



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2022

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Ohio Business Community Feels that Crime is on the Rise

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce today released the results of a survey conducted by The Tarrance Group of both Ohioans and business owners from across the state to get their views on crime and safety. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full briefing memo on the survey.

“The safety of our communities remains fundamental to our state’s ability to attract and retain businesses and that makes it a priority for the Ohio Chamber,” Ohio Chamber CEO Steve Stivers said. “The State of Ohio has made it clear that the issue of public safety is a priority, making over \$100 million in grants available to local law enforcement; however, there is still more to be done. This survey showed that the business community is concerned with crime and believes rising crime levels have kept businesses from expanding.”

Among the key findings in the survey were:

- While the vast majority of adults feel that crime, especially violent crime, is on the rise, the business community is universally in agreement (74% and 81% respectively).

- While a majority of the Ohio adults (52%) believe the crime problem is getting worse, the business community (64%) is even more likely to view it that way.
- A simple majority of adults believe that rising crime has kept business from expanding, but the figure rises to 62% within Ohio's business community.
- Both adults and the business community want prosecutors and judges to be held accountable when they plea bargain cases.
- The business community is in universal agreement that all discussion of defunding the police should be put to a stop. Further, businesses would like to see more police on patrol.

"While most Ohioans acknowledge that crime is on the rise, Ohio's business owners feel the impact in two ways: not only to the safety of their family, friends and neighbors, but also the impact crime has on their businesses," said B.J. Martino, President and CEO of The Tarrance Group. "Over 60% agree that rising crime has kept businesses from expanding, thus slowing the creation of new jobs and economic opportunity for all Ohioans. As a result, they are overwhelmingly in favor of more funding for police, increasing penalties, and holding judges and prosecutors accountable when criminals are let off the hook."

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce announced in September that the association would be conducting a study of their membership and business owners on the effect of public safety on their businesses. This comes as a direct result of a recent report released by CBS News on the "Deadliest U.S. Cities." [CLICK HERE](#) for the full article from CBS News.

Ohio had 5 cities show up on the list:

- 5. Dayton
- 10. Cleveland
- 19. Cincinnati
- 49. Akron
- 57. Toledo

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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