan statistical area in the country (out of 543). The magazine focuses on industrial projects, and Findlay earned this distinction for expansion of existing businesses as well as attracting new projects. To meet the region’s resulting need for talent development and supply chain integration, two area universities and a community college joined forces in 2021 to form a Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics.

**COLUMBUS**

The Columbus metro economy secured the largest economic development win in Ohio history. Intel Corporation’s plan to build semiconductor fabrication facilities in central Ohio relies on the cooperation of Franklin and Licking counties, multiple cities and townships, area homeowners, businesses, and residents who work, live, and travel through this region. Columbus’ investment of water and sewer infrastructure is a key component of this development.

**LANCASTER**

The City of Lancaster recently invested in a major water infrastructure project that was the key to finalizing a significant economic development project in the Lancaster/Fairfield County area.
This year’s Commonsense Governing Award recipients:

Pictured from left to right with Youngstown Mayor Jamael Tito Brown:

Senator Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati), Senator Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood), Representative Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), and Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo)
Mayors & Lawmakers Luncheon

On March 29, we hosted a luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium to bring our mayors and our state lawmakers together. In addition to discussing how Ohio’s economic success depends on strong local, regional, and state cooperation, we also recognized four state lawmakers with the Ohio Mayors Alliance Commonsense Governing Award.

This recognition was given to four state lawmakers: two senators and two state representatives, two Republicans and two Democrats. This year’s Commonsense Governing Award was given to these lawmakers for their work to support cities through the challenges of the pandemic and for a shared belief that Ohio is stronger when our state and local leaders work together.
Mayors & Lawmakers Regional Meeting in Cleveland

On July 11, we hosted a regional mayors and lawmakers meeting in Cleveland to showcase the important role our cities play in driving regional growth and supporting Ohio’s statewide economic success. The meeting allowed mayors and lawmakers from different parties and different parts of the state to share their perspectives about issues that impact our cities and our state, including economic development tools, public safety, and municipal fiscal stability.

The meeting also included a presentation on The Centennial, a historic building in downtown Cleveland that will be redeveloped with commercial and residential space using Transformational Mixed-Use Development funding from the state. The meeting concluded with a tour of the historic West Side Market.
White House Summit: Communities in Action — Building a Better Ohio

Ohio’s mayors, local elected officials, and non-profit leaders were invited to attend a summit at the White House to discuss the local impacts of federal legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Biden, including the American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

During the summit, mayors met with members of the Biden administration, including: Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Julie Chávez Rodriguez, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Gene Sperling, Senior Adviser to President Biden; and Keisha Lance Bottoms, Director of White House Office of Public Engagement. They participated in roundtable discussions, press interviews, and virtual presentations.
STRONG COLLABORATION FOR A STRONGER OHIO

Youngstown Mayor Jamael Tito Brown, Lima Mayor Sharetta Smith, Athens Mayor Steve Patterson, and Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther with Evan Wessel and Gabe Amo of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Supporting Sustainable and Resilient Cities — Power a Clean Future Ohio

Since 2020, we have partnered with Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO), a coalition that promotes sustainable cities and helps local governments reduce carbon emissions. PCFO tailors its policy and program recommendations to each city’s resource levels and desired goals. They now support 41 communities throughout Ohio, including 16 Ohio Mayors Alliance cities.

This year, PCFO launched an Infrastructure Grant Assistance Program to support and aid local governments pursuing federal funding for clean energy and clean transportation projects. They also released a research report on the potential costs to local governments to address issues related to climate change, estimating that by 2050 municipal spending on climate change will increase by $5.9 billion annually. To close out the year, PCFO hosted sustainability spotlight tours in Dayton and Cleveland to highlight local clean energy projects.

Monitoring the fiscal impacts of remote working

Remote working has the potential to impact municipal tax revenue in cities large and small across Ohio. The trend toward remote or hybrid working was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but will continue after the health risks have subsided. Ohio’s local governments are unique in that municipal income tax, from both residents and commuters, is the primary revenue source for most cities, funding critical city services including public safety services and infrastructure improvements.

To better understand these impacts and monitor the situation on the ground, we have pulled together a working group of our cities’ finance and tax professionals. This working group regularly convenes to share insights and gather feedback on potential long-term solutions.
Federal Resources Collaboration Lab

In 2022, we launched a new program for our members, the Federal Resources Collaboration Lab. The Lab was established to help mayors navigate the opportunities provided through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This initiative includes a working group of mayors to collaborate on best practices, a customized grants navigator for OMA member-cities, and a web page that highlights the impacts these resources are having in Ohio communities.
Throughout the year, we tracked the progress of federally funded projects in our cities and how those investments were stabilizing our cities after the pandemic and laying the groundwork for transforming our neighborhoods and communities. In two reports, we demonstrated that investment in our cities is delivering results for our residents and our state by investing in infrastructure, community aid, and economic and workforce development.

Next year, as money from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act begins flowing down to local communities, our work will expand to assist our cities in navigating these grant programs and how to allocate the different federal dollars to maximize their impact.
This year, we launched a new podcast series titled “Local Solutions. Statewide Impact.” The monthly podcast features conversations with our mayors from both parties discussing the challenges and opportunities of Ohio’s cities and the importance of working together to get things done.

The podcast is hosted by Emmy-award winning journalist Scott Light, the former evening news anchor of the CBS affiliate in Columbus (WBNS-10TV).

The podcast has featured conversations with two retiring mayors reflecting on their years in office, how our mayors are investing American Rescue Plan funds, the important role mayors play in fostering economic growth in our state, and how mayors are building sustainable, resilient cities.
Around the State

Ohio city to use American Rescue Plan Act funds on various projects

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio — With the 30 largest cities across Ohio receiving $325 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, they’re getting the chance to work on some much-neededtocat items.

Ohio mayors visit White House to deliver stories of ‘opportunity’ with federal relief funds

The Statehouse News Bureau | By Andy Chow
Published September 7, 2022 at 4:17 PM EDT

Mayors from different Ohio cities attend a meeting at the White House to discuss the use of federal relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act on September.

Dayton Daily News
Complete, In-Depth, Independent.

How Ohio’s largest cities are spending American Rescue Plan funds

By Josh Swagert | Sept. 5, 2022

Ohio cities are using American Rescue Plan funds for things such as infrastructure improvements, public safety payroll and community aid programs, according to a new report from the Ohio Mayors Alliance.

The OMA used data reported to the U.S. Treasury by 30 of Ohio’s largest cities to analyze how a combined $234.2 million was spent and $385.7 million was budgeted on 177
We are an organization rooted in being advocates for our cities and residents. In 2022, we strengthened our advocacy efforts by engaging more deeply with stakeholders, with our federal government, and expanding to proactive advocacy on issues deeply important to our mayors. In this section you will see a snapshot of our advocacy efforts throughout the year.

### 2022 POLICY AGENDA

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<tr>
<th><strong>RECOVERY, EQUITY, AND OPPORTUNITY</strong></th>
<th><strong>PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND BIPARTISANSHIP</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Effectively utilizing federal investments (including the American Rescue Plan) to recover from the pandemic, address inequities, and create new opportunities for residents and communities.</td>
<td>Demonstrate the importance of bipartisan collaboration, celebrate bipartisanship at other levels of government, sustain democratic norms, and promote the importance of voter participation.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET STABILITY</strong></th>
<th><strong>PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADDICTION PREVENTION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring the impacts of work-from-home on municipal budgets, supporting improved economic development tools, and promoting the value of cities on the statewide economy.</td>
<td>Continue supporting data-driven public health strategies, promoting active and healthy communities, and preventing the deadly effects of addiction.</td>
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<th><strong>PUBLIC SAFETY, VIOLENCE PREVENTION, AND JUSTICE</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Continue to support improved policing practices and violence intervention strategies. Develop effective local, state, and federal collaboration and resource support.</td>
<td>Advocating for local control and the preservation of Home Rule.</td>
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<th><strong>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND WORKFORCE READINESS</strong></th>
<th><strong>21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING SUPPORT</strong></th>
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<td>Convene partners around local strategies and state-level advocacy efforts to enhance educational attainment and workforce readiness.</td>
<td>Promoting local innovative solutions and supporting strong water, digital, and transportation infrastructure, as well as housing access and affordability.</td>
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<th><strong>CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>LOCAL INNOVATION AND CITY SOLUTIONS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Support strategies for local communities to significantly reduce carbon emissions with clean transportation policies, renewable energy options, and waste reduction and land use policies.</td>
<td>Supporting cities by continuing to share best practices and make connections to other levels of government to solve problems.</td>
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Mayors Education Advocacy Leadership Committee

Enhancing civic education and leadership
This year, through a partnership with the Kettering Foundation, we have conducted a number of exploratory conversations centered around enhancing civic education and leadership for students in our state. Ensuring young people understand the role and importance of government, including local government, is vital to the continued strength of our democracy.

Supporting students during the summer and after school
The mayors and superintendents on the committee are uniquely positioned to collaborate on after-school and summer youth programming. Together we can ensure Ohio children and youth receive wrap-around services and opportunities to thrive outside the classroom.

Promoting pathways to careers
As a part of the Complete to Compete Ohio coalition, we are working to understand the future workforce demands in our state and align current career pathways to ensure that young Ohioans are prepared to enter the workforce.
Mayors and Police Chiefs Leadership Committee

Violence Intervention, Mental Health Support, and Body-Worn Cameras Grant Programs

This year, Governor DeWine launched a series of local public safety grant programs funded by the federal American Rescue Plan. These grants, including grants for body-worn camera programs, local violence reduction and prevention, and first-responder mental health, helped to support our cities’ law enforcement agencies and provided initial funding for our mayors to develop new innovative programs, taking a holistic approach to tackling crime in their cities.

Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission

In last year’s state budget, the legislature approved the formation of a Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission, on which Middletown Mayor Nicole Condrey served. This year, the Commission issued their final report that called for a dedicated, long-term funding source for local law enforcement training to ensure that all officers across the state have access to high-quality training.

Best Practice Sharing: Violence Prevention

Through regular convenings of the committee, our mayors and police chiefs are sharing how they are improving policing practices in their cities and providing resources on how to implement them in others. This includes work our cities are doing to align law enforcement with behavioral and mental health services. Additionally, spurred by state violence prevention grants, our mayors and police chiefs are collaborating on best practices and innovative pilot programs that are having early results in decreasing violence.
Mayors and the cities they lead can be extraordinary agents of change with the power to address a range of local issues that collectively can have extraordinary impacts.

Consider the crucial role that cities play in reducing climate change, increasing economic mobility, improving policing practices, addressing racial justice, and promoting local innovation. Mayors can have significant impacts on these issues. By working together with a coalition of Republican and Democratic mayors in Ohio’s 30 largest cities, those impacts can be profound and extend well beyond our cities.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) that 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.

**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.

- Bob Taft
  Former Ohio Governor
- Michael B. Coleman
  Former Columbus Mayor
- Jane Campbell
  Former Cleveland Mayor
FEDERAL RESOURCES COLLABORATION LAB

ARP funds provided to cities have not only provided budget stability, but they have also created opportunities for transformational change in our communities. With grant funding from the Joyce Foundation, we have been supporting our cities through the Federal Resources Collaboration Lab as they consider ways to best utilize these once-in-a-generation federal resources.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND CIVIC LEARNING

Beginning with the Mayors Educational Attainment Summit in 2018, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we have been working to support Ohio’s educational attainment goal. We’re currently working with Dayton Learn to Earn and the Kettering Foundation on ways cities and schools can strengthen democracy and work together to promote citizenship and civic learning to our students.

THE FISCAL IMPACTS OF REMOTE WORKING

Remote working has the potential to impact municipal tax revenue in cities large and small across Ohio because municipal income tax is paid in the city where the work is performed. With support from the George Gund Foundation, we developed an economic impact analysis and continue to monitor the potential impacts to our cities’ budgets. We also launched an education campaign called Strong Cities for a Stronger Ohio to promote the importance of protecting the fiscal health of our cities.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITIES

We have been supporting a partnership with Power a Clean Future Ohio, which promotes sustainable cities and helps local governments reduce carbon emissions throughout Ohio by tailoring policy recommendations to the city’s resource levels and desired goals. Earlier this year, PCFO released a research report on the potential costs to local governments to address issues related to climate change.
The Ohio Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of mayors of Ohio’s largest cities.

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.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS