



2009-2010  
OHIO BUSINESS

# Agenda

MAKING OHIO GREAT



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
*Uniting Business. Improving Ohio.*

## MAKING OHIO GREAT

Now more than ever, a united and empowered business community is critical to improving our state's economy and building a business climate that facilitates job creation and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. The leaders of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce have adopted an agenda that recognizes the incomparable challenges we face and the creative policy responses they demand.

The 2009-2010 Ohio Business Agenda includes key building blocks to a competitive economy: taxation, compliance costs and spending policies that encourage investment; a common-sense legal and regulatory climate; a workforce with skills to compete in the global economy; an affordable and sustainable health care system; a solid support system for entrepreneurship and innovation; and an efficient infrastructure that sustains advanced technologies and an evolving economy.

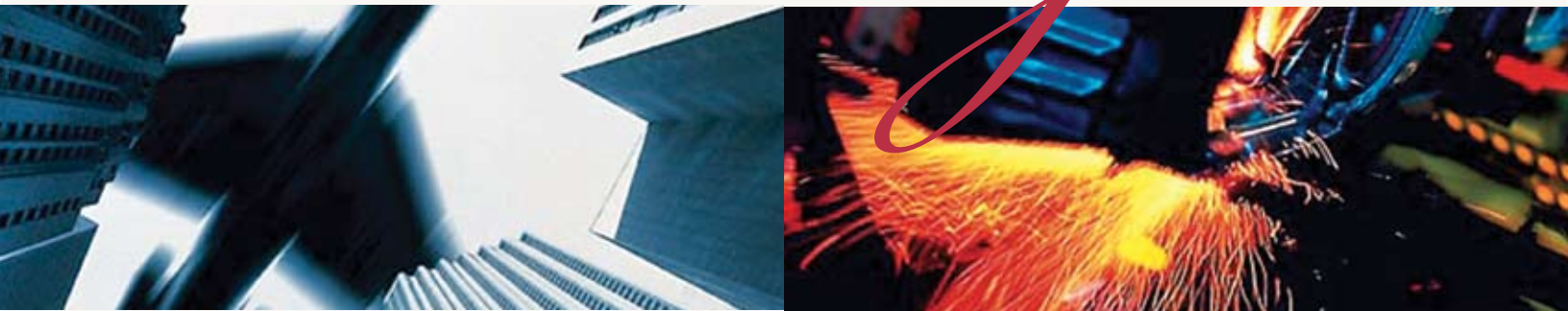
To receive more information about the Ohio Business Agenda or to help advocate for its adoption, please contact any member of the Ohio Chamber's Governmental Affairs Team.

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### *A workforce with skills to compete in a global economy*

- Seek state funding to assist local businesses in establishing internship programs in partnership with Ohio's colleges and universities
- Support policies that accelerate implementation of regional skills gap assessments through the Ohio Skills Bank
- Promote the development of high-quality stackable certificate programs, particularly in manufacturing, in conjunction with Ohio's career centers, community colleges and universities
- Advocate for policies that require Ohio's academic content standards, benchmarks and grade level indicators be updated and re-certified every five years
- Push to expand and expedite alternative credentialing so more qualified people with business and scientific/technical backgrounds can teach in public schools

# Leading the



## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Ohio Chamber is participating in three special initiatives that focus intensely on the creation of partnerships around broad issues that are crucial to the growth of Ohio's economy. The scope of these initiatives includes both educational activities and grassroots advocacy.

**BIOSCIENCE INITIATIVE:** Support policies and activities that promote the growth and expansion of Ohio's diverse bioscience industry.

**TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE:** Provide leadership in coalitions that advocate for policies that inspire and encourage innovation and foster an environment that embraces high-tech jobs, investment and emerging technologies.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE INITIATIVE:** Build a state-wide advocacy network to foster public awareness and understanding of the important role international trade plays in Ohio's economy.

## TAXATION & PUBLIC EXPENDITURES

### *Tax and spending policies that stimulate growth, innovation and job creation*

- Oppose any effort to increase the commercial activity tax (CAT) rate above its current 0.26%
- Support legislation that defines "permanent assignment" under the employment services tax
- Advocate for establishing a uniform, statewide sourcing standard for the municipal net profits tax
- Push for an exemption of deferred compensation and stock options from municipal income taxation
- Promote policies that require state courts to consider evidence of sale leaseback agreements and special financing arrangements in real property valuation cases

## LEGAL & REGULATORY REFORM

*A common-sense legal and regulatory climate*

- Oppose efforts to make Ohio's legal climate less fair, equitable or predictable
- Support limits on the creation of new private rights of action and legislation that allows a company to cure product defects in consumer actions
- Advocate for a common-sense 21st century regulatory climate that incentivizes investors and is transparent, consistent, flexible and efficient
- Oppose regulations that cannot be justified based on a cost/benefit analysis
- Promote solutions that avoid harmful state actions related to federal economic recovery efforts

## ENVIRONMENT

*A regulatory system that protects the environment and encourages economic growth*

- Oppose the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act
- Ensure new regulations implementing the Great Lakes Compact reflect legislative intent
- Fight for sensible regulation of water quality that is based on technically sound, practical and achievable methods while clearly identifying costs and benefits
- Ensure regulations dealing with the beneficial use of certain industrial byproducts are based on sound science and recognize the benefits of reusing the materials to preserve resources, conserve energy and eliminate disposal
- Ensure Ohio EPA programs achieve federal air quality standards without being overly burdensome

# Way



# Improve

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Political and public policy processes that foster public confidence*

- Lead efforts to evaluate, support and elect pro-business candidates to the Ohio legislature and candidates who strictly construe the law to the Ohio Supreme Court
- Advocate for ballot initiative reforms that protect the rights of Ohio citizens while reducing the influence of special interest groups
- Support election reforms that protect the integrity of the process, promote a level playing field for all participants and set reasonable limits on campaign contributions
- Clarify campaign finance regulations regarding PAC fundraising methods
- Assist with efforts to improve ethics requirements and educate the public about the important role of lobbyists

## ENERGY

*Incentives for energy innovation and conservation*

- Advocate for the development of programs that promote increased energy efficiency and conservation
- Reduce the regulatory burden on and incentivize the production and generation of renewable energy sources
- Ensure that any greenhouse gas regulations promote incentives for the development of advanced energy technology, encourage conservation, avoid unnecessary costs for compliance and factor in foreign sources

## EMPLOYMENT LAW

*Fair employment policies that preserve management flexibility*

- Protect the rights of employees to decide whether to be represented by a collective bargaining unit through a private ballot process
- Reduce inconsistencies and duplication between state and federal employment laws
- Push for a law that allows an employer to offer the existence of an anti-discrimination policy as an affirmative defense to a discrimination claim
- Maintain the solvency of the state's unemployment compensation trust fund by promoting measures that return unemployed workers to the workforce
- Advance legislation that models the federal process for claims filed at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

*An affordable insurance system that rewards safe work places*

- Ensure the long-term viability of alternative rating programs, such as group rating, that incentivize employers to provide safer workplaces
- Advance policies that help prevent or reduce workplace injuries
- Make certain that Ohio's workers' compensation system is fully funded and that administrative policies promote transparency, accountability and responsible investments
- Support workers' compensation changes that contain costs through employer incentives to manage and defend claims



*iving Ohio*

## HEALTH CARE

*An affordable and sustainable market-based health care system*

- Promote the adoption of national interoperability standards for electronic health data, support rural connectivity and technology for employers and providers, encourage creation of regional health information organizations and the exchange of other electronic health information
- Advance performance standards that allow access to information such as cost and quality data to ensure transparency and accountability
- Strengthen policies that encourage consumer choice in health care and promote individual responsibility
- Support creation of programs that incentivize employers, providers and others to work collaboratively to promote individual wellness, chronic care management and prevention of disease

## OHIO SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

*A business climate that is simple and efficient for small businesses*

- Continue momentum for streamlined regulations that provide appropriate protection while encouraging business development and innovation
- Advocate for innovative approaches to reforming the small group health care market that will ease the burden for small businesses while improving quality of care
- Ensure that any new energy regulations provide for lasting supplies at competitive prices and encourage cost-effective efficiency and conservation choices

## CREATING A PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN STATE GOVERNMENT

You can help ensure a healthy, profitable economy by getting involved in the political process. The Chamber's **Political and Candidate Education program (P.a.C.E.)** helps you make informed decisions about political participation by providing you with timely, accurate information about candidates, elections and legislative voting records. P.a.C.E. actively recruits and helps in the endorsement process of pro-business candidates running for the state legislature. Doing so ensures that we have allies in state government that understand how businesses operate and acknowledge what employers and employees need to be competitive.

## THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN OHIO POLITICS

Getting the right people elected – whether they are in your backyard or on the other side of the state – is the best way to shape future government policies. The **Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (OCCPaC)** unifies and strengthens the voice of business in Ohio politics by collecting voluntary contributions from Ohio Chamber members and distributing them to pro-business candidates. OCCPaC provides candidates with monetary and other forms of support. Doing so helps the number of allies we have in the legislature grow. Getting elected takes tremendous resources and OCCPaC helps the candidates we endorse get the support they need.

# Way



# Uniting Business

## GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

The Ohio Chamber's public policy program is even more effective when you get involved by becoming a grassroots advocate. As a grassroots advocate, you may be asked to participate in different ways, such as arranging a face-to-face meeting with your lawmaker, writing a letter or e-mail that explains how a piece of legislation affects you, or inviting your elected officials to visit your facility. In addition to growing our grassroots network, the Ohio Chamber is continuing to explore creative ways to improve our effectiveness. Moving forward, local chambers and our grassroots advocates will have the opportunity to utilize new and innovative methods of working together in support of Ohio businesses.

## UNITING LOCAL CHAMBERS

The **Chamber Action Alliance (CAA)** was formed in 2007 to help local chambers become more involved in grassroots advocacy while at the same time providing them with informative and concise updates on the issues most important to their members. The program currently has 43 local chamber partners and is continuing to grow. The CAA will continue recruiting strong local chambers to join the coalition while implementing a beefed up grassroots strategy in 2009-10 for engaging a broader network. Doing so allows the Ohio Chamber to tap into thousands of additional advocates and in turn, strengthens our voice.

**AS THE STATE'S LEADING BUSINESS ADVOCATE AND RESOURCE,  
THE OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGGRESSIVELY CHAMPIONS FREE ENTERPRISE,  
ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL OHIOANS.**

Founded in 1893, the Ohio Chamber is one of our state's oldest business organizations. We represent more than 4,000 member-companies ranging from small businesses to international corporations and including every major industry sector.

The Chamber's Government Affairs team is dedicated to winning the battle to protect Ohio businesses from costly government mandates. We advocate for free-market approaches that ensure a strong economic climate where businesses can flourish and jobs are created.

Since 1893, we have been THE voice of Ohio businesses. No other organization can come close to the expertise, experience and effectiveness of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.



# *Governmental Affairs*

**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS TEAM:**

- Linda Woggon, Vice President, Governmental Affairs ..... [lwoggon@ohiochamber.com](mailto:lwoggon@ohiochamber.com)
- Dan Navin, Assistant Vice President, Tax & Economic Policy ..... [dnavin@ohiochamber.com](mailto:dnavin@ohiochamber.com)
- Tony Fiore, Director, Labor & Human Resources Policy ..... [afiore@ohiochamber.com](mailto:afiore@ohiochamber.com)
- Jennifer Klein, Director, Energy & Environmental Policy ..... [jklein@ohiochamber.com](mailto:jklein@ohiochamber.com)
- Carrie Haughawout, Director, Ohio Small Business Council ..... [chaughawout@ohiochamber.com](mailto:chaughawout@ohiochamber.com)
- Chris Brock, Grassroots Coordinator ..... [cbrock@ohiochamber.com](mailto:cbrock@ohiochamber.com)
- Sherry Heffner, Governmental Affairs Assistant ..... [sheffner@ohiochamber.com](mailto:sheffner@ohiochamber.com)
- Angie Bowen, Administrative Assistant ..... [abowen@ohiochamber.com](mailto:abowen@ohiochamber.com)



**OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

230 East Town Street | P.O. Box 15159 | Columbus, OH 43215-0159

614.228.4201 | 800.622.1893 | 614.228.6403 Fax | [www.ohiochamber.com](http://www.ohiochamber.com) | [www.ohiobusinessvotes.org](http://www.ohiobusinessvotes.org)