



PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

for the
133rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) is a non-profit trade association representing Ohio's city and county health commissioners. In addition to educational efforts, the sharing of best practices and facilitating local collaboration, AOHC advocates for sound health care policies at the federal, state and local level. For the 133rd Ohio General Assembly, AOHC has identified the following legislative priorities:

Adequate funding for local public health based on data and identifiable measures and outcomes.

AOHC has undertaken an extensive study to fully define the costs of operating an efficient local health district that provides basic services to its citizens. The association is committed to working the partners at the state level to identify funding sources which could include additional federal, state or local resources.



Standardization of cost methodologies for environmental health programs.

Currently, Ohio law provides a variety of methods for determining the fees that are charged to industries regulated and inspected by local boards of health. For example the methodology to determine the cost of pool inspections is different than the methodology used for food service inspections. AOHC believes that standardizing these formulas will create efficiencies for local boards of health and provide greater consistency and predictability for the industries we regulate.



Centralized data collection.

AOHC is encouraging the passage of legislation to allow the Ohio Department of Health to collect and aggregate public health data through regional data hubs similar to the hubs the Ohio Department of Education uses to collect educational data. Doing so will alleviate HIPAA concerns that currently face local boards of health and can help facilitate more targeted solutions to issues, such as opioid addiction and infant mortality.



Establish local boards of health as independent taxing authorities.

This change would allow health districts to create their own tax identification number and create administrative efficiencies. It would NOT allow them to levy additional taxes. Rather, it is an administrative designation only.



Permanent and multi-county levy authority.

AOHC is seeking statutory authority to seek two types of levies from voters. State law allows health districts to merge into multi-county districts, but provides no mechanism to fund these types of jurisdictions. Multi-county levy authority would allow these types of agencies to fund themselves. Permanent levy authority would allow for ongoing revenue to be garnered in a manner similar to ADAMH boards or Developmental Disability boards. It is important to emphasize that neither type of levy could be enforced without approval by voters at the local level.

