

Ohio Matters

An Official Publication of The Ohio Chamber of Commerce

By Anthony Lagunzad, Director, Political & Grassroots Programs

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ELECTION 2020: BUCKLE UP AND VOTE!

Are you sick of the ads yet? Buckle up, because it only gets worse until after Election Day Nov. 3, and Ohio is still a tried-and-true battleground state.

There were reports earlier this election cycle that for the presidential race, the Democrats would not focus as much on a “reddening” Ohio. Well, whether that was a shrewd misdirection tactic or the political winds have changed over the course of 2020, one thing is for sure: There is always a lot worth fighting for — and winnable — for both sides in Ohio elections.

It’s an interesting election year in our state. Putting the presidential election aside for a moment, there are only two statewide races on the ballot. Those two races are for Ohio Supreme Court seats in which two incumbents in the current 5-2 philosophically fair and balanced majority are up for re-election. Those two incumbents are Justices Sharon Kennedy and Judi French, both of whom have been endorsed by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC, along with many other business groups.

These are the most important races in Ohio aside from the presidency. Losing this philosophical majority could be incredibly detrimental to Ohio Chamber members and the statewide business community. It has been a long time since Ohio last had an activist court, but if that happens again, legislation carefully vetted and crafted in the Statehouse by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor can be easily shot down by the Ohio Supreme Court.

We know this because it was a regular occurrence under an

OHIO CHAMBER of COMMERCE

PAC
Political Action Committee

SHARON KENNEDY
OHIO SUPREME COURT

JUDI FRENCH
OHIO SUPREME COURT

WE PROUDLY ENDORSE

activist Ohio Supreme Court 20 years ago. It is our responsibility to protect our businesses by voting to keep **Kennedy** and **French** on the bench on Nov. 3.

Surprisingly, no ballot issues are up for a vote. Usually if Ohio’s businesses find themselves fighting against a ballot issue, it can be difficult, because proponents can sometimes be backed by substantial out-of-state resources.

For the General Assembly, Republicans currently hold a slim supermajority in both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Earlier this cycle, Ohio Democrats had touted that their major goal was to capture enough seats to eliminate the supermajorities.

But this past summer when then-Ohio Speaker of the House Rep.

Larry Householder was indicted on pay-to-play racketeering charges and subsequently removed from that leadership position and replaced, House Democrats have turned their sights on capitalizing on it to flip the Ohio House and gain the majority outright.

For both sides, it’s a major battle. Campaign resources on both sides for Statehouse races are being utilized as efficiently as possible as COVID-19 has made campaigning and fundraising substantially harder with social distancing restrictions. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC, which seeks to support pro-business candidates, has released its list of endorsed candidates for the General Assembly. It can be found in this issue and on the Ohio Chamber website under Political & Grassroots Engagements.

Speaking of COVID-19 and campaigning, a trend we’ve seen at the state and local level is virtual fundraisers or virtual tele-town halls on platforms such as Zoom. It’s certainly a jarring difference to conventional campaigning. It can be argued that it gives candidates more access to people and covers broader areas. In some regions of the state, candidates and campaigns are operating closer to conventional tactics and still conducting in-person meetings, mostly with social distancing in practice. But regardless

Campaign resources on both sides for Statehouse races are being utilized as efficiently as possible as COVID-19 has made campaigning and fundraising substantially harder with social distancing restrictions.

of how state office campaigns operate, COVID-19 has absolutely affected them, and those effects on the 2020 election will be analyzed and studied for years to come.

But how can we ignore this presidential race? I’m sure you see plenty on President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden. But for Ohio, the main thing to think about from a state-level perspective politically is if these presidential campaigns — which will spend an enormous number of resources — will have done the heavy lifting for down-ticket races. It’s hard to predict how things will play out with whoever wins. That is definitely the word to describe 2020: Unpredictable.

But both candidates and parties do vocally agree that job creators need help recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit with potentially different approaches. The Ohio Chamber will continue to do our part to push that priority at the state level and support our national counterparts as things pivot from a political focus back to a policy focus.

Remember – vote Sharon Kennedy and Judi French for Ohio Supreme Court!



Safeguarding the payment experience with **contactless solutions**

As businesses and customers alike adapt to a new “normal” during these changing times, the ability to offer a safe, convenient and quick payment experience can help you navigate a new way of operating your business. Cash is no longer king when safeguarding the payment experience.

The ability to accept contactless payments should be an essential component of business operations. We offer several contactless payment solutions that can help your business minimize contact at the point of sale. To learn how contactless solutions can help your business, contact:

Michael Howard

Assistant Vice President | Commercial Payment Executive
U.S. Bank Payment Services | Elavon
p. 937.763.6810 | michael.howard6@usbank.com



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PAC’S FIRST-ROUND ENDORSEMENTS

On Aug. 4, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (OCCPAC) announced its first round of Ohio General Assembly endorsements for the Nov. 3 General Election. OCCPAC seeks out and supports General Assembly candidates who are committed to free enterprise and making Ohio’s business climate the most competitive in the country. These endorsed candidates have a consistent, proven track record of supporting Ohio’s business community, especially during the current General Assembly. 🗳️

OHIO SENATE

DISTRICT	PARTY	CANDIDATE
2	Republican	Theresa Gavarone
4	Republican	George Lang*
6	Republican	Niraj Antani*
8	Republican	Bill (Lou) Blessing
10	Republican	Bob Hackett
12	Republican	Matt Huffman
14	Republican	Terry Johnson
16	Republican	Stephanie Kunze
18	Republican	Jerry Cirino*
20	Republican	Tim Schaffer
22	Republican	Mark Romanchuk*
24	Republican	Matt Dolan
26	Republican	Bill Reineke*
30	Republican	Frank Hoagland

OHIO HOUSE

DISTRICT	PARTY	CANDIDATE
1	Republican	Scott Wiggam
4	Republican	Bob Cupp
5	Republican	Tim Ginter
38	Republican	Bill Roemer*
43	Republican	Rodney Creech*
47	Republican	Derek Merrin
50	Republican	Reggie Stoltzfus
52	Republican	Jennifer Gross*
62	Republican	Scott Lipps
66	Republican	Adam Bird*
67	Republican	Kris Jordan
70	Republican	Darrell Kick
71	Republican	Mark Fraizer
78	Republican	Brian Stewart*
79	Republican	Kyle Koehler
80	Republican	Jena Powell
82	Republican	Craig Riedel
84	Republican	Susan Manchester
87	Republican	Riordan McClain
96	Republican	Ron Ferguson*



*Indicates challenger for the seat

VOTING IN OHIO



For detailed information and to find each county’s early voting location and ballot drop box, go to **VoteOhio.gov**.

Here are important dates for the Nov. 3, 2020, election.

- » The deadline to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 5.
- » The first day of early in-person voting is Oct. 6. Each county’s board of elections will have one location for early in-person voting. Registered voters can vote in person:
 - Oct. 6-16, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Oct. 19-23, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Sunday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Oct. 26-30, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Monday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



IDENTIFICATION

On Election Day, polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are voting in person, bring one of the following for identification.

- 1 Photo ID not expired with voter’s current name and address, **OR**
- 2 Military ID **OR**
- 3 Utility bill
- 4 Bank statement
- 5 Government check
- 6 Paycheck
- 7 Other government document that contains voter’s name and address

(See VoteOhio.gov for detailed identification information.)



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

To request an absentee ballot to vote by mail:

- 1 Request an application or download it at VoteOhio.gov.
- 2 Complete the application and mail it to your board of elections.
- 3 Once you receive the ballot, mark all selections and fill out ID envelope and return the ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2 or received at the appropriate board of elections by 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3. 🗳️

AN UPDATE ON THE 2020 FEDERAL ELECTION

By Ashlee Rich Stephenson, Vice President and National Political Director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The 2020 election cycle has promised to be a year unlike any other in politics. From anticipated record-breaking turnout and spending, to the incredible disruption the coronavirus pandemic has caused to “business as usual” in the world of politics, this year is shaping up to be unlike anything we’ve experienced in modern history.

The presidential race has dominated nearly all political news since the Democratic primary contest kicked off in earnest. After nearly 16 months of campaigning, former Vice President Joe Biden is now officially the Democratic nominee for president. In addition, the ticket is set with Sen. Kamala Harris as his vice presidential running mate.

While the top of the ticket will continue to drive news coverage and yield significant ramifications on several down ballot contests, there are still 35 races this year for the U.S. Senate (35 percent of the entire body) and 435 races for the U.S. House, as all seats in the lower body are on the ticket every two years.

Beyond the presidential race, the most closely watched campaigns are those that will determine the balance of power in the United States Senate. With 35 races this year, 23 of those seats are held by Republicans and 12 by Democrats. In addition, there are currently six seats listed as “Toss Ups” by the Cook Political Report, all of which are held by Republicans. Another four are “Lean Republican,” while just two are “Lean Democrat.”



To further understand the competitive nature of these Senate contests, three are in the top six presidential target states (Arizona, Michigan and North Carolina) necessary to either a Donald Trump or Joe Biden victory on their pathway to reaching 270 electoral college votes. Maine awards its Electoral College votes by congressional district, and Maine’s Second Congressional District (one delegate) is also considered a must-win for either campaign to achieve success.

In an unusual shift away from historical precedent, Ohio is not in today’s top presidential tossup list. That said, the Buckeye State is absolutely necessary for Trump by way of his mathematical pathway to a potential re-election.

Among Ohio’s 16 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, three are classified as “competitive” this year, as defined by the Cook Political Report. Congressional District 10 and Congressional District 12 are currently ranked as “Likely Republican” seats but

are still high profile enough to qualify as competitive. Ohio’s Tenth Congressional District is represented by Republican Mike Turner. Turner was elected to this Dayton-area seat in 2012 and previously represented Ohio’s former Third Congressional District before redistricting occurred in 2010. Ohio’s Twelfth Congressional District is represented by Republican Troy Balderson. In August 2018, Balderson won the special GOP primary election that occurred to replace retiring member Pat Tiberi. He then went on to win the general election that November to represent this Central Ohio district.

Ohio’s First Congressional District is setting up to be the state’s most competitive 2020 House race. This Cincinnati-area seat is represented by Rep. Steve Chabot, who is facing what many expect to be a tough general election challenge, as the Cook Political Report moved this race to the “Toss Up” column in July. Trump won this district by almost 7 points in 2016 — 51.2 percent to 44.6 percent — and Chabot represented this district since his first win in 1994 and served until 2008, when he lost. He won this seat back in 2010.

While the ultimate result of the 2020 election cycle is almost impossible to predict, there is one thing we can be sure of — we are still likely in for more surprises in the final stretch to Nov. 3. 🗳️

ACTION PLAN TO INCREASE HIGH-VALUE CREDENTIALS AND POST-SECONDARY DEGREES

BLUEPRINT SEEN AS A KEY TOOL IN OHIO ECONOMY'S POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

To position Ohio’s workers and businesses for long-term success in the face of significant economic headwinds, a coalition of Ohio education, business and policy leaders has released a new five-part plan to help more Ohioans earn the high-value credentials and post-secondary degrees they need to be successful.

Bridging Ohio’s Workforce Gap has been released by Complete to Compete Ohio, a public-private coalition of more than 40 member organizations throughout the state committed to helping more Ohioans increase their educational attainment, allowing them to secure available in-demand jobs. Educational attainment — measured for a state as the percentage of adults with a high-value credential or post-secondary degree — is a well-recognized measure of a strong, jobs-ready workforce and a key ingredient for personal economic growth and success.

Ohio has made steady progress in raising the level of attainment of its citizens, but the most recent data show that only 49.2 percent of Ohioans had received a high-value credential or post-secondary degree, two points lower than the national average and placing Ohio 31st out of 50 states. Reaching the ideal 65 percent threshold would



require nearly 1 million additional Ohioans to obtain a high-value credential or post-secondary degree.

For the state to improve the attainment level of its citizens and reach its economic potential, the Bridging Ohio’s Workforce Gap plan has five broad objectives.

- 1 Make attainment highly valued. Helping Ohioans better understand how earning a new high-value credential or post-secondary degree will better prepare them for career success and improve their quality of life can help build the motivation to pursue additional education.
- 2 Align education and business. Education institutions must teach the skills employers need, employers must let education institutions know what those skills are and students of all ages must be exposed to work-based learning options.

- 3 Increase access and affordability. Create and communicate affordable routes to degrees and credentials to allow Ohioans to access and complete their education, in person or remotely, with minimal or no debt.
- 4 Advance academic success and completion. Strong supports, effective educators and increased guidance can help ensure Ohioans finish degree and certificate programs successfully, on time and with the skills they need to contribute in the workplace on day one.
- 5 Foster regional partnerships. Different parts of the state often have different economic needs, and many local efforts exist to pool resources, ideas and talents to drive their region’s success. Strengthening our existing partnerships and creating more local, multisector partnerships can help address local workforce and education needs and accelerate attainment.

The Complete to Compete Ohio coalition is starting this work right away. Coalition members are working to develop a statewide communications campaign to raise awareness in key populations about how high-value credentials and post-secondary degrees can help their career prospects.

Employers are getting involved through regional partnerships, such as industry sector partnerships and business advisory councils with school districts, to communicate the skills students need to be successful and to create work-based learning opportunities. The state is also working with school districts and counselors to make college affordable for more students by increasing the number of students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and securing financial aid.

With this new action plan, the coalition is ready to expand and deepen its existing work while also pursuing new partnerships and the programs outlined in the plan designed to move the needle on educational attainment. Anyone interested in the future economic opportunities for Ohioans, employers or our state can get involved.

For more information on Bridging Ohio’s Workforce Gap and to learn how you can get involved, visit www.CompletetoCompeteOhio.org.

ADAPTING TO A NEW PAYMENTS LANDSCAPE

By US Bank

This year brought new challenges for both small businesses and their customers alike.

The pandemic has put a laser-like focus on safeguarding the cardholder payment experience and providing new ways of doing business. Now, more than ever, it’s crucial to prepare your business, your employees and your community for a new market reality.

Payment acceptance is an essential building block for any business. To adjust to new customer demands, it’s time to look at how payments can help pivot your operations and overall strategy. As we transition to a new business reality, enabling customers to pay their preferred way is key to customer satisfaction. Simply accepting credit and debit card payments is no longer enough.

The ability to accept contactless payments should be an essential component of operating safely and minimizing the spread of germs. Contactless cards, mobile wallets and smartwatches are all convenient and quick ways to pay while avoiding contact at the point of sale.

EMV/NFC-enabled POS devices are the most essential part of accepting contactless payments in store and on the go. Contact your payment processor about special offers and

equipment rental programs to get up and running quickly. 2020 was poised to be the year of contactless adoption before business as we know it changed, and now its adoption is increasing exponentially, as 31 million Americans tapped a Visa® contactless card or digital wallet in March 2020, up from 25 million in November, with overall contactless usage in the U.S. growing 150 percent since March 2019.¹

Additionally, as online shopping and ordering reach a tipping point, the ability to add eCommerce payment functionality to your business is key to future success. Look for flexible solutions that multitask, including accepting payments in store, online, and via mobile or phone. Cloud-based POS solutions can help you simplify your operations and uncover strategic insights that can empower your small business to grow.

Want to reduce business costs and expenses? You can access your payment proceeds faster and control payment processing interchange expenses with new funding speed solutions, surcharging and Commercial Card Optimization. Cash flow is the core of keeping a business open and running. In fact, 66 percent of small businesses say that funding timing has the largest impact on their cash flow management.² Whether it’s paying invoices or payroll, investing in a new technology or upgrading to



Contactless cards, mobile wallets and smartwatches are all convenient and quick ways to pay while avoiding contact at the point of sale.

- new customer engagement channels, having money in your account enables you to achieve your goals.
 - Benefits of cash flow management include:
 - Having cash on hand ready to invest in any opportunity
 - Balancing deposits versus withdrawals to avoid delays in paying bills, invoices or other costs
 - Knowing when cash will be available to schedule payments
 - Having easier reconciliation of batch versus funding deposits
- Ensure you’re ready to adapt to a new business landscape. U.S. Bank and Elavon provide you and your business with strength and stability during uncertain and changing times.
- If you would like more information on U.S. Bank’s payment processing, contact Michael Howard at (937) 763-6810, or Michael.howard6@usbank.com.
- 1 Visa
2 ACI Worldwide



NOV. 1 DEADLINE TO REPORT UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Sherry Maxfield, Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce

Thank you, business leaders, for continuing to report unclaimed property to our office. It is because of you that we’ve been able to return \$1 billion to Ohioans. We know there is more money out there waiting to be claimed, and we want to reunite those funds with their rightful owners.


That is why we are asking you to report all unclaimed funds to the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds, by Nov. 1. Adhering to this deadline increases the chances that our office can locate the fund owners.

Division Superintendent Akil Hardy prepared the below guidance to help you with the reporting process.

- Chapter 169 of the Ohio Revised Code requires all businesses operating in the state of Ohio, or holding funds due to Ohio residents, to file an Annual Report of Unclaimed Funds with the division.
- The Nov. 1, 2020, filing deadline is for accounts dormant as of June 30, 2020.
- Life insurance companies have until May 1, 2021, to file a report.
- Political subdivisions and IRC 501(C)(3) hospitals are exempt from filing.
- Businesses not holding any unclaimed funds must file a Negative (NONE) Report. We encourage you to file the report through Ohio Business Gateway.
- CPAs or attorneys who are in private practice are required to file an Annual Report of Unclaimed Funds.
- CPAs and attorneys not in private practice do not have to file an unclaimed funds report separate from the firms for which they work.

All businesses should file their Annual Report of Unclaimed Funds (including Negative Reports) through the Ohio Business Gateway at business.ohio.gov. If you have questions, please visit <https://www.com.ohio.gov/unfd/> or call at (614) 466-4433.

If you have concerns about meeting the deadline, you may request an automatic extension at <https://apps2.com.ohio.gov/unfd/extension/>.

A copy of the Annual Report of Unclaimed Funds can be downloaded at https://www.com.ohio.gov/documents/unfd_AnnualReportOfUnclaimedFunds.pdf. 

OHIO CHAMBER CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF NEW HEALTH PROGRAM

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and UnitedHealthcare, the country’s largest health insurance provider, are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Ohio Chamber Health Benefit Program (OCHBP).

As we continue into our second year of partnership, small business owners and their employees will continue to see lower health care costs from a portfolio of plans that may not always be available to them. Ohio Chamber members save an average of 25 percent on health benefits through the OCHBP, which is tailored specifically for Ohio businesses with two to 50 employees.

Ohio Chamber members can choose from a variety of PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) and HSA (Health Savings Account) health plans. Covered employees have access to UnitedHealthcare’s broad network of nearly 75,000 physicians and care professionals and 294 hospitals and other care facilities in the state. They also have access to more than 1.3 million physicians and care professionals and 6,500 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide.

“We continue to be excited to offer this program to our small business members,” says OCHBP Executive



Director Scott Colby. “They are the backbone of our state, and we want to do everything we can to support them. Our continued product growth and enriched line of services validate our commitment to developing programs for small businesses.”

Last year, UnitedHealthcare produced a Spotlight on Small Business Program, in which business owners were featured on the big screen during OSU home football games.

“We look to provide value for small businesses in a variety of ways,” says AJ Miller, vice president of Small Business for UnitedHealthcare in Ohio. “The ability to support and create a platform for small businesses to advertise in a unique

way shows our commitment to small business growth in Ohio.”

The Ohio Chamber this year will also be providing an opportunity for small businesses to access a Free Marketing Minute, where winners can create a message delivered to markets across Ohio. “Small businesses often do not have the bandwidth or budget to advertise, and it is our responsibility to help owners expand their footprint and broadly deliver value,” says Colby.

TELEMEDICINE AND UNITEDHEALTHCARE APP

When you need care, any time of the day or night, telemedicine (or virtual visits) may be a great option. From treating colds and fevers to caring for migraines and allergies, you can connect with a doctor whenever, wherever.

Covered employees have access to on-demand telemedicine services 24/7 with the UnitedHealthcare mobile app. The UnitedHealthcare app provides health information for people on the go, offering plan participants a single source to help maintain and improve their well-being, access care and make the most out of their health benefits.

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SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

Provided by Working Partners®

The last several months have been a giant roller coaster ride, and not a fun one.

Employers have had to re-examine everything about their business — how to comply with ever-changing government guidelines, how to keep their employees safe and healthy and, most critically, how to keep the lights on. And employees have had to navigate working from home, being furloughed, social distancing in the office, becoming teachers to their kids and more stress than they are used to.

Amidst all this change and uncertainty, it is likely that the usual outlets people turn to for entertainment and coping with stress are either unavailable or not working as well as they used to, leaving folks to look for alternatives. At the same time, some disconcerting trends are appearing around alcohol and other drugs. Combined, this means that employees, whether struggling with substance use disorder, working to maintain their recovery or trying to make healthy decisions, are experiencing situations that put them at risk.

- Increased societal **preoccupation with alcohol** use (e.g., virtual cocktail/happy hours)
- **Increased availability of alcohol** (e.g., alcohol and cocktail deliveries being actively promoted as ways for people to drink and stock up without leaving the house)
- **Social isolation**, resulting in more people spending time alone and feeling less connected to co-workers, friends and family
- **A decrease in available support and accountability** from counselors, self-help groups (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous) and from work as people have transitioned to working at home
- **Increased stress and mental health challenges** as we try to manage all the changes we are experiencing — without knowing when this will end or what the new normal will look like.

Data indicate that people are spending more money on alcohol and other drugs since the pandemic started. The Neilson Report found a 55 percent increase in sales of alcoholic beverages over the same time last year. And many of the states that legalized the sale of marijuana



are experiencing double-digit sales increases compared to earlier this year. This information, combined with statistics by the Well Being Trust that project that as many as 75,000 individuals will die from substance misuse or suicide because of the pandemic, makes for a bleak outlook regarding your workforce’s health and wellbeing.

But even though we are all on a roller coaster ride we’d like to get off, there are some simple things you can do to help both your employees and your business.

- Remind employees about helping resources available to them. If you have an employee assistance program (EAP) and/or other wellness benefits, this is a perfect time to remind your employees about these specific benefit, how they can help and how to access them.

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OHIO CHAMBER CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF NEW HEALTH PROGRAM

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OCHBP participants can use the app to directly schedule and conduct a telemedicine session with a doctor. The app is available at no additional charge for Android and Apple devices.

Expanding the use of telemedicine is a key priority for many employees, with 51 percent of companies considering implementing virtual solutions a top health priority, according to a 2019 study by the National Business Group on Health. Telemedicine is important for employees living in rural areas, where access to health care, particularly specialty care, is often lacking. Additionally, COVID-19 has put a strain on members’ ability to access in-person care, and telemedicine provides quick and affordable access to health professionals 24/7.

LEVEL2

UnitedHealthcare has recently launched an innovative new therapy that combines wearable technology and customized personal support to help improve the health of people living with type 2 diabetes.

The therapy — known as Level2 — helps eligible participants gain real-time insights about their condition and, for some, successfully reduce spikes in blood sugar levels or even achieve type 2 diabetes remission. Level2 equips eligible participants with integrated tools that include a mobile continuous glucose monitor (CGM), activity trackers, app-bases alerts and one-on-one clinical coaching to help encourage healthier lifestyle decisions.

Level2 is provided at no additional cost to eligible employees as part of their medical benefit plan. It gives employees a real-time view into how activity, food, sleep and well-being impact their blood sugar levels at



Level2 gives employees a real-time view into how activity, food, sleep and well-being impact their blood sugar levels at any point throughout the day.

any point throughout the day. With access to personalized coaching, wearable technology and a physician-supervised care team, participants are supported in every step.

“We know our small business owners want what is best for their employees,” says Ohio Chamber President and CEO Andy Doehrel. “Our goal is to reduce the overall cost of health care for small businesses, and we feel the changes we are making and programs we are adding to the OCHBP provide the most comprehensive and affordable health care coverage employers can offer.”

More information about these new offerings will be available by mail, email and on our website, or contact Scott Colby, executive director of the Ohio Chamber Health Benefit Program, at scolby@ohiochamber.com.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

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- Encourage employees in recovery to be upfront and honest if they feel their recovery is in danger.
- Share information to help employees cope with daily life during these times. Many states have a coronavirus-specific website containing resources. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping) is also a great resource to turn to.
- Share low-risk drinking guidelines (e.g., rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov) and other educational information about alcohol and other drugs to encourage and support healthy and safe behaviors.

For businesses operating a best-practice drug-free workplace program, the impact of these suggestions both supports and is supported by your existing program. Remember, the most effective programs not only help employers mitigate the risks associated with employees’ misuse of substances but also provide education and information to help prevent problems from occurring.

Therefore, even if it might be one of the last things on your mind, maintaining your drug-free workplace program — including education, drug testing and referring to assistance — can help provide employees with consistency and support. Taking action now can help your employees make healthy choices and be productive, despite this roller coaster ride and long after the ride is over.

Working Partners® is a member of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and a training and consulting firm specializing in helping workplaces minimize the risks associated with substance misuse. As a nationally recognized expert on drug-free workplace issues, Working Partners® collaborates with businesses and communities to create behavioral change in adults and ultimately improve the quality of the workforce.

For more information about Working Partners® products and services to support a best-practice drug-free workplace, visit www.WorkingPartners.com or call (614) 337-8200.

OHIO CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we held our May executive committee and August board of directors meeting via Zoom. During the May meeting, the election of the board of directors was held and during the August meeting, new board members were named. The following is an updated list of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Larry Kidd, President and CEO, .hire	Thomas Lagos, Partner, Lagos & Lagos PLL
Everett Gallagher, Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Abercrombie & Fitch	Karma Thomson, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Marathon Petroleum Co. LP
Eric Roegner, President, Amcor Rigid Plastics	Steven English Sr., VP Government Relations, Nationwide
Katie Grayem, Director Customer Experience, American Electric Power Ohio	Carrie Harris-Muller, Senior Vice President of Population Health, OhioHealth
Joshua Zabek, Plant General Manager, Anheuser-Busch Inc.	Thomas Button, Chief Credit Officer and Senior Vice President, Park National Bank
Kevin Hinkle, Regional Vice President, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Jason Birney, Vice President and General Manager, Penn National Gaming Inc.
Bill Bishop, President, Associated Insurance	Joe Watson, President and CEO, Petland Inc.
Jan Bans, Senior Director, State Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, AT&T	Robb Reder, Senior Vice President and CFO, Pixelle Specialty Solutions
Robert Baxter, CEO Mercy Health Lima; SVP Mercy Health Bon Secours Mercy Health	Jordan Pace, Partner, Plante Moran PLLC
Steve Ringel, President Ohio Market, CareSource	Wendell Robinson, Director, Government Affairs, Quicken Loans Inc.
Jeffrey Walters, Managing Director, CBIZ MHM LLC	Clara Osterhage, Franchise Owner, R.L.O. Inc, dba Great Clips
Jeffrey Gehrig, AVP, Field Operations, Charter Communications	Craig Sundstrom, Dir. Government & Regulatory Affairs, RWE Renewables Americas LLC
Lois Rosenberry, President and CEO, Children's Discovery Center	Walt Davis, Partner, Shakerland Farms LLC
David Koren, Director of Government Affairs, Columbia Gas of Ohio Inc.	Eric Braun, Vice President, Advancement & External Affairs, Shawnee State University
Guy Worley, President and CEO, Columbus Downtown Development Corp.	Scott Kane, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs LLP
Aneezal Mohamed, General Counsel, Compliance Officer and Secretary, Commercial Vehicle Group Inc.	Élise Spriggs, Senior Vice President External Relations, State Auto Insurance Co.
Rusty Orben, Resident Vice President Ohio & Michigan, CSX Transportation Inc.	Curt Steiner, CEO, Steiner Public Relations
Michael Pahutski, Director, Large Account Management, OH-KY, Duke Energy	James Zimmerman, Partner-In-Charge, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
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Lisa Harris, Director of State and Local Economic Development Policy, Facebook	Bobbi Dillion, Senior Manager, State Government Relations, The Proctor & Gamble Co.
Wesley Jetter, Chairman and CEO, Fort Recovery Industries Inc.	Rex Elsass, CEO, The Strategy Group for Media
Jeffrey Gorman, President and CEO, Gorman-Rupp Co.	Ryan Hartong, Attorney, The Timken Co.
Joseph Misinec, Executive Vice President, Grand River Rubber & Plastics Co.	Mary Schell, Chief Public Affairs Officer, The Wendy's Co.
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Donnie Moore, Chief Operating Officer, Gulfport Energy Corp.	AJ Miller, Vice President, Small Business, UnitedHealthcare
Christopher Pherson, President, Heritage Thermal Services	Brett Amheiser, Regional Vice President, PJM & ERCOT Coal, Vistra Energy
Brian Hicks, President and CEO, Hicks Partners	Frank Carrino, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, Westfield Insurance
Scott Goodspeed, President, Hilscher-Clarke Electric Co.	Robert Wentz, CPA, Vice President Finance & CFO, Wyandot Inc.
Jeff Tomko, Senior Vice President, New Model Strategy Division, Honda of America Manufacturing Inc.	Thomas Zaino, Managing Member, Zaino Hall & Farrin LLC
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Rita McNeil Danish, Founder and CEO, JD² Strategists LLC	
Melissa Ingwersen, President Central Ohio District, KeyCorp	

OHIO CHAMBER ADDS NEW POLICY COMMITTEE

In the 2019 third quarter Prosperity Pulse survey conducted by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation, 44 percent of business owners believed that their business is impacted by innovation, through increased productivity, reduced costs and/or availability of new products or markets.

Whether it is preparation for a future in which new job functions emerge, old job functions transform, new sectors of industry are created, or enhancements are made in productivity, Ohio needs to have a regulatory environment that fosters economic success and growth and allows its citizens the freedom to create, innovate and enhance their day-to-day life.

Recognizing that many of its member companies are in new industry sectors centered around innovation, technology and advanced manufacturing, or are impacted by

the rapid changes brought about by innovation and technology, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce is adding a ninth policy committee.

The current eight committees are Education & Workforce Development, Energy & Environment, Health Care, Labor & Employment, Ohio Small Business Council, Public Affairs, Taxes & Public Expenditures and Workers’ Compensation. The ninth is the Innovation & Technology Committee.

The Ohio Chamber is a member-driven organization and takes pride in utilizing the wide range of industry knowledge, expertise, locations and perspectives of our members in our committees. This new committee will lean heavily on member companies’ know-how, expertise and everyday experiences to shape the public policy priorities of the committee.

The creation of the Innovation & Technology Committee will allow the

Ohio Chamber to both educate and advocate on these subject matters. The committee will offer opportunities for policy makers to learn about the various roles technology and innovation play in the economy of Ohio. It will also advocate for policy solutions and a regulatory framework that incentivizes innovation and creates jobs and new investment, with the goal of providing economic growth and opportunity for the citizens of the Buckeye State.

The Innovation & Technology Committee will adopt several public policy priorities for advocacy during the 135th General Assembly session that begins in January. It will also begin work on advancing recommendations from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation’s 2018 publication “Ohio Bold — Blueprint for Accelerating the Innovation Economy.”



For questions about the new committee or to learn more, contact Tony Long at tlong@ohiochamber.com. 📧

NEW MEMBERS

The following companies joined the Ohio Chamber of Commerce between June 12 and Aug. 19, 2020. We welcome all of our new members and look forward to working with them.

Alheim Insurance, Columbus
Allard Excavation LLC, South Webster
Alpha Grocery Company LLC, New Richmond
Althans Insurance Agency Inc., Chagrin Falls
American Diesel Training Centers, Columbus
Anchor Fabricators Inc., Clayton
Andrews Group Solutions, Gahanna
Angie’s Angels Child Development, Fremont
Apple Valley Property Owners Association, Howard
ASI Audio Inc., Beachwood
BBC Technology Solutions, Cincinnati
Bockrath Inc., Dayton
Bologna Insurance Agency, Copley
Bradley Healthcare Management, Circleville
Brian Huston Trucking Inc., Wellston
BSL-Applied Laser Technologies LLC, Cleveland
Buckley Manufacturing Co., Cincinnati
Building Futures Child Care, Streetsboro
Campbell Equipment Co., Cleveland
Cardinal Transportation Inc., Columbus
Carmens Distribution Systems Inc., Columbus
Century Resources, Columbus
Chiro Staffing LLC, Grove City
Clay International, Oak Hill
CMC Management LLC, Piqua
CollaMedix Inc., Cleveland
Columbus Early Learning Centers, Columbus

Combined Technologies Group Inc., Dayton
Commonwealth Lumber Co., Willoughby
Court House Collision Center LLC, Washington Court House
D & D Ingredient Distributors Inc., Delphos
Day Piston Co., Cleveland
Donley Gutter Co., Columbus
DoorDash, New York City
Engineered Vision, Columbus
Fairfield Acupuncture, Carroll
Fairfield Heating & Cooling Inc., Lancaster
Five Star Trucking Inc., Willoughby
Fleetwash Inc., West Caldwell
Fresenius Kidney Care, Columbus
Frickers Maintenance Co. LLC, Miamisburg
Gahanna Title Agency LLC, Gahanna
Grubb Construction Inc., McComb
Haven of Rest Ministries Inc., Akron
Independence Hospitality LLC, Fairview Park
Industrial Railroad Services LLC, Angola, Indiana
Inspire PR Group, Westerville
Jamie’s Tire & Service Fairborn, Fairborn
JC2 Partnership Inc, dba Culver’s of Marysville, Westerville
Jeffrey Leckrone, Westerville
Johnson Doppler Lumber, Cincinnati
Just Interiors LLC, Cincinnati
Love’s Learning Loft LLC, Mentor
M.D. Hughes Insurance Agency, Columbus
Mab Engineering LLC, Miamitown
Market Garden LLC, dba Wells Manufacturing, Columbus

Martin S. Hume Co. L.P.A., Youngstown
May Insurance Services, Columbus
Mechanical Galv-Plating Corp., Sidney
Miami Valley Propane LLC, Middletown
Micronet Solutions Inc., Mason
Midwest Transatlantic Lines LLC, Berea
Milo’s Deli & Cafe Inc., Columbus
Minute Men HR Ins Agency LLC, Cleveland
Mount Water Well Drilling, Newark
Neighborhood Properties Inc., Toledo
Neuros Medical Inc., Willoughby Hills
Ohio Home Elevator, Inc., Twinsburg
Ontario Trade & Investment Office, Chicago
P & R Home IV Service, Inc., Van Wert
Parrett Insurance Agency Inc., Washington Court House
Pastrimas Paint Co., Cincinnati
Pattern Metals Inc., Macedonia
Pease Warehouse Outlet, Hamilton
Pens, Paint & Paper Inc., dba XONEX, Cleveland
Plumbing Source Inc., Bedford Heights
Powergrid Partners Ltd., Oregon
Provenzale Construction Co. Inc., Cleveland
Quikstir Inc., Port Clinton
Rack Processing Co. Inc., Dayton
RDH Financial Group Ltd., Columbiana
Reece Brothers Inc., Bryan
River Gate High School, Warren
ROB Enterprises Inc., Columbus
Roger Storer & Son Inc., Springfield
Rotary Products Inc., Ashley
S&L Beverage LLC, Miamisburg
Sam-Mass Ltd., Miamisburg
SC Horn Management Inc., Fairborn

Schwieterman Drug Stores Inc., New Bremen
Service Stampings Inc., Willoughby
Shade Trucking Inc., Smithville
Siemens Corp., Chicago
Skylight Financial Group, Dublin
Snow Brothers Appliance Co., Cleveland
Solstice Sleep Products Inc., Columbus
South Coast Specialty Chemicals, Piqua
Speedco, Oklahoma City
Spiralight Group Inc., Dublin
Steam Action Carpet Cleaning and Restoration Specialists, Boardman
Strategic Tax and Accounting Resources LLC, Cincinnati
Studio Fovero, Columbus
Terry Anderson Insurance Agency Inc., Circleville
The Athens Real Estate Co. Ltd., Athens
The Brake Pad Inc., Cleveland
The Dupps Co., Germantown
Thrive Behavioral Health, Solon
Trenton LLC, North Baltimore
Triad Technologies LLC, Vandalia
Vantage Logistics LLC, Sunbury
Victoria Theatre Association, Dayton
Wallace Insurance Services LLC, Beavercreek
Wedgewood Complete Dentistry, Powell
Woodsfield True Value Home Center Inc., Woodsfield 📧

REOPENING OUR OFFICES

STEPS THE CHAMBER IS TAKING TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE



What a different world we live in today than it was just six months ago! Like many Ohio businesses, our physical headquarters closed its doors this past March and our employees worked from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had to cancel our Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, as well as other in-person events. When we started discussing a return to our building, it became clear that strict protocols needed to be put into place to keep our staff members healthy and safe and our office open. This is why we have adopted the responsible protocols for getting Ohio back to work developed by the Ohio Department of Health.

1 Require face coverings for employees and visitors.

We require face coverings for our employees and all of those coming into our office space. The only exception we have is when our staff members are working alone in their own offices. We have limited who actually comes into our space, but when they do come, they are required to wear masks.

2 Conduct daily health assessments. Everyone coming into our office space

— including those from the custodial team — must take their own temperature with the thermometers we provide and complete a daily health assessment.

3 Maintain good hygiene, which includes hand washing and social distancing. We have placed hand sanitizer throughout the office. We are also practicing social distancing with our staff, which has been a big adjustment as we have our staff eating lunch in their offices instead of getting together in our kitchen area.

4 Clean and sanitize. Besides having hand sanitizer throughout the office, we also have disinfecting wipes. Our office management company has implemented more stringent cleaning practices, as well.

5 Limit capacity to meet social distancing guidelines. When we moved into our new headquarters at 34 S. Third St., we created individual offices for everyone, which has made social distancing easier to implement. Also, since we reopened our physical offices in June, we have been on staggered schedules so that our full staff is not in the office every day.

We are not hosting any in-person meetings but instead have become well versed in holding Zoom and Microsoft Teams meetings. In fact, our August board of directors meeting was done using Zoom.

We want Ohioans to be able to safely return to work and students to return to school, and our state to fully reopen. While the medical community works on creating a vaccine and other medical treatments, we can all do our part to keep our co-workers, friends and family members safe.

Again, it's just three easy steps: social distance, wash your hands and wear your masks.

More business information relating to this pandemic can be found on our website at ohiochamber.com, then click on the Coronavirus Resources Page. We also have a link there to the Ohio Department of Health's Coronavirus Information website.

Stay healthy and safe! 🇺🇸

Andrew F. Drachul

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Ohio Chamber Health Benefit Program:
Savings up to 25%¹ for small business members.



For more information, visit ohiochamber.com and click on "Learn More."

¹ 25% savings based on Q1 2020 UnitedHealthcare internal analysis for average price comparison between UnitedHealthcare plans in Ohio.

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