



Building a Greater Ohio

GREATER OHIO POLICY CENTER 2020-2021 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

Building a Greater Ohio

Greater Ohio Policy Center 2020-2021 Public Policy Platform



Our Mission:

To improve the communities of Ohio through smart growth strategies and research

Our Vision:

A revitalized Ohio

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Our Values

Non-partisan Voice, Bi-Partisan Work

Our policy platforms are based on objective data, not politics, and we work with both sides of the aisle to achieve our goals.

Connecting Ohio

Collaboration and cooperation are fundamental to how we plan and work.

Pride in Place

The vitality of Ohio, and its cities and towns, matter to us and motivates our actions.

Recognizing potential

We build upon what exists, see what could be, and create solutions to enable sustainable growth.

Informed leadership

Our research and analysis are designed to impact strategic decisions and investments.

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GOPC's original policy platform was released in February 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to revise the platform in the Fall of 2020 to better reflect the needs of Ohio's communities impacted by the effects of the pandemic. The focus remained the same.

- ▶ **Three Primary Focuses of the Public Policy Platform**
 - ▶ **Investing in Brownfields**
 - ▶ **Innovation in Infrastructure & Transportation**
 - ▶ **Empowering Ohio's Legacy Cities**

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Investing in Brownfields

▶ To Build a Greater Ohio...

▶ Fund the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund

- ▶ Nearly \$40 million in funding available through the reallocation of liquor profits the state receives each year from JobsOhio

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Investing in Brownfields

▶ Results

- ▶ Legislature Enacts Ohio Brownfield Remediation Fund & Commercial & Residential Demolition Fund
 - ▶ \$350 Million Allocation for Brownfield Program
 - ▶ \$150 Million Allocation for Demolition Program

Both programs represent one-time allocations that will need to be fully appropriated in 24 months



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Innovate Infrastructure & Transportation

▶ To Build a Greater Ohio...

▶ Maintain Support for Public Transit

- ▶ Transit has been a vital service throughout the coronavirus pandemic
- ▶ Retain \$70 million approved in funding two years ago to maintain this necessary service



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Innovate Infrastructure & Transportation

▶ Results

- ▶ Public Transit Funding Retained at Historic Level of 2 years ago
 - ▶ \$37 million in GRF Funding along with \$33 million in federal “flex funding” made available for public transit
 - ▶ \$70 million in combined funding 10 times what was proposed by the DeWine Administration

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Innovate Infrastructure & Transportation

▶ To Build a Greater Ohio...

▶ Invest in Broadband Infrastructure

- ▶ Lack of access is a problem in both rural communities and marginalized neighborhoods in our urban cores

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Innovate Infrastructure & Transportation

▶ Results

- ▶ GOPC was proud to lend our voice to the chorus of groups advocating for the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program
 - ▶ \$250 million in grants to internet service providers for construction of broadband projects that improve high-speed internet access in underserved and unserved areas of Ohio.



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Empower Ohio's Legacy Cities

▶ To Build a Greater Ohio...

▶ Preserve Long-Term City Investments

- ▶ Suspension of the Commuter Tax was a necessary response to the coronavirus pandemic
- ▶ Lifting the suspension could negatively impact Ohio cities by as much as \$411 million per year



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Empower Ohio's Legacy Cities

▶ Results

- ▶ Commuter Tax suspension remains in effect for the remainder of tax year 2021 (12/31/21)
 - ▶ Individual taxpayers can claim a refund for taxes paid in 2021 to a city they did not work in (not automatically issued)
 - ▶ Prevented an effort to extend this refund for taxes paid in 2020
 - ▶ Delay permits cities time to adjust budgets for 2022 and beyond

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Ongoing Priorities

► To Build a Greater Ohio...

- Protect Ohio Families Through Stable Housing
- Stabilize Our Downtown & Commercial Centers
- Prevent New Cycles of Blight & Disinvestment in Residential Neighborhoods
- Invest in Placemaking Programs to Capitalize on Community Assets
- Ensure Capacity Building is Part of All State Programs

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2023-2024 Public Policy Platform

- ▶ **Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities**
 - ▶ Success of efforts around brownfields & public transit priorities will result in shift of GOPC's policy priorities in 2023 and beyond
 - ▶ Impact of pandemic has shifted the timeline for our agenda
 - ▶ Goal is to have new agenda in place and released in August/September of 2022 (or before)

Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities
Greater Ohio Policy Center 2023-2024 Public Policy Platform



Collaboration Will Be Key

- ▶ **Legislative success in 2021 was result of strong partnerships**
 - ▶ Next policy agenda will be developed with a focus on GOPC's mission/vision
 - ▶ Who/how we can partner with other groups to achieve desired outcomes

Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities
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Priority Areas Will Not Change

- ▶ **Brownfield Redevelopment**
- ▶ **Transportation Innovation**
- ▶ **Legacy City Regrowth**
- ▶ **Neighborhood Revitalization**

Legislative goals/priorities will be adjusted/expanded

Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities
Greater Ohio Policy Center 2023-2024 Public Policy Platform



Transportation Innovation

- ▶ **Focus likely to shift away from public transportation exclusively and evolve to a more holistic approach to a diversified transportation network which embraces complete streets, promotes safety, and invests in preservation, not expansion**



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Questions