

OHIO METRO CHAMBER COALITION

2018 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



The Ohio Metro Chamber Coalition is comprised of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Ohio's eight largest metropolitan chambers of commerce, with a combined membership of over 25,000 businesses that provide 1.9 million jobs. Four out of every five Ohioans live in a metropolitan area. Metros connect people to transit, recreation, development, and jobs. This collaboration has a unique pulse on the issues facing businesses of all sizes operating in the top job creation centers of the state. We serve as a trusted resource that identifies topics of collective interest impacting Ohio's business community and leverage each organization's diverse membership to advance a united platform of public policy priorities promoting a pro-growth business climate. As Ohio prepares to elect a new governor and executive leadership team, we urge consideration of the following topics, listed alphabetically, to strengthen Ohio's economy.

CONTACTS:

JAMES DIGNAN

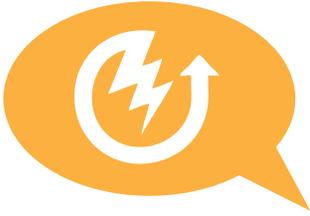
Chairman, Ohio Metro Chambers Coalition
President & CEO,
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
330.744.2131, ext. 1215
james@regionalchamber.com

GUY COVIELLO

Foundation President,
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
330.744.2131, ext. 1234
guy@regionalchamber.com

NICK SANTUCCI

Director, Government & Public Affairs,
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
330.744.2131, ext. 1103
nick@regionalchamber.com



ENERGY POLICY

Ohio lacks a comprehensive energy policy that acknowledges the advantages and benefits of each form of energy production. Ohio must adopt a true all-of-the-above energy strategy that provides security and predictability for the end-user. This strategy should utilize existing sources and encourage the development and use of traditional, advanced and renewable energy sources that maintain an economic balance.



MINIMUM WAGE

Ohio voters previously adopted a Constitutional amendment that adjusts the state minimum wage annually by the rate of inflation. However, we have also seen failed attempts in some communities to raise the minimum wage locally. For businesses to remain competitive, grow, and create jobs, they need a uniform environment across the state with respect to mandated wage rates. Any effort to impose an immediate, significant increase would likely cause harm to those the increase is intended to help.



SMART CITIES/TRANSPORTATION

Columbus' endeavor to use technology focused on mobility and transportation to transform the way people get around and improve quality of life, creates a learning opportunity for all cities to determine how the "smart city" concept can be applied to a variety of issues to solve civic problems and realize opportunities for economic growth. Policies should be adopted to help communities learn from and implement the innovations necessary to address the challenges and opportunities of smart technology. We should strive for a Smart Ohio.



TAX POLICY

Tax policies should promote economic growth and job creation and the overall impact on business competitiveness must be taken into account when considering changes to tax policy. We believe that the tax burden of a particular segment of our economy should not be simply shifted to another in order to provide relief to the former. Before seeking new revenue, government should first exhaust all opportunities to make itself more efficient and less costly.

Tax incentives should be periodically reviewed to determine their effectiveness and if they continue to serve the original intended purpose. Of note, the Historic Preservation Tax Credits and New Market Tax Credits are proven effective tools for creating economic opportunities in Ohio's cities.



TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ohio has a history of making significant investments in technology-based economic development, most recently through the Ohio Third Frontier. This initiative, first created in 2002, is one of the largest economic development programs in the state's history and has played a pivotal role in advancing the state's technology-focused entrepreneurial ecosystem. Going forward, Ohio's public and private sector must continue to work together to invest in key industries that are the foundation of the state's economy and support the growth of emerging industries that will be important to Ohio's economic future.

A concerted effort must be made to reauthorize spending past 2019 and evolve the Third Frontier to respond to the next wave of needs and opportunities in the state's technology industry.