

BASIC NEEDS

We track Ohio's soaring rates of home foreclosures, sheriff sales and bankruptcies. We've encouraged alternatives to exploitative payday loans and refund anticipation loans, educated families about their right to the Earned Income Tax Credit, and proposed unemployment compensation changes that would better serve low-income Ohioans.

EDUCATION

We've documented the dismal accountability of Ohio charter schools, proposed improvements to our displaced worker training system, and outlined a vision for a better higher education funding system.

TAX POLICY

Fair and adequate taxes are what allow important public investments. We scrutinize state tax proposals to make sure they'll be equitable and adequate. One path-breaking study found that states with strong public sectors have comparable or more rapid economic growth than those that reduce government spending.

ENERGY

Policy Matters works with the Apollo Alliance, a national campaign to create good jobs through renewable energy development and energy efficiency. We've found that, with smart policies, Ohio-made parts could help America free itself from dependence on foreign oil.

TRADE

We've documented the tens of thousands of Ohio jobs lost as a result of poorly conceived international trade agreements, and how these agreements have not sparked promised job growth. We promote a fair trade alternative.

SUPPORT POLICY MATTERS

Policy Matters is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, funded through grants from the George Gund, Cleveland, Joyce, New World, and Sisters of Charity Foundations, Greater Cleveland Community Shares and others. Your support helps us produce and distribute our work.

To make a **tax-deductible** gift to Policy Matters, send a check to the address below or donate through our website, www.policymattersohio.org.

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POLICY MATTERS OHIO

To those who want a more prosperous and fair economy,

POLICY MATTERS

To those who seek better jobs, growing incomes, and more equity,

POLICY MATTERS

To those who support public structures that promote an economy that works for all,

POLICY MATTERS

To those who care about democracy, education, taxes, energy, cities, and the economy,

POLICY MATTERS...

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

...is a non-profit research institute founded in January 2000 to broaden debate about economic policy in Ohio.

We do research focused on issues that matter to working people and their families. With better information, we can achieve more just and efficient economic policy.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy Matters knows Ohio policy. We have released more than 160 reports on issues that matter. Highlights include:

WORKING OHIO

Our annual report, *State of Working Ohio* has exposed job loss, documented stagnant wages, and shown how education and unions boost salaries. We showed how higher wages, including a higher minimum wage, are consistent with a thriving economy. We're now exploring paid sick days and other issues facing workers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our new vision for economic development calls for accountability and transparency. We're working to better track development spending. Our studies conclude that development policy should ensure high wage jobs, investment in a more sustainable economy, and investment in workers. The result will be a higher wage, lower waste economy.

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WORKING FOR THE HIGH ROAD

Our work is unified by a belief in the high road—that we should encourage good jobs at good wages, strong public services, renewable energy development and investment in people. We’re laying the groundwork to encourage policies that create an economy that works better for all. To get there, we need smart investments, good opportunities, on-ramps to the middle class, protection of people’s assets, and strong public structures. We promote a more fair, efficient and sustainable Ohio in several ways:

RESEARCH

Easy-to-read and hard to refute, our concise reports are based on high-quality, accurate data. All include a brief executive summary, a clear set of recommendations, and an understandable format. Download them at www.policymattersohio.org.

ADVOCACY

We’ve testified before policy makers at all levels; met with the Governor, Senators, members of Congress, state legislators and city leaders; and built relationships with policymakers and their staffs. By speaking to the people who make the decisions, we help improve policy in Ohio.

MEDIA

Our reports have led to more than 1,600 news stories on radio, television, and in newspapers – in Ohio and nationally. Visit the media page at www.policymattersohio.org for links to many of the articles and editorials mentioning our work.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Our researchers take every chance they get to speak to the public. We’ve held conferences and spoken at city forums, policy roundtables, union gatherings, places of worship, TV news shows, radio talk shows, and high school and university classrooms. Contact us if you know a place where we can add to the debate about Ohio policy.

ORGANIZING

By forging partnerships with working people, academics, citizens, researchers and activists, we help support effective coalitions that can promote policy change. We sponsor the Progressive Scholars’ Network, a coalition of Ohio academics, and we work with national organizations including the Economic Policy Institute, Dēmos, and the National Community Tax Coalition. Through these alliances, we bring greater insight and perspective to the policy questions affecting Ohio.

*Our reports help foster change.
Some recent policy progress:*

- Our research helped voters, policy makers and the media understand the proposal to raise Ohio’s minimum wage— voters ratified the initiative and Ohio workers got a raise in January 2007.
- Our foreclosure studies helped put the issue on the map. Advocates used it to convince the legislature to better protect homeowners from unscrupulous lenders.
- We tracked the explosion in payday lending, finding that payday lenders now outnumber McDonald’s, Wendy’s and Burger King combined. A bipartisan legislative group now wants to extend protections.
- We’ve shown how investment in clean energy can generate jobs in Ohio. Governor Strickland demanded energy use reductions by government, and more comprehensive reforms are now under negotiation.
- We were among the first to scrutinize a proposed constitutional amendment to strangle state and local spending for education, infrastructure, and other public services. We worked with others to ensure its withdrawal from the ballot.

**POLICY
MATTERS
OHIO**

...building toward a
more just and efficient
economy.