

ALL IN FOR OHIO

AGENDA

No matter who we are or where we live, Ohioans love our communities.

We get together to cheer on our sports teams. In the spring and summer, we go to fish fries and invite our neighbors to a game of cornhole.

We don't think twice about helping a stranger change a tire, or bringing a meal to a sick neighbor. We joined together across race and place to raise the minimum wage in 2006, protect workers' rights to speak up together in 2011 and demand equal representation with fair legislative maps in 2015 and 2018.

But today, in their desperate attempts to hold on to their power, certain politicians are pitting us against each other based on where we live, who we love, or what we look like — hoping we'll look the other way while they rig the rules to profit their wealthy corporate backers. They've refused to pay us the value of our work, hurt our families, locked up our loved-ones and taken years off our lives.

We can have an Ohio where every person – no exceptions – can live a happy, healthy, fulfilling life. Our six policy pillars point the way forward.





Fulfill Ohio's Promise With Fair, Fully-Funded, And Honest Public Education

Ohio's public schools and training centers inspire students' dreams and unlock the potential of Ohioans across race, gender, and zip codes – from the littlest learners to career center students working on their vocational skills. **Ohio's educators are mentors, caregivers, coaches and confidants.**

They deserve to be treated fairly and paid well.

All students must have the freedom to learn through a world-class education grounded in truth, facts and diverse perspectives. And every Ohioan should be able to go as far as their dreams and abilities can take them.

In recent years, some Ohio politicians have passed harmful education policies to enrich large corporations like defunct online charter school ECOT and for-profit colleges like DeVry University. They've robbed our kids of safe buildings and the up-to-date resources they need to achieve their dreams, and they've refused to pay teachers the value of their work.

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And now, many of the same politicians who drained resources from our K-12 schools and colleges are trying to pit us against each other based on what we look like, where we're from, or our genders.

They've put higher education out of reach for many working Ohioans, and then rigged the rules to benefit financial corporations and punish students for pursuing a better life.

From pre-k to Ph.D. programs, Ohio's public education system can help us fulfill our individual aspirations and build a better tomorrow for all of us, no exceptions.



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Solutions/Policies

- › Make wealthy corporations and the rich pay what they truly owe in taxes and fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan, so all children attend schools with modern technology, state of the art materials, and well compensated staff — including school nurses, guidance counselors, social workers, art, music and gym teachers in every school.
- › Use federal funds to keep staff and students safe, and address the staff shortage by compensating teachers and school staff fairly for the important jobs they do.
- › Protect teachers' ability to teach the truth and students' freedom to learn by rejecting extremist attempts to whitewash our history, and to create fear and division between students, parents and educators.
- › Protect every public school educator and employee's right to speak up together through collective bargaining.
- › Fund a public preschool option so all three- and four-year olds in the state can get a head start on reading and learning.
- › Protect public money for education by making charter schools and private institutions that receive vouchers accountable for outcomes, attendance, and equity.
- › Help Ohioans get advanced degrees by increasing state funding for higher education and expanding Ohio's need-based aid program so it reaches the students who need it most.
- › Prohibit colleges and universities from using transcripts to leverage payment and get the state Attorney General's Office out of the business of collecting students' debt, allowing schools to manage it on their own.
- › Fund school counselors, school social workers, and school nurses for behavioral supports and discipline alternatives that will stem school violence and dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline in Ohio.
- › Help students engage and keep up with their school work by increasing technological resources for the most underfunded communities so all students can get online.
- › Support the statewide adoption of an educational approach that honors each child's unique abilities and cultural backgrounds.
- › Enact smart policies that recognize schools' central roles in students' and their families' lives by providing funding for wrap-around social services and community learning centers.

By fully and fairly funding our schools, and making sure students of all races, genders, and backgrounds have the freedom to learn, we can make a better future for all of us.

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Fund Our Future By Making the Wealthy & Corporations Pay What They Owe

From Cleveland to Clermont County, **Ohioans are good neighbors**. Many of us pitch in by digging each other out of the snow or by volunteering at our local food pantry. Others go to work every day to make our communities better as teachers, nurses, or bus drivers.

Through each of our contributions, we built Ohio's world-class library systems, our beautiful state parks, and our top-notch public universities. **Paying taxes is how we come together across race and place to build a strong foundation for our communities — it's how we do big things, together.**

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But instead of using our shared resources to help us pull together, certain Ohio politicians are pitting us against each other based on our race or background hoping we'll blame everyday people for the hardships politicians create. They're rigging the rules to redirect resources from our communities to their country clubs, from our classrooms to their ballrooms, and from our public parks to their private jets.

They've peddled lies about wealth "trickling down" while turning Ohio's tax code upside down — so the same people who are paid the lowest wages also pay the highest share of their incomes in taxes.

When we fund our future, we can bring prosperity to businesses on Main Street, not just the wealthy corporations of Wall Street. **We can have clean, green and dependable public transit to get to work. We can all get the health care we need to get and stay well. And every child will be prepared for the future at an excellent public school.**

Let's join together and call on our lawmakers to rewrite the rules so the rich and wealthy corporations give as much as they take.



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Here are our policy solutions:

- › **Rebalancing the income tax.** People who do well in Ohio should do right by Ohio. But Ohio's tax code is upside down with the wealthiest people paying a smaller share of their incomes in taxes than the people with the lowest incomes. Lawmakers can embrace Republican Gov. George Voinovich's policy of higher income taxes on wealthy Ohioans who make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. That will generate resources so communities can build safe housing, care for the sick, and keep our air and water clean.
- › **Supporting working people who are struggling to make ends meet:** Ohio's lawmakers can put more money in the hands of people who are struggling to make ends meet by making the state Earned Income Tax Credit refundable.
- › **Cleaning up the tax code by rolling back special interest tax breaks:** Each year, Ohio lawmakers choose to direct over \$9 billion of our public resources to tax breaks, including the LLC loophole which has been exploited by the wealthiest businesses, costing our state \$1 billion a year. Instead, policymakers should end breaks that don't provide real benefits to everyday Ohioans and direct those resources to build more vibrant communities for us all, no exceptions.
- › **Making corporations pay what they owe:** Corporations depend on our collective public resources to operate, but Ohio is just one of six states without a corporate income tax. In 2005, some policymakers put corporate profits ahead of people's needs by scrapping the corporate income tax. Bringing it back could leverage hundreds of millions of dollars that can be used to fund excellent public schools, improve bus service, and build out our clean energy infrastructure.
- › **Improving transparency of Ohio's tax breaks:** Reinstate the committee to examine the effectiveness of the public dollars Ohio lawmakers dedicate for special interest tax breaks.

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STRENGTHEN



Ensure Every Ohioan Has The Freedom to Vote

Here in Ohio, we value our freedom. We believe Ohioans should pick their leaders — and not the other way around.

No matter our skin color or background, Ohioans deserve to have a say in the important decisions that impact our lives — from getting access to life-saving medications to creating well-paying jobs to making health care affordable.

In order to do that, we must protect our constitutional freedom to vote. We must have fair and equal representation in our democracy.

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For too long, extremist politicians in Ohio have undermined the will of the people by rigging our maps, passing anti-protest laws, and lying about our elections. And now, they try to use our public schools to spread lies about America's real history, all the while taking precious resources away from our kids and classrooms.

Joining together across race and place, we're making sure that all Ohioans have equal say in our democracy. We're speaking out for fair maps and pushing for federal legislation that will enshrine and protect our freedom to vote.

Together, we're electing leaders who govern in **our interests and help make Ohio a place that represents all of us.**



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Here are our policy solutions:

- › Pass fair and representative maps in the state legislative and congressional redistricting process.
- › Protect voters from being purged from the rolls.
- › Ensure that every Ohioan, no matter the color of our skin, how much money in our wallets, or whether we're currently a student or not, can exercise our freedom to vote
- › Protect Ohioans' right to organize and protest legislation that hurts our families.
- › Ensure every Ohioan can exercise their freedom to vote by giving voters more options through automatic voter registration and same-day registration.
- › Protect the voting rights of students and communities of color.
- › Restore voting rights for Ohioans who are currently incarcerated.
- › Make sure that every Ohioan knows their voting rights, including formerly incarcerated Ohioans

When Ohioans come together to protect our freedom to vote, we can make a better future for all of us. The color of our skin or zip code of our birth will no longer determine our chances of living long, fulfilling lives.

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Ensure Economic Dignity for All Ohioans

Ohioans know that we all do better when every one of us has healthy food to eat and a decent home to live in, **no exceptions.**

Whether we make our living as child care providers, home health aides or as machinists on the factory floor — **we all deserve to be paid the true value of our work and the freedom to join in unions of working people.**

Most Ohioans believe that we should look out for each other during tough times. If we are laid off, we deserve an unemployment compensation system that will help us get by. If we have to take time off work to recover from an injury, bond with a new baby, or care for a sick loved one — we should be able to do it without going broke.

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For years, some Ohio politicians have chosen to do the bidding of wealthy corporations like Kroger and Amazon instead of doing what's best for working people and everyday Ohioans. They pit us against each other based on race and gender hoping we'll look the other way as they divert the wealth our work creates to the richest Ohioans and wealthy corporations. Meanwhile, many of these same corporations refuse to pay us the value of our work, raise prices for everyday families, cut corners on safety, and even steal our wages — all to pad their own profits.

Ohio has enough for all of us — whether we live in Lima, Athens or Cincinnati — to live with dignity. We can come together to rewrite the rules so everyone can live a good life.



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Here are our policy solutions:

- › Safeguard paychecks by boosting funding and staff in the state Wage and Hour division, and require employers give every worker a statement of their pay.
- › Help people who are laid off make ends meet by expanding eligibility for unemployment compensation and fixing the program's administration.
- › Make sure people are paid closer to the value of the work they do by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and eliminating the sub minimum wage for tipped workers.
- › Expand protections for working people who want to join a union and funding for worker centers across the state.
- › Treat child care workers with the respect they deserve by recognizing their right to speak up together, and by paying them the value of the critical work they do.
- › Make child care affordable for all who need it to help more women get and keep good jobs and better prepare our children for the future.
- › Make sure working people can live full lives by passing fair scheduling laws that prevent employers from making last minute schedule changes.
- › Overhaul overtime laws so people are paid for all the hours they put in — whether they're salaried or suiting up for dangerous work.
- › Enact paid time off policy so Ohioans can recover from illness, care for a sick loved one, or bond with a new child without worrying about their financial security.
- › Carefully vet public funding used for economic development deals with wealthy corporations. Make sure corporations who do well in Ohio do right by Ohio by enforcing their promises to our communities. Big projects like Intel Corporation's construction of semiconductor plants outside Columbus should provide both good jobs and benefits for the whole community.
- › Bring more balance to the state tax code by making the State Earned Income Tax Credit refundable so it puts more money in the hands of people who are paid low wages.

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PROTECT



Protect Ohio Kids and Families Through Common-Sense Public Safety Policies

No matter our race or income, **Ohioans believe that all of us deserve to make it back to our loved ones at the end of the day.**

An Ohio where our neighbors are able to heal and rejoin their communities if they make a mistake.

We deserve an Ohio where public safety means a caring response from trained professionals who make sure **everyone**, no matter what they look like or where they live, is safe and receives the help they need.

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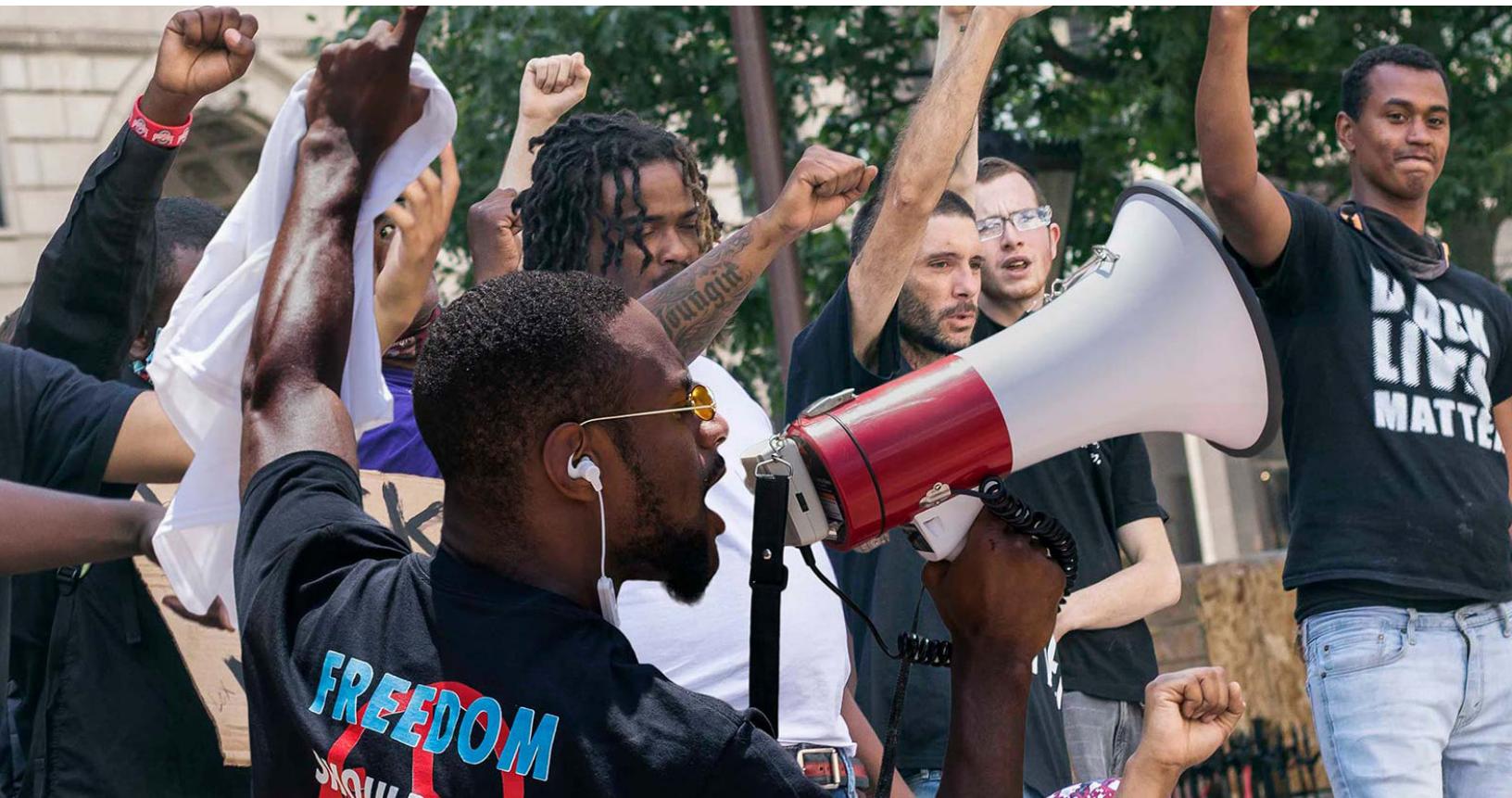
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But for too long now, those who are sworn to serve and protect often harm, abuse and even kill Ohioans without consequences, while a handful of politicians try to block us from protesting this injustice.

Instead of funding our lives, some politicians are trying to make us fear one another. They are throwing away our public resources to impose harsh punishments that don't reduce crime and militarize police who target and terrorize our neighbors who are simply living their lives.

Together, we will make Ohio a place where every child — Black, white or brown — gets to grow up, and every parent gets to be there for them along the way.

It's time to deliver real safety for every Ohioan, whatever the color of our skin or how much money in our wallets, by funding the quality housing, great schools, and excellent health care that we all need.



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Solutions/Policies

- › Help people who have been convicted of a crime return to their communities fully restored by eliminating the barriers that block them from housing and jobs (often known as collateral sanctions).
- › Direct our resources to programs that help people get back on their feet after having a run-in with the criminal legal system, instead of building more prisons.
- › Introduce excellent community-based services and opportunities for young Ohioans so they can envision a better future for themselves and their families.
- › End wealth-based detention for Ohioans awaiting trial by reforming cash bail to ensure everyone is treated fairly.
- › Control Ohio's rising addiction epidemic by fully restoring state funding for community mental health and addiction services.
- › Reduce punitive sentences for drug offenses to ensure people get the help they need to overcome their struggles with substance abuse.
- › Implement new systems to collect sentencing data across jurisdictions and court systems statewide and use the data to drive fair and equitable sentencing reform that corrects the crisis of mass incarceration of Black and brown Ohioans.
- › Set up young Ohioans to succeed by dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline and funding safe, world-class schools, stable housing, quality health care, and healthy food systems.
- › Expand diversion options for young Ohioans so they don't get trapped in the juvenile criminal legal system.
- › Provide social service responders and appropriate trained personnel to deal with Ohioans in mental health crises.
- › End the practice of qualified immunity for police officers who are found responsible for abusing civilians.

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BUILD



Build Healthy and Vibrant Communities

Whether you live in the city or the country, suburbs or small towns, we all want an Ohio where every single one of us can thrive and flourish.

We should all have the freedom to make our medical decisions based on what's best for our health – whether it's accessing an affordable range of pregnancy-related care like abortion or getting gender-affirming treatment. We also need to care for Black and brown mothers who are at higher risk for debilitating physical conditions like pre-eclampsia.

We can protect our children and future generations by tackling big problems like toxic lead in our homes and pollution in our backyards. We can create good union jobs by generating clean energy.

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But for decades, powerful special interests have rigged the rules in Ohio and held our state back. Big corporations like FirstEnergy have used their power and influence to buy off corrupt politicians.

Certain officials have also blocked Ohioans from making the best decisions about their bodies, introducing harmful bills that interfere with our basic medical freedoms.

In the meantime, these politicians and their corporate conglomerate friends have gotten rich off our backs. They're shortening our lives by blocking us from affordable health care, poisoning our kids with toxic lead, filling our communities with guns and opioids, and driving up prices for life-saving prescriptions.

It's the job of lawmakers to trust Ohioans and see that we are treated fairly and equally. That means having access to a wide range of affordable health care treatments, including abortions, medications, and surgical procedures that make us healthy and whole.

It also means providing locally-made energy from the wind and sun that **creates union jobs, heals our climate, and protects our air and land for generations to come.**

Joining together from Columbus to Columbiana County, we demand a safer, healthier, and cleaner Ohio for all of us. **No exceptions.**



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Here are our policy solutions:

- › Recognize racism as a public health crisis and dedicate resources to addressing the root causes of racism, chronic poverty and associated negative impacts on health, as identified by Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force.
- › Engage in participatory budgeting. Leverage federal pandemic relief dollars to address the underlying causes of racial, gender and income health disparities by including the most affected communities in decisions about how the money is spent. Use health and equity assessments as a tool to determine whether state and local spending priorities truly address these purposes prior to making decisions on how to allocate resources.
- › Protect all Ohioans' right to make their own medical decisions, in consultation with their doctor, whether it's to start a family, end a pregnancy, or receive gender-affirming care.
- › Make sure new babies survive and new moms can raise their children by addressing the racial health disparities that cause high infant and maternal mortality rates in the Black community.
- › Include Doula care in Medicaid coverage and create a pilot program for Doula support for incarcerated expectant moms.
- › Make sure new babies survive and new moms can raise their children by addressing the racial health disparities that cause high infant and maternal mortality rates in the Black community.
- › Ensure our communities are prepared for the next public health crisis by fully resourcing local public health agencies. Protect the health of all communities through vaccination education and outreach, and additional vaccine distribution and COVID testing sites to serve low-income and rural communities.
- › Use federal pandemic relief dollars to create job opportunities for people of color, women, working-class Ohioans, and others who are often excluded by building healthier, climate-resilient communities:
 - Federal funds can be for projects that embrace clean energy and transportation alternatives, create green space and urban tree canopies, and repair past damage to our land by reclaiming mines, reforesting the region, restoring wetlands and remediating brownfields.
 - Federal funds can also create jobs rehabbing old buildings – removing toxic lead paint and making them more energy efficient.
 - Federal money can move Ohio into the future by modernizing the electric grid, prioritizing clean energy, expanding our electric vehicle infrastructure and improving our public transit system.

When Ohioans come together to push for these policies, we can make a better future for all of us. The color of our skin or zip code of our birth will no longer determine our chances of living long, fulfilling lives.

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