

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2022
YEAR END
REVIEW

2022 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

NEW MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As of November 30, 2022 the Ohio Chamber has increased membership by adding **708 new members and 12 new Chamber Champions**.

EVENTS ATTENDANCE & SPONSORSHIP

2022 was the first year of the the Ohio Chamber of Commerce events business. In September of 2021 we hired Lindsey Perkins as the Director of Events. Throughout 2022 we hosted **over 14 events** with over **2,400 attendees**.

Between all the events we had a total number of **85 sponsors** supporting and contributing to these events.

With a full calendar for 2023 of events coming soon we're looking forward to continuing to host events focused on providing valuable networking opportunities for our members.

BUSINESS ACADEMY REPORT

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has hosted 12 Business Academy webinars in 2022, with **over 850 attendees**. We offered either CLE, CPE, SHRM & HRCI or a combination of those for each webinar.

We brought in experts in their fields and covered topics including employee wellness, tax issues, DEI, workplace harassment and more.

PODCAST & VIDEO REPORT

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce launched it's first podcast in mid-2022. There have been 5 podcast episodes featuring topics for businesses such as: tax updates, broadband and fraud. **Between the 5 episodes there have been 375 downloads**.

We've continued the video series Market Minute, as well having launched an Elected Official Video Series, featuring the U.S. Senate Candidates, Minority Leader Allison Russo, Rep. Dontavius Jarrells, Senate President Matt Huffman and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, combined these videos have been **viewed over 2,000 times**.



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CHAMBER SPONSORED BILLS PASSED IN THE 134TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ✓ Codified when work from home injuries are compensable. (HB 447)
- ✓ Revised the Ohio EPA's definition and regulatory authority regarding ephemeral streams. (HB 175)
- ✓ Improved Ohio's current D+ grade on the Council on State Taxation (COST) Property Tax Administration Scorecard. (HB 126)
- ✓ Amended state wage and hour laws to clarify that de minimis amounts of time may be disregarded when calculating overtime pay. (SB 47)
- ✓ Reduced regulations on businesses that limit economic growth and increase compliance burdens. (SB 9)
- ✓ Provided incentives to businesses who offer work-based learning experiences for career-tech students. (SB 166)
- ✓ Ensured that students will be equipped with an adequate level of financial literacy upon graduation. (SB 1)
- ✓ Repealed sales tax on staffing services saving employers more than \$300 million over a two-year period. (HB 110)
- ✓ Increased funding for TechCred from less than \$1 million to \$58 million. (HB 110)
- ✓ Eliminated Ohio's unemployment loan, saving employers more than \$600 million over a three-year period. (HB 168)
- ✓ Established local standards for natural gas pipeline development. (HB 430)
- ✓ Provided qualified immunity to campground operators. (HB 229)
- ✓ Enabled any business who can meet health standards to remain open during a public health emergency. (HB 215)
- ✓ Established grants for hotels, bars and restaurants impacted by Covid-19. (SB 108)
- ✓ Prevented local governments from banning use of natural gas. (HB 201)
- ✓ Lowered statute of limitations for occupational disease in workers compensation claims. (HB 75)
- ✓ Used ARPA funds to eliminate Ohio's unemployment Trust Fund loan. (HB 168)
- ✓ Lowered statute of limitation on contracts. (SB 13)
- ✓ Expanded broadband investments by creating Ohio Residential Broadband Program. (HB 2)
- ✓ Established grants for small businesses impacted by Covid-19. (SB 109)
- ✓ Saved business owners 6.1 billion dollars in the last two years.

OHIO CHAMBER BRINGS THE VOICE OF OHIO'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO COURTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Kevin Shimp, General Counsel, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

In 2022, the Ohio Chamber fully implemented its legal defense fund which resulted in the Ohio Chamber filing 16 different amicus briefs in courts across the country. When originally established, the purpose of the Ohio Chamber's legal defense fund was to assure the organization had the necessary resources to fight against rulings from activist judges and share the perspective of Ohio's business community in important litigation.

By investing in the Ohio Chamber's amicus brief program, the organization has been able to highlight the voice of the Ohio business community and stand against cases that sought to reinstate federal supplemental unemployment benefits, overturn Ohio's non-economic damage caps, mandate large companies require employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and stop the operation of Line 5. These significant cases impact employers in every industry and all sizes because a wrong decision from the court can increase operating costs for employers and create more regulatory unpredictability.

The Ohio Chamber amicus briefs were regularly filed before the Ohio Supreme Court on both jurisdiction for discretionary appeals and on the merits in litigation the court had already agreed to hear. Our briefs were also filed in the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, US District Court of Eastern Michigan, Ohio's 10th Appellate District, and the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Additionally, we filed an amicus brief in support of a writ of certiorari before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Besides filing amicus briefs on our own, the Ohio Chamber partnered with other like-minded business groups when appropriate to show the wide range of interests a particular lawsuit had generated. At the federal level, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center along with the American Tort Reform Association supported several of our amicus briefs. In Ohio, we filed amicus briefs that included allied business organizations such as the Ohio Truckers Association, Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association, Ohio Restaurant Association, Ohio Bankers League, Ohio Wholesale Beer & Wine Association, and the Ohio Auto Dealers.

The Ohio Chamber legal defense fund has also enabled us to engage expert witnesses at the Ohio Statehouse to testify on legislation impacting our member companies and submit technical comments on federal rule making. We utilized the fund in the fight to stop bills that would have eroded the ability of employers to set vaccination policies for their employees and to support legislation amending Ohio's wage and hour laws. Likewise, when the U.S. Treasury released a rule that would require compliance from every family owned and closely held small business in Ohio, we were able to file a comment to highlight how Ohio businesses will be impacted.

As we move to 2023, the Ohio Chamber's legal defense fund will remain a vital resource in the business community's efforts to create a better legal and business climate in the Buckeye State. You can learn more about the fund and opportunities to tap into it by reaching out to the Ohio Chamber's General Counsel, Kevin Shimp at KShimp@ohiochamber.com.

WHAT THE CHIPS ACT MEANS FOR OHIO

Rick Carfagna, Senior Vice President, Ohio Chamber of Commerce



On January 21 of this year business and political leaders from across the state gathered at the Midland Theatre in Newark for Intel's momentous announcement to invest \$20 billion towards constructing two semiconductor plants in New Albany. The facilities would employ 3,000 workers making, on average, \$135,000 annually. While that initial January announcement was largely credited to state budget efforts to apply Ohio's Job Creation Tax Credit to "mega projects", it was noted that with additional federal aid the Intel site could grow to eight factories at a total private investment of \$100 billion.

On August 9, 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law the Creating Helpful Incentives for the Production of Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act. The CHIPS Act provides \$52.7 billion for semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing in the United States. Of these funds, \$39 billion will be dedicated towards manufacturing incentives, including \$2 billion for the legacy chips used in automobiles and defense systems, \$13.2 billion in research and development and workforce development, and \$500 million to

provide for international information communications technology security and semiconductor supply chain activities. Finally, the CHIPS Act provides a 25% tax credit for capital expenses associated with making semiconductors and related equipment.

The swift passage of the CHIPS Act will bolster American manufacturing, create thousands of American jobs and help re-establish America's position as a leader in next-generation innovation. At present, the United States produces only 12% of the world's semiconductors, a decline from 37% in 1990. As we have seen throughout the pandemic, global supply lines have been easily disrupted, and semiconductor shortages can have potentially serious effects on our economy.

Beyond Intel, several other chipmakers such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC), currently the world's largest contract manufacturer of semiconductors, and GlobalWafers, a Taiwanese company, have also expressed interest in onshoring their production capabilities to the United States. Both companies are now expected to make commitments to U.S.- based operations due to the CHIPS Act.

Among those present in the White House Rose Garden for the August 9 bill signing was Steve Stivers, the Ohio Chamber's President and CEO. As a recently retired Congressman, Stivers played an integral role in delivering the CHIPS Act across the finish line. Upon the expiration of his revolving door restrictions, Stivers immediately organized two trips to Washington D.C. to lobby former colleagues. On both occasions, Stivers convened numerous meetings with Ohio's House and Senate delegations, House Leadership, and involved committee chairs, members, and staff.

In the end, the solidarity of Ohio's delegation was strong and bipartisan. In all, 12 of Ohio's 16 members of the U.S. House of Representatives on both sides of the political aisle voted for the CHIPS Act, as well as both Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown.

Passing the CHIPS Act frees up Ohio's leaders to now turn towards other pressing but related matters, including how best to provide for a vibrant workforce to serve not just Intel but its 140

WHAT THE CHIPS ACT MEANS FOR OHIO (CONT.)

suppliers across the state. Intel has already unveiled its Ohio Semiconductor Education and Research Program, a \$100 million endeavor to develop semiconductor education and workforce programs with more than 80 colleges and universities.

With private industry doing its part to invest in technology workforce, the time is now for state policymakers to complement that effort. As of 2020, only 50% of all public high schools in Ohio taught a foundation course in Computer Science. Our state also ranks 33rd out of 50 states in the percentage of college degrees produced that are Computer Science. Simply put, we are not adequately equipping Ohio's students with the skills sets necessary for the challenges of the modern world. We must increase K-12 access to non-traditional subjects, such as information technologies and software coding, to prepare our next generation for the jobs that have yet to be invented.

Already, there are ambitious organized efforts underway by business and education leaders to promote more Computer Science offerings and the Ohio Chamber stands ready to advocate for these initiatives in the coming year. The Chamber also supports efforts to reform immigration, such as raising the cap on H-1B visas to allow foreign professionals to fill available technology job needs. As Ohio and the rest of the United States develop its own farm team of technology workers, importing overseas talent in the short-term extends the American Dream to immigrants while solving our critical technology workforce needs.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce remains ever vigilant and ready to tackle the next frontier of challenges for Ohio's business community. If the CHIPS Act has demonstrated anything, it's that when people of goodwill shed their partisan interests and collaborate for a common goal, we can achieve historic wins for our state.

JAMIE DIMON SPEAKS AT INNAGURAL STATE OF BUSINESS EVENT

Lindsey Perkins, Director of Events, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

On May 17 we had the distinct honor of hosting the Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, in the Rotunda at the Ohio Statehouse for the 2022 State of Business Summit. Our attendees enjoyed a fireside chat with Chamber CEO, Steve Stivers, and Dimon which covered a number of issues including economic growth during COVID, inflation, workforce issues, and the current impact of the war in Ukraine on the economy. The discussion also covered Dimon's thoughts on Intel and how government regulations can impact small business and large corporations.



Dimon also shared his thoughts on JP Morgan's significant investment in the state of Ohio, including more than \$7 million invested in high schools, colleges, and universities to provide workforce training that prepares young Ohioans for better paying jobs and the careers of tomorrow.

Dimon thanked the Ohio Chamber saying he "appreciated the opportunity to join the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to talk about the important issues facing our country and how Ohio can continue to grow and attract business and talent. Ohio is not only an important place where we do business, it is home to our customers, clients, employees and community partners. We are committed to helping create a more inclusive economy for all residents."

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HIRES DIRECTOR OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TO BETTER SERVE MEMBERS

Candace Frank, Director of Member Engagement, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Acknowledging a void in serving its members through the engagement and onboarding process, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce hired their first Director of Member Engagement in October of 2021. Candace Frank brings eight years of experience serving different industries across Ohio through member engagement strategies. She serves the Chamber members with the mindset that not one member should go unheard.

Over the last year, she has grown the role substantially from overseeing increased outreach and engagement to building a new customer relationship management system set to go live the first quarter of 2023. A system designed to not only better serve our members but engage our members in new ways.







With new member onboarding and member retention numbers at a high for the end of 2022, Candace works to ensure that members are happy with their investment and receiving what they come to expect from being a member of the Chamber. If a member has concerns, extra steps are taken to bring that member back up to speed and get them more engaged in the Chamber's efforts around the state of Ohio to support a growing and prosperous economic business climate.

We appreciate the support and partnership of our members, and our members are welcome to contact Candace Frank with any questions and/or concerns at cfrank@ohiochamber.com or at 614.629.0922.

BLUEPRINT FOR OHIO'S ECONOMIC FUTURE SETS STAGE FOR CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Justin Barnes, Executive Director, Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation

Over a year ago, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Chamber Research Foundation set out to determine ways to improve Ohio's economic competitiveness compared to our neighboring and peer states across the country. After a series of economic development victories announced by Governor DeWine's administration, we aimed to highlight ways we can improve upon our progress to keep the momentum going and ensure sustained growth for future generations of Ohioans.

Levers	Indicators	Levers	Indicators
Education & Workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workforce Participation/ Labor Supply/ Barriers• K-12 Education• Higher Education	Sense of Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health• Affordability & Housing• Economic Opportunity• Recreational Amenities
Taxes and Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tax Burden• Cost Of Doing Business• Fiscal Stability	Innovation & Collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venture Capital• Start-ups And Entrepreneurship• Modernization & Data Privacy• Research And Development• Patents
Business Friendliness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory Landscape• Occupational Licensing• Legal Climate• Economy• GDP Growth	Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy/Utilities• Internet Accessibility• Roads and Bridges• Transportation

In partnership with Accenture, the Research Foundation deconstructed a series of rankings and metrics—based on both public and private data—that examined Ohio's economic climate to analyze where the state could see the biggest gains in productivity, business growth, and overall economic expansion. We also conducted in-person workshops and a series of interviews to assess the real-world impacts of Ohio's current policy environment. The result of that body of work was published in late October as the Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future.

The Blueprint highlights six key areas, or “levers” where Ohio's rankings stand to gain relative to other states: Workforce & Education, Sense of Place, Taxes & Costs, Innovation & Collaboration, Business Friendliness, and Infrastructure. Within each of these levers, a deeper dive reveals the strategic indicators that are associated with those rankings and how Ohio measures against our competition.

Throughout our report, there are critical issues that we emphasize as the necessary policy discussions that can kickstart a decade of leadership, with the goal of making Ohio the best place in the nation to own or operate a business. For example, we know that we will need to place a heavy emphasis in the coming years on workforce development and talent attraction. Ohio has a wealth of career opportunities in multiple sectors, and it will be essential for policymakers to match the skills needed to fill those jobs with the development pipeline of K-12 education, higher education, and talent attraction efforts. We are grateful for the leadership of the DeWine Administration in this area, through the creation of programs such as TechCred and OhioBuilds, which will emphasize workforce development and upskilling for industries in search of a broader pool of workforce talent. We want to see these efforts continued and built upon in several ways that will reduce barriers to entry for those who are seeking to join or re-join the workforce, and continue to make Ohio a destination for economic opportunity.

Each lever has a series of recommendations that we intend to work on in the coming months and years to bolster Ohio's case as the most competitive state in the nation for businesses. Some of these recommendations will result in legislative policy, while others will require a collaboration with public and private sector partners across the state. We intend to follow the Blueprint with additional research efforts where necessary, fulfilling the mission of the Research Foundation to provide non-partisan, educational resources on public policy issues that impact Ohio's economy, job creation, and long-term competitiveness. We also intend to create a dashboard where you can track our efforts in each category, and visualize our progress moving forward.

With your support, we will improve our business climate and grow our economy for the benefit of all Ohioans. We look forward to working with you to improve Ohio's economic competitiveness. Should you have any questions about the report, or are interested in helping us deliver these important messages to policymakers in your area, please contact me directly at jbarnes@ohiochamber.com.

SWEEPING SUPREME COURT VICTORY

The November General Elections were a sweeping victory for both Republicans and the Ohio business community from top to bottom.

Perhaps the most notable wins for the business community came at the Ohio Supreme Court level, as **all three incumbent justices won their races**. Justices Pat Fischer and Pat DeWine will retain their seats while Justice Sharon Kennedy will now ascend to the Chief Justice's seat to replace retiring Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor.

Governor DeWine is slated to fill Kennedy's vacancy in the coming weeks, filling out what is expected to be a strong 4-3 count of pro-business justices on the court. The Supreme Court proved to be the largest electoral battleground, as Democrats targeted control of the judicial branch and needed only a single victory to secure the court.

Thanks to the tenacity of the Ohio Chamber who led the statewide business community's efforts to re-elect the incumbents and personally raised more than \$4 million, Ohio's economy should remain protected against court decisions that would expand liability under a different electoral outcome.

