

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. WorkLearnOHIO

- Establish a public-private partnership connecting Ohio college students with in-state employers, expanding access to internships, externships, and co-ops.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce, Pg. 29, Recommendation 2.5*

2. Ohio Manufacturing Technologies Assistance Program

- Implement a grant program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers modernize machinery and facilities, overcoming financial and technological barriers.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Innovation and Collaboration, Pg. 61, Recommendation 3.2*

3. Strengthening Ohio's Energy Infrastructure

- Enhance energy reliability and affordability through improved electric and natural gas transmission while ensuring competitive bidding for increased power generation.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Infrastructure, Pg. 83, Recommendation 1*

4. Expanding Access to Affordable Childcare

- Advance Ohio Chamber's Childcare Platform to lower costs, increase provider capacity, and develop a robust early childhood education workforce.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce, Pg. 27, Recommendation 1.1*

5. Implementation of the Ohio Taxpayer Protection Act

- Coalition-developed policy solutions related to property tax calculations and the streamlining of municipal income tax compliance.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Taxes and Costs, Pg. 52, Recommendations 2 & 3*

6. Bolster Employer Protections in Recreational Marijuana Policies

- Clarify employment termination policies related to marijuana use, ensuring just-cause terminations remain ineligible for unemployment benefits and protecting drug-free or zero tolerance workplace policies from anti-discrimination claims.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

7. Improving Ohio's Legal Environment for Businesses

- Combat lawsuit abuse through oversight of third-party litigation financing, modernization of employment law poster compliance, and tightened restrictions on broad public nuisance claims against businesses.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

8. Increasing Ohio's Housing Availability

- Implement Senate Select Committee on Housing recommendations, revise restrictive zoning laws, and incentivize local governments to support higher-density developments.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place, Pg. 41, Recommendation 1*

9. Promotion of Computer Science and STEM Education

- Broaden access to computer science programs in K-12 education, invest in workforce pipeline initiatives, and incentivize tech-related college degrees to improve Ohio's ranking in STEM graduates.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce, Pg. 30, Recommendation 4.2*

10. Marketing Ohio as a Premier Destination to Visit, Live, and Work

- Focus on ways for the state to attract visitors and encourage relocation, raise the state's investment in TourismOhio to remain competitive with neighboring regions.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place, Pg. 42, Recommendation 3*