

YOU'RE CREATING JOBS  
TO STRENGTHEN  
YOUR COMMUNITY.

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WE'RE CREATING POLICY  
TO STRENGTHEN  
FREE ENTERPRISE.

**WE'RE ALL FOR OHIO.**

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**2017-2018 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES**

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We are going to make sure the legislature doesn't stray from their main priority of making Ohio a better place in which to do business. This is why our goal for 2017-2018 is to create policy that strengthens free enterprise. The Ohio Chamber's Public Policy Priorities lays out goals for the state legislature to meet in order to ensure that our state remains economically competitive. A competing modern economy will create an environment in which businesses can expand and create jobs with less government interference. When businesses are not stifled, Ohio's communities thrive and all Ohioans win.

## **POLICY COMMITTEES**

As a member-driven organization, we examine the needs of Ohio employers to establish the Ohio Chamber's public policy priorities through our eight committees:

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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**HEALTH CARE**

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**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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**OHIO SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL**

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**TAXATION AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES**

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**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

We encourage members to participate on our committees. Your input ensures our advocacy efforts reflect the needs and concerns of your business.



# PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

To respond to the needs of Ohio employers for qualified, well-trained employees by promoting policies that meet the demands of today's workplace by pursuing strategies that link education and workforce development in a seamless system and embed skills-based learning into academic instruction.

### GOALS:

- Increase the number of occupations eligible for the state's incumbent worker training voucher program and pursue increased funding.
- Work to reduce the reliance of individuals on government financial assistance so that employers can attract skilled employees at justified and reasonable salaries.
- Support personal income tax exemptions for college graduates who accept jobs in Ohio within three years of graduation.
- Pursue enhanced funding for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program and ensure that grant eligibility remains need-based and student-directed.
- Advocate for a one semester course in financial literacy as a requirement for high school graduation.
- Identify opportunities to partner with the state or non-governmental organizations to provide Ohio youth and entry-level workers with the soft skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

To advocate for energy policies that promote Ohio's economic competitiveness and protect businesses' access to affordable, dependable energy and ensure environmental policies and regulations are both based on sound science and comprehensive information and avoid creating unnecessary red tape.

### GOALS:

- Support a comprehensive energy policy for Ohio that strengthens our economic competitiveness, provides for reliable sources of energy and promotes cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation choices.
- Advocate for the approval of the energy infrastructure projects critical to the continued development of Ohio's unconventional oil and natural gas basins.
- Engage in the disbursement process of funds resulting from the settlement of lawsuits.
- Work to ensure legislation targeting harmful algal blooms in Ohio's surface water is not overly burdensome on industry and is based on sound science.

## HEALTH CARE

To advocate for an affordable and sustainable market-based health care system that provides access to quality, affordable health care for all Ohioans.

### GOALS:

- Protect against initiatives that may stifle innovative efforts to modernize the health care system.
- Promote functional transparency so that Ohioans have access to timely, accurate, appropriate, uniform and user-friendly information on the quality and cost of their health care.
- Continue to educate lawmakers about the unintended consequences of government-imposed health care coverage mandates.
- Monitor federal activity surrounding the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and prepare to pursue state reforms in the small group market that enhance affordability of coverage.



## LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

To protect employers' rights to manage their workplace with limited governmental involvement and regulation and to simplify Ohio's employment law statutes in a way that's fair to both employers and employees.

### GOALS:

- Protect employers against rising unemployment compensation taxes by addressing the long-term solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.
- Restore balance and predictability for employers by conforming Ohio's employment discrimination law to federal employment discrimination statutes.
- Protect employers' ability to regulate their workplace and maintain sound human resource policies in regards to medical marijuana.
- Maintain employers' ability to have efficient and effective workplaces by defending against onerous government mandates that drive up labor costs.
- Continue to stress the need to ultimately make Ohio a right-to-work state.
- Support efforts to balance labor regulations, end the NLRB regulatory overreach, and protect employers' rights at the federal level.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To monitor and evaluate public affairs issues and activities including elections, campaign finance, ethics and lobbyist regulations, when of interest to the business community; and to examine proposed state constitutional amendments or initiative petition efforts that affect the electoral process.

### GOALS:

- Proactively battle initiatives proposed by anti-business special interest groups.
- Safeguard the Ohio Constitution by requiring broader public support for amendments.
- Ensure that laws prescribing the petition circulation process are clear and transparent.
- Monitor and evaluate recommendations originating with the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission.
- Preserve the First Amendment right of businesses to unrestricted political advocacy.

## SMALL BUSINESS

To promote and protect the establishment, growth and vitality of small business in Ohio.

### GOALS:

- Prevent state agencies from improperly creating rules through policy.
- Address, and work to reduce, the regulatory impact of existing statutes as well as future legislation.
- Restrain and reduce the ever-increasing cost of health care and oppose policies such as health care mandates that contribute to rising costs.
- Explore options to lower workers' compensation costs for employers.
- Simplify the tax code to reduce the administrative burden on small business and monitor the biennial budget process for adverse effects.
- Continue to support the important and beneficial work of the Common Sense Initiative and push to expand the scope of its responsibilities.



## ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

### TAXES AND SPENDING

To foster a fair and equitable tax system that stimulates growth, innovation and job creation and minimizes compliance costs and administrative burdens.

#### GOALS:

- Repeal the existing sales tax on employment services.
- Clarify the rules regarding what constitutes electronic information services that are subject to sales & use tax.
- Protect against excessive broadening of the sales tax base to services, particularly business inputs.
- Maintain the current, reasonable commercial activity tax rate, minimize tax expenditures and resist bifurcating the rate.
- Reduce the assessment percentage on electricity generation personal property.
- Push for additional reforms to address municipal income tax compliance costs and challenges.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

To ensure Ohio's workers' compensation system runs efficiently and effectively for both state-funded and self-insured employers, is effective in providing proper medical treatment for injured employees, and keeps its cost for employers competitive with other states' systems.

#### GOALS:

- Make claimants more responsible for their care.
- Require employees to report their alleged workplace injuries in a timely manner.
- Ensure that scheduled loss benefits are only payable for loss of earning capacity.
- Specify that claimants are not entitled to compensation if their economic loss was due to circumstances other than a compensable workplace accident.
- Require workers' compensation claims to be filed within one year.

To reach our public policy goals, our members and the business community must have the tools necessary to understand key policy and political issues. This means providing information and education on these issues, as well as opportunities to take action.

**Develop and implement political education and grassroots strategies that complement direct lobbying efforts to impact public policy.**

**Ensure that pro-business candidates are identified, supported, and elected to serve in state government.**

**Hold lawmakers accountable for their votes on key business issues.**

**Utilize social media and online communications to better share the business perspective.**



WE'RE  
ALL FOR  
OHIO.

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