



Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

Overview

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is Ohio's largest and most diverse statewide business advocacy organization, dedicated to presenting Ohio policymakers with the business perspective on issues. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing direction to the government affairs department, overseeing the organization's day-to-day engagement at the Statehouse and its public policy, grassroots and political education efforts, and actively lobbying on issues impacting Ohio employers. This position reports to the Ohio Chamber's President & CEO and is also a member of the organization's executive leadership team.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Lead the Ohio Chamber's government affairs program, with ultimate responsibility for achieving the organization's public policy objectives.
- Monitor and research current and emerging public policy issues and legislation that may impact the employer community.
- With legislative team, develop public policy agenda and positions and develop and implement strategies to achieve favorable results.
- Build and maintain relationships with relevant elected and other government officials, including members of Ohio General Assembly, the Governor's office, and state agencies.
- Hire, train, manage and support the government affairs team.
- Engage directly with policymakers to advocate for public policies that benefit Ohio employers and strengthen Ohio's business climate.
- Position the Ohio Chamber as a resource to policymakers in the development of policies and messaging on issues impacting employers.
- Provide briefings to the CEO, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, member companies, and other stakeholders.
- Build upon and strengthen the influence and visibility of the Ohio Chamber through collaboration with other business-focused trade associations, local chambers of commerce, and statewide coalitions.
- Interact with the media as needed to provide comments related to policy and advocacy efforts.
- Coordinate with the Director of Political Engagement on the organization's political activities and political action committee, including fundraising, development, and political-giving activities and strategies.
- Coordinate with the Director of Political Engagement to establish relationships with candidates for public office in order to introduce them to the Ohio Chamber.
- Develop and coordinate grassroots programs, including involving Ohio Chamber member companies, in support of public policy goals.
- Ensure compliance with applicable rules, disclosures, and filings relating to lobbying and political engagement.
- Serve as surrogate for the President & CEO on certain functions and/or meetings.
- Work collaboratively with other departments within the organization.

- Perform other duties as assigned.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree from four-year college or university, or equivalent.
- A minimum of 7-10 years government relations or public affairs management or equivalent, including a minimum of 3 years supervisory experience.
- Thorough understanding of the Ohio legislative process.
- Understanding of state policy issues impacting the employer community.
- Ability to evaluate complex problems/policy issues and identify their potential implications on employers.
- Effective relationship-building and collaboration skills.
- Experience working with elected officials, legislative and agency leaders and staff.
- Ability to influence, negotiate with, and persuade others.
- Ability to engage in sophisticated/strategic thinking to determine how best to influence elected officials and other policymakers.
- Ability to think broadly across issue areas and develop action plans that also integrate communications and political components.
- Experience and demonstrated success in organizing, leading, and managing a diverse team.
- Consistent exercise of independent judgment and discretion in matters of significance.
- Professional demeanor and executive presence with strong oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Uncompromising ethics and integrity.
- Personal interest in and commitment to free enterprise.