

Dear All

Happy New Year!

I filed Lawsuit at Federal Court Ohio Southern District Columbus Branch on 12/19 to urge Federal agency and congress give investigation result for presidential candidates including investigation on Trump NJ Rich Chinese EB5 urgent approved due to Hurricane Sandy with support of Obama, Accessory to murder investigation on Hillary Clinton and State Department, investigation on Trump daughter Ivanka best friend Wendi Deng, ex-wife of Murdoch, a top Chinese Spy and hate crime of Trump against Muslim. Summons has already been mailed to all defendants by court !

Defendants including president Obama, vice president, FBI, CIA, Justice department, homeland security, State Department, SEC, Paul Ryan , Mitch McConnell , Reince Priebus, Mike Pence etc. Please see attached complain draft.

USA need a true leader whom be approved could lead USA to a bright future ! A leader that believe in and loyal to God! I believe Ohio Governor John Kasich is THE person whom is picked by God!

Here are part of Ohio Governor's accomplishments:

In 2011, 1st Year of Governor John R. Kasich took office, Ohio faced historic challenges. Over 400,000 jobs were lost in the previous four years, unemployment peaked and remained at 10.6 percent between August 2009 and February 2010, and the state faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall. You could see Ohio Governor Accomplishment in 2011 for Job creation and budget balance etc.: Closing an \$8 billion shortfall without raising taxes while preserving the \$400 million annual income tax cut and cutting taxes \$300 million by eliminating the Estate Tax. Till 2013, after a Low of 89 Cents when Governor John Kasich took office in 2011, Ohio Rainy Day Fund Hits All-Time High -- \$1.5 billion.

I attached all 6 years Ohio Governor Accomplishments for you to review.

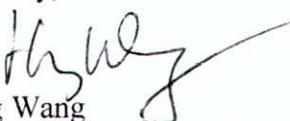
You are also welcome to watch this touching heart video :

John Kasich - The Greatness of America is in Us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQvMtazw18w>

#Kasich4Us

Sincerely,


Hong Wang

3505 prestwick CT

Columbus, OH 43220.

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
_____ DIVISION**

hong wang

(Enter Above the Name of the Plaintiff in this Action)

vs.

President Obama and vice president Joe Biden

(Enter above the name of the Defendant in this Action)

If there are additional Defendants, please list them:

John Kerry and State Department

Loretta Lynch and Department of Justice

James Comey and FBI

Jeh Johnson and Homeland Security (more in attached)

COMPLAINT

I. Parties to the action:

Plaintiff: Place your name and address on the lines below. The address you give must be the address where the court may contact you and mail documents to you. A telephone number is required.

Hong Wang

Name - Full Name Please - PRINT

3505 prestwick CT

Street Address

Columbus OH 43220

City, State and Zip Code

614-813-0892

Telephone Number

If there are additional Plaintiffs in this suit, a separate piece of paper should be attached immediately behind this page with their full names, addresses and telephone numbers. If there are no other Plaintiffs, continue with this form.

Defendant(s):

Place the name and address of each Defendant you listed in the caption on the first page of this Complaint. This form is invalid unless each Defendant appears with full address for proper service.

1. **Barack Obama,**
Name - Full Name Please
The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500
Address: Street, City, State and Zip Code
2. **Joe Biden**
The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500
3. **Loretta Lynch and Department of Justice**
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001
4. **James Comey and FBI**
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20535-0001
5. **Jeh Charles Johnson and Homeland Security,**
The Honorable Jeh Johnson Secretary of Homeland Security Washington, D.C. 20528
6. **John O. Brennan and CIA,**
Central Intelligence Agency Office of Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20505

If there are additional Defendants, please list their names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.

II. Subject Matter Jurisdiction

Check the box or boxes that describes your lawsuit:

- Title 28 U.S.C. § 1343(3)
[A civil rights lawsuit alleging that Defendant(s) acting under color of State law, deprived you of a right secured by federal law or the Constitution.]
- Title 28 U.S.C. § 1331
[A lawsuit "arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States."]
- Title 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1)
[A lawsuit between citizens of different states where the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000.]
- Title _____ United States Code, Section _____
[Other federal status giving the court subject matter jurisdiction.]

Additional Defendants:

7.

John Kerry and State Department,
2201 C Street, NW. Washington, DC 20520

8.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549

9.

Reince Priebus
310 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

10.

Paul Ryan, house speaker
1233 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515-4901

11. Sen. Mitch McConnell, senator leader

317 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

12. Mike Pence , Governor of Indiana, vice president elect.

Office of the Governor
Statehouse
200 W Washington St,
Indianapolis, IN 46204

III. Statement of Claim

Please write as briefly as possible the facts of your case. Describe how each Defendant is involved. Include the name of all persons involved, give dates and places.

Number each claim separately. Use as much space as you need. You are not limited to the papers we give you. Attach extra sheets that deal with your statement claim immediately behind this piece of paper.

1. Plaintiff is an individual , a resident of Columbus, Ohio, USA

2. Plaintiff delivered request to defendants on investigation related two major presidential candidates :

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton : Details are (attached documents)

A: Accessory to Murder investigation on Hillary Clinton and State Department

B: Original letter to Donald Trump on the morning Corey Lewandowski fired related to national security

C: FYI Hate Crime of Donald Trump against Muslim

D: National Security of Trump and his Daughter best Friend Wendi Deng , a top Chinese Spy

Investigation on QiaoWai, US Immigration Fund which related to Trump NJ Tower

Rich Chinese EB5 urgent approved due Hurricane Sandy with support of Debbie Wasserman and Obama

Dates defendants received

Barack Obama and Joe Biden, Oct 12, USPS tracking number 9505516321246279041187 and 9505515229536279025352

Loretta Lynch and Department of Justice, Oct 7, USPS tracking number 9505515229536277023985

James Comey and FBI Oct 7, USPS tracking number 9505515229536277024029

Jeh Charles Johnson and Homeland Security, Oct 5, USPS tracking number 9505515229536277023992

John O. Brennan and CIA, Oct 7, USPS tracking number 9505515229536277023978

John Kerry and State Department, Oct 6, USPS tracking number 9505515229536277024005

The Securities and Exchange Commission, email reported on 9/2, SEC confirmed on 9/8

Reince Priebus, emailed 9/18, hard copy delivered on Oct11, USPS tracking number 9505516321236282028831

Paul Ryan, Plaintiff visited his office and delivered hard copy to his staff on Oct 7

Sen. Mitch McConnell, Plaintiff visited his office and delivered hard copy to his staff on Oct. 7

Mike Pence, Oct 7, USPS tracking number 9505515229536279025376

3. On Dec.18, Plaintiff got a letter from defendant Department of Justice, Dated Dec 13

without any detail information that Plaintiff requested :

(additional statements in attached paper)

A: Whether Clinton and State Department knew Genocide in China and hide the information submitted by wang lijun to US Embassy in China in 2012

NTDTV recently interviewed Gary Locke before presidential voting and asked whether Wang lijun submitted documents have organ harvesting related information, Ambassador Locke: "I am not at lib... I cannot say .. I am not going to confirm whether or not there were such documents." Why he cannot confirm? He can say NO if those documents not exist!!!! **Up to 1.5 million organ transplants may have taken place in China since 2000**, mostly harvested from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience, report says. (See attached documents)

B: Defendant Department of Justice did not explain why Donald Trump action to Muslim through entire election did not violate Hate Crime of US Law

C: Defendant Department of Justice did not explain, based on report, why Donald Trump NJ tower Rich Chinese EB5 urgent approved due to Hurricane Sandy with support of Obama did not violate any US law.

D: Plaintiff did not receive any response from any other defendants, especially on the national security issue with Donald Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump best friend Wendi Deng, a top Chinese Spy. Plaintiff witness Donald Trump used a very similar method as Chairman Mao got the power in China in 1949. It is called "using the rural areas to encircle the cities" using cheating, hate, etc. Thus Plaintiff think Chinese Communist Party interfere with US election by using Wendi Deng as spy. See attached newspaper Nine Commentaries on the communist Party.

E: Plaintiff thus cannot and did not vote. It violated plaintiff's right given by constitution and federal law.

IV. Previous lawsuits:

If you have been a Plaintiff in a lawsuit, for each lawsuit state the case number and caption.
(Example, Case Number: 2:08-cv-728 and Caption: John Smith vs. Jane Doe).

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Caption</u>
_____	_____ vs. _____
_____	_____ vs. _____
_____	_____ vs. _____

V. Relief

In this section please state (write) briefly exactly what you want the court to do for you. Make no legal argument, cite no case or statutes.

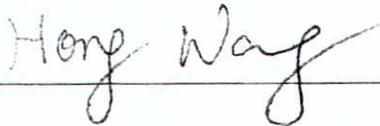
I want court to order defendants with defendants Obama, Biden ,Ryan, McConnell etc cooperated and monitor

1. Defendant John Kerry and State Department release information submitted by Wang Lijun to US Embassy / State Department in China in 2012, especially on organ harvesting Genocide part.
2. Defendant Loretta Lynch and Department of Justice explain why Donald Trump action to Muslim through entire election did not violate Hate Crime of US Law
3. Defendant Loretta Lynch and Department of Justice , Jeh Johnson and homeland Security explain why Donald Trump NJ tower Rich Chinese EB5 urgent approved due to Hurricane Sandy with support of Obama and Debbie Wasserman did not violate US law.
4. Defendants CIA, FBI and Homeland Security release information on investigation of Wendi Deng including her cheating on getting green card and top Chinese Spy report , and why Corey Lewandowski was fired on the morning I report to Trump about Wendi Deng spy issue.
5. Defendant James Comey and FBI release Hillary Clinton e-mail with China in 2012.
6. Defendant SEC release investigation on Trump NJ tower agents QiaoWai and US immigration fund

I state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on

this 18 day of December, 2016.

Signature of Plaintiff





JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

2011: The Year that Ohio Started Getting Back on Track

When Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor took office one year ago, Ohio faced historic challenges. Over 400,000 jobs were lost in the previous four years, unemployment peaked and remained at 10.6 percent between August 2009 and February 2010, and the state faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall going into Fiscal Year 2012. For Gov. Kasich, job creation has been priority number one from day one. With his vision, Ohio has begun making the necessary government reforms to cultivate a jobs-friendly environment so Ohioans can get back to work, and our state can start moving in the right direction.

PUTTING OHIO'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

- **Commonsense Budgeting**: The centerpiece of Gov. Kasich's agenda has been the state's FY2012-13 budget. Based on the twin priorities of fiscal stability and job creation, the budget helped get Ohio's fiscal health in order and achieved major, needed policy changes, including:
 - Closing an \$8 billion shortfall without raising taxes while preserving the \$400 million annual income tax cut and cutting taxes \$300 million by eliminating the Estate Tax;
 - Reforming Ohio's Medicaid program—the largest expense in the state budget;
 - Accomplishing one of the most comprehensive education reform agendas in the country;
 - Providing training vouchers for incumbent workers to help prevent them from becoming unemployed;
 - Providing important new tools for schools and local governments to share services and reduce costs;
 - Reforming construction rules and the prevailing wage law;
 - Providing for the sale of up to five prisons (one was ultimately sold for \$72 million, two were converted to private management, and one privately-managed prison was converted to state management);
 - Creating InvestOhio to help Ohio's small businesses to retain and create jobs, and;
 - Creating a process for studying ways to possibly use Ohio's Turnpike to help meet future highway funding needs.
- **Restoring the Rainy Day Fund**: When Gov. Kasich took office in January, Ohio's Rainy Day Fund – Ohio's savings account for tough times – had dwindled to just 89 cents. Even with the need to close an \$8 billion dollar gap, Gov. Kasich and the General Assembly were able to deposit nearly \$250 million in the fund for the next rainy day.
- **Upgrading Ohio's Credit Outlook**: In July, Standard & Poor's upgraded Ohio's AA-plus credit-rating outlook from "negative" to "stable."

CREATING A JOBS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT TO GET OHIOANS BACK TO WORK

- **A New Way of Doing Business:** Gov. Kasich made job creation his top priority when he came into office. By establishing JobsOhio, the Common Sense Initiative, cutting taxes, and other reforms that made state government more efficient and business friendly, he is helping to create a better environment for job growth.
- **Producing Results:** In 2011, the Kasich Administration and JobsOhio worked with businesses of all sizes to secure 251 new investments, expansions, and relocations to create 21,099 new jobs and keep 61,686 existing ones. Overall, that means nearly \$4.8 billion in new or saved payroll for Ohio. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Ohio is 8th in the nation in job creation and tops in the Midwest [Jan. – Oct. 2011].
- **A Return on Investment in Economic Growth Incentives:** For the first time, Ohio is measuring the return on investment (ROI) for each and every jobs project that receives taxpayer-based incentives. This year, approximately 91 percent of state-approved projects began earning a return on taxpayers' funds in just the first or second year.
- **Encouraging Entrepreneurs:** Historically, small businesses have created two out of every three new jobs, so Ohio created a program that would spur economic development by directly helping these entrepreneurs. InvestOhio is designed to encourage risk taking by making investments of up to \$10 million eligible for an income tax credit worth 10 percent of the total investment. In just two weeks, InvestOhio has received 1,119 applications committing more than \$246 million in investments.

BRINGING COMMON SENSE TO GOVERNMENT

- **Common Sense Initiative (CSI):** Ohio has too many duplicative and overly burdensome regulations. On his first day in office, Gov. Kasich signed his first Executive Order creating the "Common Sense Initiative" (CSI) and putting Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor in charge of leading the effort to bring common sense to Ohio's regulations and reduce burdens on business.
- **Eliminating Barriers to Efficiency—Highlights:**
 - The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) and representatives from the auto dealers associations worked together to improve the auto dealers licensing procedure. As a result, the Dealers Licensing section of the BMV will reduce the processing time to obtain a first time dealer's license by as much as 83 percent. Since dealers are ready to begin operations when they apply for a license, this will result in their ability to begin selling cars sooner and therefore increase their bottom line.
 - The Ohio Department of Agriculture recently completed a consolidation project which reduced the number of private license categories for pesticide and fertilizer applicators from 13 to seven. This will cut down the number of exams required of the applicators, saving small businesses time and money while maintaining the same standards for certification.
 - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is emphasizing the need to create innovative common sense permitting solutions that streamline the process while protecting Ohio's natural resources. Since many business operations are similar, Ohio EPA's general permit provides consistent standards and a "speed-of-business" approach to permitting. Business should be able to get this permit in as little as two weeks.
- **Reducing Violence in Prisons:** Since 2010, a violent incident involving four or more inmates occurred every seven days in Ohio's prisons; a 400 percent increase since 2007. To address this disturbing trend, the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections has implemented a multi-layered violence reduction strategy, and since June, inmate-on-inmate assaults are down by 54 percent and inmate-on-staff assaults are down by 52 percent.

- Construction Reform: For over 100 years, Ohio law required public institutions to adhere to antiquated policies that led to increased construction costs for government projects. Included in the FY2012-13 budget were reforms to give public authorities more flexibility and cost savings.
- Prevailing Wage Reform: Over the years, prevailing wage rules have driven up taxpayers' costs without guaranteeing a better product, and have made it difficult for small contractors to win government bids. The FY2012-13 budget increased the threshold of public projects impacted by prevailing wage, saving school districts money by prohibiting prevailing wage requirements from applying to them, and ensuring that taxpayers are getting their money's worth by increasing competition in the bid process. Importantly, prevailing wage rules are eliminated for many new private-sector construction projects supported by state economic development programs, thus making Ohio more job friendly to businesses seeking to expand or relocate to the state.
- Shared Services: The FY2012-13 budget tears down barriers which have prevented local governments from working together and creates initiatives aimed at reducing costs and expediting the implementation of shared services. It is now easier for schools or governments to share staff, equipment or facilities through simple agreements, as well as work together to purchase supplies without unnecessary hurdles.
- Harmonizing Ohio's Gaming Policies: In the past, Ohio's approach to gaming had been disjointed and driven by political expediency. Gov. Kasich initiated a comprehensive review of all gaming in Ohio to ensure that the state's laws for horse racing, the Ohio Lottery and casino gaming are consistent and uniform, and provide the maximum benefit to Ohioans. The result is an agreement between the Office of the Governor, Rock Ohio Caesars, LLC (ROC), and Penn National Gaming that will provide \$220 million in additional funds for Ohioans, and increased certainty for the industry.

IMPROVING CARE FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE

- Re-Tooling the Medicaid System: In Ohio, four percent of Medicaid patients account for 51 percent of the cost of the program. In the budget, Gov. Kasich introduced proposals to re-tool the Medicaid system by prioritizing the types of services that people prefer, requiring the system to better coordinate the care it provides to individuals and paying for quality rather than volume. These changes put the needs of taxpayers and Medicaid beneficiaries first and will challenge providers and administrators to make more efficient use of valuable resources. Medicaid modernization proposals included in the budget will save the state \$1.5 billion and lead to better health, better care and cost savings through improvement.
- Treating the Whole Person by Integrating Physical and Behavioral Health Services: Adults with serious mental illness represent about 10 percent of Ohio's Medicaid population, yet they account for 26 percent of total Ohio Medicaid expenditures. The lack of coordination between service providers often fails these individuals. New reforms place an emphasis on treating the whole person.
- Empowering Seniors and People with Disabilities, Increasing Value for Taxpayers: An additional 12,890 Ohioans will receive Medicaid home- and community-based services instead of having to go into an institution. The budget makes a significant investment in home- and community-based services for seniors and people with physical disabilities (PASSPORT/Choices, Assisted Living, Home Care and Aging Transitions waivers) and people with a developmental disability (Level One, Individual Options, DD Transitions and the new SELF waivers). The FY2012-13 budget provides \$532 million more for waivers for home- and community-based services over the biennium (above SFY 2011 levels), including \$55.6 million more for PASSPORT.

FIGHTING DRUG ADDICTION AND DRIVING PREVENTION

- **Shutting Down “Pill Mills”:** In 2010, 9.7 million doses of prescription painkillers were dispensed in Scioto County Ohio alone. This equates to 123 doses for every man, woman and child in a county with a population of 79,000. To address this scourge, Gov. Kasich created a new Cabinet-level Opiate Task Force and signed legislation to strengthen the state’s ability to shut down “pill mill” operations led by corrupt doctors who dispense lethal doses of pain medications to anyone with a few hundred dollars. Gov. Kasich also signed an Executive Order authorizing the State Medical Board of Ohio to establish standards and procedures for pain management clinics in Ohio in order to help fight prescription drug abuse by preventing clinics from operating as “pill mills.” On December 14, 2011, Ohio achieved a key victory when the State Medical Board permanently revoked the license of Dr. James Lundeen, a pill mill doctor who was known to treat 90 patients in one day, on average. In addition, joint efforts by various state agencies and the Ohio Attorney General resulted in the closing of 12 illicit pain clinics, and overall drug seizures are up 500 percent from 2010 levels.
- **Improving Treatment for Injured Workers:** In September, the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) established its first-ever formulary of medications for the treatment of injured workers. This will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of treatment, limit the inappropriate use of medications, and lower BWC’s prescription costs by an estimated \$15 million in its first 18 months. Additionally, BWC will only cover drugs related to the specific injury and now prohibits decertified providers from prescribing drugs for injured workers.

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING: A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PREPARE OHIOANS

- **Giving Parents a Choice:** When it comes to their child’s education, parents deserve a choice. By incorporating increased competition into the system, schools are incentivized to enhance the quality of education in order to attract students. To help make this a reality, EdChoice scholarships have been quadrupled, the cap on community schools has been removed, and Ohio has implemented enhanced community school access to facilities.
- **Ranking Schools, Informing Parents:** Since 2003, Ohio schools have received a Performance Index (PI) score. The index, validated by school districts across the state since its inception, places a priority on student achievement. For the first time, PI scores are being compared statewide and shared publicly to better inform parents of where their school stands relative to the rest of the state. By providing increased transparency, Ohio is giving parents the information they need as they prepare their child for success.
- **A Fair and Functional Teacher Evaluation Process:** Thanks in part to the input of over 1,400 teachers, the Ohio Department of Education approved a new teacher evaluation system that provides the flexibility and accountability our teachers and students deserve. The implementation of this system will help create the climate, conditions and incentives that promote alignment toward a common goal – improving student achievement.
- **Improving College Graduation Rates at a Lower Cost:** Ohio’s universities are taking too long to graduate students, if they graduate at all. By encouraging the development of three-year baccalaureate degrees at Ohio’s public universities, students will have the opportunity to save money and enter Ohio’s workforce ahead of schedule.
- **Creating a Demand-Driven Workforce Development Model:** Ohio currently has 77 workforce development programs scattered across 13 different agencies, many of which operate largely independent from one another. Making matters worse, the current model is supply driven and trains workers for jobs that may not exist. In September, Gov. Kasich assigned a member of his staff to focus completely on workforce development, and Ohio is now working to implement significant reforms that will ensure our workforce development programs are working in concert with one another and are training workers based on the jobs that need filled by employers in our state.

###

2011 Public Events

In 2011, Gov. Kasich made face-to-face meetings with business and civic leaders a priority. Whenever possible, travel to cities across Ohio, both large and small, was incorporated into the schedule. As a result, over the course of just 12 months, Gov. Kasich held 132 public events around the state. Below is a breakdown of these events by region.

Location	Number of open press events
Columbus Metro	50
Cleveland Metro	18
Cincinnati Metro	18
Akron-Canton Metro	12
Toledo Metro	11
Southeast Ohio	9
Dayton Metro	8
Youngstown Metro	6



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

2012 in Review

For Ohio, a year of reform, renewal and results

Ohio looks much different today compared to when Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor took office two years ago. By making job creation Ohio's number one priority, our state is now in a much better fiscal position thanks to a new, jobs-friendly economic environment that is getting Ohioans back to work. In fact, over the past two years Ohio has gone from being almost dead-last in job creation to becoming one of America's top job creators, our unemployment rate has decreased 50 percent faster than the nation's, and responsible fiscal management has earned Ohio a "stable" credit outlook from all three rating agencies. At the same time, state government is working aggressively to find cost-saving efficiencies and improve services for Ohio citizens and those who do business here. In addition to these fiscal priorities, Gov. Kasich and his Cabinet have advanced initiatives that help and protect the most vulnerable Ohioans. The accomplishments of 2012 have been achieved through strong partnerships between the Kasich Administration and members of the General Assembly on both sides of the aisle, educators, local officials, business leaders, and others, allowing our state to build upon the positive momentum initially gained in 2011.

BUILDING ON MOMENTUM THAT STRENGTHENS OHIO FOR JOB GROWTH

- **Directing an Historic Mid-Biennium Budget Review – with Results:** To continue building a jobs-friendly climate and improving the state's fiscal management, Gov. Kasich initiated a sweeping, precedent-setting review of state government's budget, operations and policies at the mid-point of Ohio's two-year budget cycle. This comprehensive Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) produced a 3,400-page package of far-reaching reforms and initiatives to create a jobs-friendly climate in Ohio by, among other things, boosting education and workforce training programs, streamlining and improving management of government agencies and establishing a first-of-its-kind state energy policy.
- **Getting Ohio Out of the Red:** The Kasich Administration closed its first full fiscal year on June 30, 2012, with the state budget not only in balance, but also with a significant surplus. As a result, more than \$235 million was added to the Budget Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund to supplement the administration's \$246.9 million deposit in 2011. Over two very challenging years for Ohio's economy, and after resolving a \$7.7 billion structural deficit, the state budget remains in balance without raising taxes and leaving a surplus to rebuild what had been a nearly penniless state savings account.
- **Reducing the Size of Government:** Under Gov. Kasich's directive to identify efficiencies and streamline state agencies, the size of government has continued to shrink over the past year. Between 2011 and 2012, non-Medicaid spending from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) has been reduced 5.8 percent, and state operating and administrative expenditures have decreased by 2.4 percent (All Funds). Additionally, state agencies have seen staff levels reduce by 7.6 percent without hindering the delivery of services to Ohioans. (*Examples of agency cost savings [available here.](#)*)
- **Ohio's Unemployment Falling Faster than U.S.:** At the start of the Kasich Administration in January 2011, the US and Ohio unemployment rates were relatively the same – 9.1 and 9.0 respectively. Since that time, however, Ohio's unemployment rate has dropped more sharply than the nationwide rate, falling 2.1 points under Gov. Kasich's

leadership compared to just 1.2 points nationally. Notably, after passage of Gov. Kasich's Jobs Budget, unemployment quickly began dropping – from 8.9 percent in July 2011 to its current rate of 6.9 percent. The U.S. rate still hovers at 7.7 percent.

- Leading the Midwest in Job Creation: Since January 2011, Ohioans have created 127,300 jobs, making our state 5th in the country in job creation and 1st in the Midwest.
- Spurring Job Growth: JobsOhio finalized 267 projects in 2012, resulting in 19,993 new job commitments and 50,258 retained jobs for a total of \$2.3 billion in annual payroll. Additionally, new and existing companies made \$4.5 billion in total capital investment. JobsOhio completed 9.4 percent more projects in 2012 than in 2011, accounting for a 36 percent increase in new capital investment. (**These JobsOhio preliminary numbers are subject to change as end-of-the-year data continues to be processed.*)
- Holding Companies Accountable to Taxpayers: In 2012, the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) initiated remedial action against 57 tax credit projects, 30 loan recipients and 38 grant recipients, demonstrating the Administration's commitment to hold companies accountable for the job creation, retention, training, and wages they promise in return for state incentives. In two years, ODSA has certified 42 projects to the Attorney General for clawback actions amounting to \$13.6 million. Under the previous administration, just 41 projects were certified to the Attorney General for collection over a four-year period.
- Leading the Nation with a Comprehensive Energy Strategy: A comprehensive energy policy, a product of the MBR, supports a diverse mix of reliable, low-cost energy sources that meet Ohio's continuing job-creation needs. Important regulatory changes foster job growth while protecting Ohio's environment.
- Leveraging the Ohio Turnpike to Accelerate Roadway Construction: Gov. Kasich championed a comprehensive review of the Ohio Turnpike and has recommended that the Turnpike issue bonds backed by future toll revenue to generate \$1.5 billion for investment in major transportation projects in northern Ohio. This will allow the state to accelerate other important and sorely needed transportation projects across the state.
- Addressing a Vital Southwest Ohio Resource: The long-outmoded Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati is a vital artery for the Ohio River Valley, but the bridge has been deemed "functionally obsolete." The governors of Ohio and Kentucky are now working on a collaborative solution that will be crucial to the economic vitality of Cincinnati and the entire region.
- Advancing Research and Job Growth through Connectivity: A state investment of nearly \$13 million to spur a ten-fold increase in the speed of Ohio's broadband bandwidth to a nation-leading 100 Gigabits per second will advance research and job growth in medical research, higher education, manufacturing, engineering and technology.
- Reforming Outdated Banking and Finance System: Gov. Kasich's leadership and support produced major reform of Ohio's outdated banking and finance tax system, reducing taxes for the vast majority of the state's community banks while closing a significant loophole exploited by a few large banks to avoid millions of dollars in state tax. The new Financial Institutions Tax broadens the tax base, stabilizes the tax revenues paid by financial institutions and is, in total, revenue neutral.
- Investing in Job Growth, Not Workers Compensation Costs: Ohio continues to reduce workers' compensation costs so Ohio businesses can invest more in growth. Average rate reductions over the past two years have saved Ohio

businesses an estimated \$130 million and public employers an estimated \$40 million. Progress can be seen in a recent national study showing that Ohio dropped from 17th to 28th in terms of premium costs since 2010.

REFORMING EDUCATION AT EVERY LEVEL

- **Third Grade Reading Guarantee:** To help ensure that Ohio's younger students have the reading skills they need to succeed later in school – and in life – the Kasich Administration developed a stronger Third Grade Reading Guarantee to ensure better reading intervention and monitoring plans. Social promotion of third graders who can't read will end and new intervention and support efforts in K-3 will identify and assist students who need additional help in order to progress.
- **Giving Parents a More Honest Assessment of their Children's Schools:** Ohio's new system to measure school performance will assign grades A-F to all public schools and school districts, providing a better understanding for parents of how their child's school is performing and where it can improve. New, more challenging standards will ensure the grade a school receives more accurately reflects student success.
- **Tackling Education Reform in Cleveland:** With 31,000 children in its failing schools, the City of Cleveland is working to effect major change that will provide Cleveland students with the education they deserve. At the request of Mayor Frank Jackson, Gov. Kasich asked the General Assembly to adopt a school reform plan for Cleveland's schools that was developed by the mayor, the city's school leadership and business community. Embraced by the Kasich Administration, the Jackson Plan will enable Cleveland's schools to improve standards, reward, retain and recruit high-quality educators, and increase school autonomy and accountability.
- **Bringing Higher Education Leaders Together to Solve Problems:** Early in 2012, Gov. Kasich called on the state's 37 public college and university presidents to put aside their previous process for dividing up the state's capital construction budget and to collaborate on a single list of recommendations for funding needed improvements on Ohio's campuses. The result has been unprecedented and widely applauded cooperation on a once-divisive process. Building on that success, Gov. Kasich has now charged these presidents to recreate the collaborative process and develop a single, unified recommendation for funding the operations of Ohio's public two- and four-year institutions. The result: a funding formula based on course completion and graduation and not just on enrollment – incentivizing institutions to graduate more students, strengthening Ohio's workforce.

PREPARING OHIOANS FOR THE WORKFORCE

- **Re-aligning Workforce Development:** Ohio's workforce training programs had long been a web of bureaucratic inefficiency. Introducing a more effective and efficient system, the Governor's Executive Workforce Board is now able to develop a unified budget and performance metrics for the workforce development system. The goal is to better align training efforts with the hiring needs of job creators, helping Ohio workers to more easily get meaningful employment.
- **Career Connections—Refocusing on Career Paths:** Now more than ever, students need to be exposed to careers available in Ohio, with an appreciation for the value of education and the links between their school lessons and the real world. By starting this process earlier, Ohio students will be better prepared to select the courses and higher education they need that align with their career paths. With newly developed model curricula for students in all K-12 schools, teachers and administrators will have improved tools to include career awareness and development in their lessons.

- Battlefront to Homefront: This initiative connects returning Ohio National Guard members to employment counseling and referrals, with follow-ups throughout the new veteran's re-integration process. Multi-agency efforts aimed at employing all eligible veterans – a process that's placed nearly 2,400 veterans in jobs in the past 11 months.

HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE OHIOANS

- Increased Employment Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities: In March, Ohio launched the Employment First Initiative to increase meaningful employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. As part of this initiative, Gov. Kasich created the Employment First Task Force to review and make recommendations for increasing community employment opportunities. The Governor also championed legislation to align state policies and educational programs to support community employment for working-age adults with developmental disabilities.
- Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit: With the Employment First initiative, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) held a jobs summit to help well-qualified, skilled individuals who happen to have a disability find the needed training and skill building necessary for them to seek quality employment. Approximately 700 individuals representing businesses, consumers, and providers attended the summit.
- Helping People Access Services Faster: Since 2009, RSC had amassed a lengthy list of individuals waiting to receive services. Gov. Kasich demanded that this wait list be eliminated and because of this focus, the number of individuals on the wait list for services continues to drop each and every month. Using efficiencies and lean processing to improve performance, RSC has been able to release more than 8,500 people from the wait list, making them eligible to receive services to assist them obtain employment.
- Summer Backpack Program: The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) worked with partners across Ohio to ensure that children in low-income areas continued to receive nutritious meals over summer break. The partnership purchased, packed, and delivered approximately 100,000 Summer Weekend meal packages containing 600,000 meals to 10,000 Ohio children during their summer break from school.
- Preventing Infant Mortality: The 43201 area of Weiland Park in Columbus has the highest infant mortality in the state. Low birth weight, lack of nutrition and education are some of the factors contributing to this problem, so Dr. Pat Temple Gabbe started the Mom2B program to address high infant mortality rates and provide expectant mothers with basic services and material needs, from nutrition to mental health. GOFBCI is funding two family advocates to fill needs of the program, which has now served 131 moms and 60 newborns.
- Expanding the After School All-Stars Program: Gov. Kasich expanded this program to help keep low-income, at-risk children in positive environments where they continue to learn, grow, and stay active.

IMPROVING CARE FOR OHIOANS

- Slowing Growth in Medicaid: Gov. Kasich's Jobs Budget included significant new tools to reset Medicaid payment rules to reward value rather than volume, improve the quality of care for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens and save a projected \$1.5 billion over the biennium. In 2012, the Administration used these tools to drive Medicaid program improvements and deliver savings that were more than \$500 million above previously projected savings levels in the first year of the biennium.
- Integrating Medicare and Medicaid Benefits: In December, Ohio became just the third state to get federal approval to implement a program to improve care coordination for individuals who are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Ohio will

launch its Integrated Care Delivery System in September 2013, leading to better care for 114,000 Ohio seniors and people with disabilities and reducing costs in both programs.

IMPROVING OHIO'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Collateral Consequences: Gov. Kasich signed cutting-edge legislation to reduce crime in Ohio, decrease offender recidivism, increase public safety, strengthen families, and expand job opportunities for the estimated two million Ohioans with a non-violent felony or misdemeanor conviction. This effort addresses collateral consequences that have long existed beyond the direct sentence resulting from a crime, an important step toward increasing job opportunities for Ohioans who have paid their debt to society and want to change their lives. Ohio now leads the nation in taking a common sense approach to restoring Ohio citizens who have made a mistake in their past and are eager to live their lives as hard-working, contributing members of the community.
- Addressing Human Trafficking: Human trafficking – the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor – is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide and is on pace to surpass the drug trade in less than five years. Ohio is not immune to this plague. Each year, more than a thousand Ohio children are estimated to become victims of human trafficking and three times that many may be at risk. In March 2012, Gov. Kasich signed an Executive Order to establish the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, and in June 2012 signed House Bill 262, legislation aimed at fighting back against this problem. The legislation raises penalties against human traffickers, creates programs for victims, and raises awareness of the problem. The Task Force will work in concert with the legislation by pulling the resources of the state to coordinate efforts to identify and rescue victims, to create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate these crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives.
- Reducing Drug Trafficking: To assist the law enforcement in combating drug trafficking in Ohio, Gov. Kasich signed legislation in June 2012 to prohibit altering a vehicle to create or add a hidden compartment to conceal or transport controlled substances. The legislation imposes new and higher penalties on drug traffickers who go to extraordinary lengths to conceal their contraband.
- Continuing the Fight Against Opiate Abuse: The Professional Education Workgroup of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team, which is co-chaired by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, adopted statewide prescribing guidelines for emergency departments and created a website to provide promotional materials, including a pocket-size card, background documents and a guideline FAQ. The new guidelines and outreach materials will save lives and help reduce the scourge of opiate abuse.
- Reducing Repeat Offenses: Today, Ohio's offender recidivism rate is at a modern-day low, with only 31 percent of inmates returning to prison after release. This rate is significantly below the national average.
- Reducing Prison Violence: Ohio implemented a three-tier prison system that emphasizes reducing recidivism and violence. Violence reduction efforts have resulted in a decrease of 7.3 percent in violent conduct reports and a five percent decrease in disturbances for the first ten months of 2012 as compared to the same time period in 2011.

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT

- Common Sense Initiative: The Kasich Administration continues its work to reduce unneeded burdens on business and reduce state-imposed paperwork, allowing commerce in Ohio to truly run at the speed of business. Led by Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) has increased speed of service and reduced red tape for licensees and

registrants. In addition, the state's Division of Securities is well on its way to creating an all-electronic filing options. Inspectors with the state's Division of Industrial Compliance now use geocoding and tablet computers to provide faster inspections and certification to get contractors back to work much more quickly.

- Improving Efficiencies in State Government: Lean Ohio has been working to make government services simpler, faster, better and less costly. The results have saved millions of dollars and cut waiting times for customers by more than 50 percent for dozens of state agencies in FY 2012, with a 40-to-1 return on investment.
- Encouraging Cost Savings through Shared Services: A comprehensive strategic action plan, "Beyond Boundaries," provides tools and real-life examples to help local governments and school districts benefit from the cost-saving efficiencies of shared services and cross-jurisdictional collaboration.
- Restructure Health and Human Services Operations: In 2012, Gov. Kasich took steps to create a health and human services governance structure that maximizes efficiency and productivity. The departments of Mental Health and Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services are being combined into a single, more efficient state agency. These moves improve the level of services that the agencies provide to their customers – and to all Ohio taxpayers.
- Helping Injured Workers: Ohio has partnered with business to help achieve better outcomes for injured workers and lower premiums for employers – saving businesses up to \$41 million annually by rewarding them for creating safer work places and programs to transition injured workers back onto the job.

STRENGTHENING CRIME PROTECTION AND SAFETY FOR OHIOANS

- Protecting the Public From Dangerous Wild Animals: Following horrific events last fall in Zanesville, Gov. Kasich sped up work to pass Ohio's first law prohibiting casual ownership of dangerous wild animals and snakes. Working with veterinarians from the state's accredited zoos, the administration developed responsible rules for animal owners that will keep the public safe and ensure that animals receive proper care.
- Highway Crime Reporting: Gov. Kasich pushed for a 24-hour hotline for motorists to call and report drug trafficking and other crimes on Ohio's roadways. This service now attracts 5,000 calls a month to the Highway Patrol, yielding major arrests and serving as a key component of the state's efforts to make our communities safer.
- Criminal Patrol: Drug seizures in Ohio have significantly increased in 2012, surpassing even the record-setting achievements of 2011. Through October 2012, Highway Patrol troopers seized 151 percent more marijuana and 295 percent more heroin than in 2011.
- Improved Fire Protection: For the first time, the State Fire Marshal is offering assistance to the state's volunteer firefighters through no-cost volunteer firefighter training classes. With volunteers accounting for 70 percent of Ohio's fire crews, this effort has significantly helped train volunteers over less time and at reduced costs.
- Emergency Response: In response to severe storms that knocked out power across more than half of the state this summer, Ohio National Guard service members went door-to-door to check on the well-being of Ohioans in affected areas.
- Ensuring Safety for Ohio: The Ohio National Guard opened four state-of-the-art facilities in 2012, including the Joint Operations Center, Springfield Armed Forces Reserve Center, Mansfield Armed Forces Reserve Center, and United State Property and Fiscal Office Warehouse. These new facilities are helping the National Guard to more efficiently protect Ohio in the event of disaster.



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Strengthening a Jobs-Friendly Climate and Helping Ohioans in Need

2013 Accomplishments

Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor continued to make job creation Ohio's number one priority and build upon Ohio's improving economic revitalization and growing national reputation for its jobs-friendly business climate. Today, there are more Ohioans with a private sector job than at any time since 2008. And while much progress has been made since 2011 – including the creation of 174,800 private-sector jobs, higher incomes and a record number of new business filings – there is more work to be done. A number of reforms were implemented in 2013 to move the state further down the road toward solid, sustained prosperity for every Ohioan. Accomplishments of the past year have been achieved through strong partnerships between the Kasich Administration and members of the General Assembly on both sides of the aisle, educators, local officials, business leaders, and others, allowing our state to improve upon the positive momentum that's been built over the past three years.

KEEPING OHIO'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

Having overcome a historic \$8 billion shortfall in the state budget in 2011 and maintaining sound fiscal management since, Ohio is no longer looking in the rear-view mirror, fearing the dark fiscal clouds of the past. By putting Ohio's fiscal house in order, the Administration has been able to focus on pro-growth strategies.

- **After a Low of 89 Cents, Rainy Day Fund Hits All-Time High--\$1.5 billion:** Coming into office in 2011 with the prospect of an \$8 billion structural budget imbalance and a state savings account holding just 89 cents, Gov. Kasich responded with two balanced biennial budgets (FY 2012-13 and FY 2014-15) and a restored rainy day savings account that's now filled to \$1.48 billion. That brings the fund to its target level, building the largest emergency savings account in Ohio history.
- **Calling for a Federal Balanced Budget:** Despite the good progress that Ohio has made in getting its fiscal house in order, the federal government's \$17 trillion debt, never-ending deficit spending and endless budget brinksmanship is creating headwinds and uncertainty for states. In response, the governor joined with legislative leaders in renewing the call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring a federal balanced budget. The General Assembly passed a resolution making Ohio the 20th state supporting such an amendment. Once a total of 34 states pass similar resolutions, a convention will be called to draft a balanced budget amendment and submit it back to the states. If 38 states approve the amendment then it would go into effect.

CREATING AN ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION

The governor's Jobs Budget 2.0 adopted in June 2013 continues progress from the previous biennial budget to provide tax relief necessary to make Ohio more competitive. In fact, the budget included the largest year-to-year tax cut of any state in 2013. Ohio's progress toward improving its business climate has been recognized by three different national publications,

including a poll of CEOs in *Chief Executive Magazine* as the most improved in the country – moving up 13 places this year to 22.

- Cutting Taxes for Ohioans: As a result of the Jobs Budget 2.0, income tax rates have been further reduced by 10 percent over the next three years.
- Helping Ohio Small Businesses Grow: State income taxes on virtually all Ohio small businesses were cut in half on the first \$250,000 of earnings. This dramatic tax cut frees significant amounts of new capital for small businesses to better leverage the expanding economic recovery and make new investments to improve their competitiveness.
- \$1 Billion Workers Compensation Rebate: Thanks to larger-than-expected fund balances at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, generated by strong investment management, Gov. Kasich charged the bureau with returning \$1 billion in rebates to all 210,000 of its public- and private-employer customers. In addition, the agency tripled investments in worker safety grants and set the stage to lower all rates by modernizing the workers' compensation premium payment system.
- Aligning Ohio's Medical Research Assets: The governor's Medical Corridor Initiative continues to work to make Ohio the destination of choice for the biomedical industry. In 2013, the state provided funding to the Ohio Clinical Trials Collaborative Project led by Ohio's three Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSAs) organizations, thus allowing the CTSAs to better coordinate activities and compete for larger clinical trials. This project – coupled with an asset inventory of Ohio's strengths in the biopharmaceutical space completed this year – will allow the state to more proactively market our assets to this important, growing industry.
- It's the Taxpayer's Money: The Ohio Department of Taxation is accelerating and expanding its efforts to get tax refunds to businesses that deserve them. This effort ends a decades-long practice uncovered by the Kasich Administration whereby the department deliberately didn't tell business taxpayers of overpayments unless they asked about them. Unclaimed refunds are eventually turned over to the state treasury. The department began refunding about \$14 million of commercial activity tax overpayments in December 2012 and recently expanded the program to include about \$30 million of other major business tax overpayments. In addition, the Development Services Agency has recovered more taxpayer money than ever before through new initiatives to track the state's investments and aggressively pursue repayment of state incentives from companies not meeting their commitments.
- Streamlining Ohio's Business Regulations: Under the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) led by Lt. Gov. Taylor, all state agency rules that impact businesses must go through an analysis to ensure regulations are justified. As of December 2013, approximately 1,500 rules have been reviewed by CSI leading to regulations that have more stakeholder input, reduced business impact, and are more focused on public protection.
- Increasing Opportunities for Minority Businesses: The state's Minority Business office was elevated to full division status in 2013 and is increasing the number of certified businesses and procurement opportunities. For the first time, a strategic and measurable approach is in place to provide minority businesses the tools they need to grow and succeed and to make sure agencies follow the state's rules and practices.

IMPROVING OHIO'S JOB-CREATING HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Ohio's major manufacturing and agriculture sectors depend on our state's top-rated highway system to ship raw materials and finished goods. Furthermore, Ohio's strategic position within 600 miles of 60 percent of the nation's population has made the logistics sector a top employer in our state.

- **Jobs and Transportation Plan:** An additional \$3 billion in federal, state and local funds to meet Ohio's pressing transportation needs was made possible by Gov. Kasich's plan to leverage the value of the Ohio Turnpike by bonding against toll revenues. Gov. Kasich's budget not only keeps our highways in good shape, it also freezes local turnpike EZ-pass tolls for 10 years, limits other toll increases and rebuilds the turnpike ahead of schedule—all without a tax increase.
- **New First-of-Its-Kind Project Allows Ohio to Repair and Replace Local Bridges:** Ohio will invest \$120 million to repair and replace more than 200 county- and city-owned bridges over the next three years. The funds are made available by Ohio's successful efforts to overhaul highway funding by reducing overhead costs and improving efficiency at the Ohio Department of Transportation.

EMPOWERING PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO HELP EVERY CHILD ACHIEVE

Gov. Kasich has made education a key priority to help improve results in Ohio's classrooms and better prepare our children for the future. Over the past two years, the governor has championed initiatives to strengthen our schools, including the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, A-F Report Card, and innovative school plans in Cleveland and Columbus.

- **Directing More Dollars to Ohio's Classrooms:** Gov. Kasich's *Achievement Everywhere* plan, approved in the state budget, allocates \$1.6 billion in new state funds to put more dollars in the classroom in ways that help teachers respond to students' learning needs. As a result, state funding for education in FY 2015 will exceed FY 2011 actual state spending by \$1.39 billion.
- **Encouraging Innovation:** A new \$250 million *Straight A Fund* is providing one-time grants to those districts with the will to take on ambitious new strategies for helping their students improve their achievement levels and increase their operational efficiency. Any savings generated through these transformations can be used by districts as they see fit, including efforts to improve classroom instruction or to make locally generated property tax revenues go further.
- **Expanding Choices:** This year Ohio expanded EdChoice vouchers, including a pilot program providing scholarships for children entering Kindergarten in the 2013-14 school year and whose families are under 200 percent of the poverty level. And, if a student's school is failing on the state's new 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee, parents can now receive a voucher scholarship to have their child attend another school.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION TO PREPARE OHIOANS FOR WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio's new culture of collaboration in higher education – which has been nationally recognized – helped launch more meaningful changes in 2013.

- **Incentivizing Colleges to Graduate Students, Not Just Enroll Them:** To help increase the number of Ohioans with degrees, Ohio's university presidents successfully proposed basing more state higher education funds on how many students successfully complete their degrees. The share of state funding tied to student graduation increased from 20 to 50 percent. Community college presidents are in the final stages of developing recommendations for the

next fiscal year that would base more of their state funding on successful course and degree completions, rather than course enrollments.

- Keeping Tuition Affordable for Ohio Families: Gov. Kasich successfully sought to limit in-state undergraduate tuition and general fee increases to no more than 2 percent at our four-year universities and \$100 at our two-year community colleges – which led to several schools freezing tuition.
- Studying How to Increase Quality and Value at Ohio's Colleges: With a new results-based funding formula in place, Gov. Kasich feels strongly that issues of quality and value are among the greatest challenges facing universities across Ohio and the nation as students and their families struggle with rising tuition and fees, and increasing levels of debt. To further advance his commitment to higher education in Ohio, Gov. Kasich has called upon Dr. E. Gordon Gee to develop recommendations on ways for universities to balance cost, quality and access.
- Taking Steps to Address a Future Employment Gap: During 2013, Lt. Gov. Taylor and the Department of Insurance worked in collaboration with Ohio's insurance industry and higher education community to increase awareness regarding the need to fill 17,000 insurance jobs over the next five years.

STRENGTHENING OHIO'S WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

- Training Ohio's Workforce: To fill a gap in the current workforce development programs, Ohio invested \$30 million in the past fiscal year, allowing companies in Ohio's growth sectors to increase their competitive edge by providing training to their existing workforce. Federal assistance is available for training but largely only after people have first lost their jobs. Ohio's Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program helps Ohioans who have jobs upgrade their skills so they can keep their positions and their employers can become more competitive.
- Prioritizing Veterans as a Ready Workforce: Gov. Kasich is providing needed support to Ohio veterans by ensuring they are receiving the appropriate credit and credentialing for their military training and service in order to assist them with education and employment opportunities. In 2013, Ohio took steps to streamline and simplify the state licensure process for military service men and women to ensure their relevant military experience, training and education is taken into account when determining equivalency for issuing professional licenses and certifications.
- Identifying Ohio's Most In-Demand Jobs: A new forecast tool was deployed in 2013 to top employers in Ohio's growth industries, helping to better understand the state's most urgent workforce needs. This information, combined with existing data, will allow the state and its partners to prioritize and focus on critical workforce shortages. Using the in-demand jobs data, Ohio and its training providers are working directly with business to address gaps in the system that are creating workforce supply shortages.

CONTINUING OHIO'S PROGRESS IN TRANSFORMING MEDICAID

Gov. Kasich's state budget built on the momentum of the first two years of reform, pushing Ohio forward against a headwind created by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

- Further Improving Ohio's Medicaid Program: As part of the state budget, a number of reforms were enacted including: reducing Medicaid fraud and abuse, capping Medicaid managed care spending at three percent annual growth, reducing avoidable hospital readmissions, targeting direct medical education funds toward workforce priorities, helping individuals with mental illness who live in nursing facilities to transition into home- and community-based settings, increasing provider rates for home and community-based services, and committing Ohio to spend 50 percent of its Medicaid long-term care budget on non-institutional care.

- Extending Health Care Coverage to Lower Income Ohioans: Ohio's improvements to Medicaid made it possible to extend coverage to 275,000 lower-income residents and keep working Ohioans in jobs, put Ohio's federal taxes to work here at home, and create a ladder up and out of public assistance for those who need it.

STRENGTHENING CRIME PROTECTION AND SAFETY FOR OHIOANS

- Making Ohio's Roads Safer: For the first time in modern history, the annual number of traffic fatalities in Ohio is expected to drop below 1,000 this year. This has been achieved through reduced alcohol-involved fatal crashes, Ohio's new hotline to report suspected impaired drivers and drug activity, improved roadway engineering and safer construction standards. In addition, the Ohio Highway Patrol increased efforts to improve safety with increased drug violations, weapons violations and felony arrests – including keeping more than 50,000 opiate pills and nearly 100 pounds of heroin off the streets.
- Fighting Human Trafficking: Through a partnership with the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Ohio is building a statewide infrastructure for helping child victims of human trafficking. Since this partnership began, children who previously had not been recognized as trafficking victims were identified, and Ohio is gaining a better understanding of the youngest victims in the state so we can help them reclaim their childhood.
- Improving School Security: A new School Security Grant Program will provide \$12 million through the Ohio School Facilities Commission to secure buildings and provide radio communication units to quickly reach first responders in the event of an emergency.
- Better Preparing Ohio Prisoners for Success After Release: In 2013, Ohio created nine integration units within Ohio's public prisons to prepare inmates for the expectations of employment after their release. As a result, more than 2,200 inmates are taking part in a comprehensive program that engages them 8-10 hours a day with productive work assignments and programming. Areas of focus include pathways such as community service, job readiness, drug/alcohol programming and education.

PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE OHIOANS

- New Prescription Drug Guidelines: As part of an ongoing effort to curb the misuse and abuse of prescription pain medications and overdoses, Gov. Kasich proposed new opioid prescribing guidelines for treating patients with chronic, non-terminal pain. Developed by the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team and in conjunction with more than 40 professional groups, state licensing boards and state agencies, the opioid prescribing guidelines encourage Ohio's clinicians to fully evaluate a patient's situation before prescribing high levels of opioids for long-term use.
- Enhancing Coverage for Families Dealing with Autism: Ohio made autism services available to state employees and their families. In addition, autism services have been defined as part of the "essential health benefit" package in Ohio.
- Enhancing Breast Cancer Screenings: Gov. Kasich pledged up to \$1 million to expand access to cancer screenings for poor, uninsured women in Ohio by contributing \$3 for every \$1 raised through a new income tax-checkoff program that provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings.
- Helping Seniors Live Safer and Healthier: A new statewide initiative to prevent falls – the number-one cause of injuries leading to ER visits, hospital stays and deaths among Ohioans age 65 and older – was launched by Gov. Kasich. It will create a one-stop online resource for falls prevention, expand *A Matter of Balance* education and exercise program, develop a toolkit for health care providers, partner with businesses to create "Fall-Free Zones,"

promote falls risk assessments in nursing homes and home- and community-based care settings, and target and educate high-risk populations through key partnerships.

- Helping Ohio Foodbanks: Gov. Kasich provided \$6.5 million to Ohio foodbanks to help increase the amounts of food for at-risk children in the summer months, and increase the availability of hygiene products for low-income families.
- Strengthening Ohio's Commitment to Prevent Infant Mortality: Infant deaths – when a baby who is born alive dies within the first year of life – account for 66 percent of all childhood deaths in Ohio. Gov. Kasich has made reducing low-birth weight babies a priority and more than a dozen active initiatives are underway to combat this problem.

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JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Advancing the Climate for Sustained Job Creation and Prosperity

2014 Accomplishments

Consistent with their previous three years, Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor continued to tackle reforms that would improve Ohio's business climate and set the stage for long-lasting economic growth. Since 2011, more than 280,000 private-sector jobs have been created and the state's unemployment rate is below the national average. Accomplishments of the past year have been achieved through strong partnerships between the Kasich Administration and members of the General Assembly on both sides of the aisle, educators, local officials, business leaders, and others, allowing our state to improve upon the positive momentum that's been built over the past four years.

KEEPING OHIO'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER TO SHOW JOB CREATORS OHIO IS SAFE

- Directing Another Mid-Biennium Budget Review – with Results: To continue building a jobs-friendly climate and improving the state's fiscal management, Gov. Kasich initiated his second review of state government's budget, operations and policies at the mid-point of Ohio's two-year budget cycle. This comprehensive Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) produced a 1,600-page package of far-reaching reforms and initiatives to create a jobs-friendly climate in Ohio by, among other things, lowering taxes through budget savings, boosting education and workforce training programs.
- Staying Out of the Red: The Kasich Administration closed its fiscal year on June 30, 2014 achieving its fourth year with a budget surplus. Since the Budget Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund is at its maximum level, the surplus was used for the creation of a \$300 million Medicaid Reserve Fund and tax cuts.
- Reducing the Size of Government: Under Gov. Kasich's directive to identify efficiencies and streamline state agencies, the size of government is at its lowest level in 30 years as state agencies have seen staff levels reduce by 10 percent without hindering the delivery of services to Ohioans.

CREATING AN ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION

Since taking office four years ago, Gov. Kasich has worked with the General Assembly to cut Ohioans' taxes more than \$3 billion by reducing personal income taxes by 10 percent, creating a new Earned Income Tax Credit, cutting small business taxes in half and eliminating the death tax. The governor's Mid-Biennium Review resulted in \$402 million in tax cuts thanks to stronger-than-expected revenues from Ohio's growing economy and efficient management of state government.

- Cutting Taxes for Ohioans: Ohio doubled its new Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) established in 2013 for low-income Ohioans by increasing its benefit from 5 to 10 percent of the federal credit. Ohio also increased the state income tax personal exemption from \$1,700 to \$2,200 for families earning less than \$40,000 a year and raised the exemption from \$1,700 to \$1,950 for families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$80,000. The 10 percent income tax reduction approved in 2013 was also phased in early and made retroactive to January 1, 2014.

- Helping Ohio Small Businesses Grow: Building on the 50 percent small business tax deduction enacted last year [50 percent deduction on the first \$250,000 in small business income], the personal income tax deduction on small business income will be temporarily increased to 75 percent for tax year 2014. This enables Ohio's private sector job creators to further invest in growing their businesses, expanding Ohio's economy and creating jobs.
- Worker's Compensation Rebate: Thanks to larger-than-expected fund balances at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, generated by strong investment management, Gov. Kasich charged the bureau with returning \$1 billion in rebates to all 210,000 of its public- and private-employer customers. This was the second consecutive year that the bureau returned \$1 billion to its customers. In addition, the agency increased investment in worker safety research and training.
- It's the Taxpayer's Money: Gov. Kasich signed taxpayer fairness reforms into law, enabling the Ohio Department of Taxation to more quickly resolve business tax overpayments and effectively ending a long-standing practice that placed unfair burdens on Ohio businesses.
- Streamlining Ohio's Business Regulations: Under the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) led by Lt. Gov. Taylor, all state agency rules that impact businesses must go through an analysis to ensure regulations are justified. As of December 2014, 5,300 rules have been reviewed by CSI leading to regulations that have more stakeholder input, reduced business impact, and are more focused on public protection.
- Incentivizing Businesses Who Have Been Most Compliant: The Ohio Business Compliance Incentive (OBCI) program will publically recognize businesses that interact with the Ohio Department of Commerce and demonstrate a long, consistent pattern of compliance with state laws and regulations and reward those businesses by reducing some of their costs associated with compliance or reduce the amount of regular inspections. By recognizing and rewarding compliant businesses, this achieves the goal of getting government out of the way of successful and responsible businesses and allowing a shift of state resources to focus on the fringe actors who are not compliant.
- Ohio Sets Record for Buying from Minority-Owned Businesses: In FY 2014, a record \$165 million of state purchases was awarded to minority-owned businesses.

PROVIDING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS TO MEET OHIO'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Ohio's renewed fiscal health, strengthening economy, careful budget management and stronger credit outlook made it possible to make key investments in Ohio's key infrastructure needs and support further job creation and an improved quality of life for Ohioans.

- Capital Budget Construction Plan: A \$2.4 billion capital improvements budget was advanced by the Kasich Administration and General Assembly providing fiscally responsible appropriations to maintain and improve the state's educational and public-service infrastructure, focusing on the most pressing maintenance and construction needs of state government, schools and higher education. The governor asked local leaders in major metropolitan areas to work with the economic development community, arts community and others to provide advice about local needs. The end result was a collaborative process that thoughtfully identified important projects, while balancing the state's need for fiscal restraint.
- Reauthorizing Public Works Grants and Loans to Ohio Communities: Knowing the critical – and growing – need to upgrade and repair local infrastructure throughout the state, Gov. John Kasich called on the General Assembly to renew bonding authority for the Public Works Commission program and to significantly expand the level of funding to \$1.875 billion over 10 years. Ohio voters approved a ballot issue in May to renew and expand the program that

issues tax-exempt bonds help local communities maintain their vital public infrastructure – local roads, bridges, water-supply systems, storm sewers and wastewater systems.

- Getting Back on Track with Highway Construction: After years of stalled highway construction progress due to poor fiscal health, the Ohio Department of Transportation embarked on a record \$2.5 billion construction season – the largest ever – fueled by millions of dollars generated by the Ohio Jobs and Transportation Plan.
- Making Progress to Replace Cincinnati's Brent Spence Bridge: At Gov. Kasich's urging, Ohio lawmakers passed bipartisan legislation to help expedite the efforts to replace the aging Brent Spence Bridge over the Ohio River on I-71/75 in Cincinnati. The Brent Spence Bridge is a vital part of Ohio's economy and a new bridge would reduce delays by approximately 80 percent.

KEEPING OHIOANS IN SCHOOL AND DEVELOPING PATHWAYS FOR THOSE WITHOUT A DIPLOMA

Gov. Kasich continues to make education reform a key priority as the success of preparing students for the future plays a key role in Ohio's long-term economic success. At a time when a record amount of state support is going to our schools, the governor continues to champion initiatives to strengthen education in Ohio and prepare youth for life

- Dropout Prevention—Helping Keep Ohio Students in Schools: To help more of the nearly 24,000 Ohio students who drop out of school every year stay in school and get their high school diplomas, the governor's initiative is providing new ways to identify these at-risk students earlier in their school careers and then devise alternative strategies that better engage them. The Ohio Department of Education and local school districts now are working together on new strategies for more effectively identifying students at risk of dropping out, connecting them with tailored career counseling, and creating new, alternative pathways to diplomas.
- Dropout Recovery—Helping Ohio Adults Without Diplomas Get Back on Track: As many as one million Ohio adults lack a high school diploma. After the age of 22, adults are no longer eligible for traditional high school diplomas, but now thanks to MBR reforms, community colleges and career centers can create new initiatives to help adults earn credits toward a high school diploma while pursuing job training coupled with credential efforts.
- Encouraging Mentorship and Community Involvement with Kids: Ohio will direct \$10 million to provide 3-to-1 matching grants in support of cooperative mentoring efforts by community groups, their local business partners and the schools. Quality mentoring programs have proven to be effective at helping motivate and inspire students, as well as help them develop skills that lead to success in school and the workplace.
- Expanding Access to Career Technical Education: Through his Mid-Biennium Review, Gov. Kasich has made Ohio's high-quality network of technical and vocational education available to students beginning in the 7th grade, giving more Ohio students a jumpstart on career education.
- Eliminating Double Testing and Providing Flexibility for Students: To ensure that Ohio students are better prepared for success in college or the workplace – and provide schools with new pathways to achieve their graduation requirements, Ohio updated the requirements necessary to earn a high school diploma, starting with the class of 2018 who will be freshmen this fall. Instead of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), students entering high school in the fall of 2014 will take Ohio's course requirements and seven end-of-course exams over four years of high school – English I and II, geometry, algebra I, physical science, American history and American government. Ohio will provide a college readiness exam free to all juniors beginning in 2015, so that teachers and families can make sure that students are taking the right courses to be ready for bright futures.

- Making Certain That Ohio's New Learning Standards Work: Ohio schools have worked hard towards implementing more challenging learning expectations as part of Ohio's New Learning Standards, which were adopted in 2010. Through his Mid-Biennium Review, Gov. Kasich took steps to preserve local control, protect student privacy, and delay certain consequences until the new standards and assessments can be better understood.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION

To further advance his goal of improving higher education in Ohio, Gov. Kasich moved forward to further strengthen pathways to college and enhance college learning opportunities. These initiatives are aimed at improving college readiness, lowering the out-of-pocket costs required to obtain a college degree, and improving graduation rates at our state-supported campuses.

- A Jump-Start on College— College Credit Plus: An improved system to help high schools encourage more students to earn college credit while completing their high school courses is giving students a jump on their college careers and helping reduce college costs for them and their families. In 2013, 30,000 public high school students participated in the dual-credit program, but due to the program's complexity, that's a small fraction of the more than 500,000 who are eligible. Because participation in the past had been held back by the unfocused structure and lack of transparency in the way dual credit was funded, the governor's MBR reforms now provide more students with access to this proven, effective and efficient accelerated pathway toward degree completion
- Incentivizing Colleges to Graduate Students, Not Just Enroll Them: Ohio locked into place the final piece of policy that moves Ohio's higher education system to a new funding formula that ties state higher education funds to performance to help increase the number of Ohioans with degrees. This included a new funding model for Ohio community colleges – developed by its presidents – that bases all of their state funding on successful course, degree, and certificate completions, rather than course enrollments.
- Keeping Tuition Affordable for Ohio Families: Gov. Kasich successfully sought to limit in-state undergraduate tuition and general fee increases to no more than 2 percent at our four-year universities and \$100 at our two-year community colleges – which led to several schools freezing tuition. Ohio's community colleges now have the option of giving their students a guaranteed tuition rate that would apply to their time on campus, similar to the guarantee provided to all of Ohio's four-year public universities as part of Gov. Kasich's last state budget.
- Studying How to Increase Quality and Value at Ohio's Colleges: With a new results-based funding formula in place, Gov. Kasich feels strongly that issues of quality and value are among the greatest challenges facing universities across Ohio and the nation as students and their families struggle with rising tuition and fees, and increasing levels of debt. Gov. Kasich called upon Dr. E. Gordon Gee to develop ways for universities to balance cost, quality and access and the Administration will soon be reviewing these recommendations.
- Taking Advantage of Technology and Distance Learning: Rapid changes in technology have created a wealth of learning opportunities for adult learners and teachers, including various modes of "distance learning" that take place outside the traditional classroom. To take full advantage of this emerging technology, Gov. Kasich successfully sought new reforms to expand distance learning education and create more opportunities for Ohio residents to take college courses to expand their knowledge and skill sets.

- Keeping Ohio's International Students in Ohio after Graduation: The number of international students attending Ohio's colleges and universities is at an all-time high, and the state's future workforce needs – especially related to engineering and sciences – will rely on their contribution to a well-trained workforce. To ensure that Ohio job creators can meet their workforce needs, Ohio will create a globalization liaison to increase recruitment and enrollment of international students and to encourage them to remain in the state after graduation.

STRENGTHENING OHIO'S WORKFORCE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY VETERANS

Though his 2014 Mid-Biennium Review, Gov. Kasich initiated reforms to better align Ohio's workforce development system with the needs of our state's businesses and workers.

- Creating a Unified, More Effective Workforce Development System for Ohio: The state's fragmented workforce training system has been criticized in the past for being complicated, duplicative and misaligned. The result is that Ohio workers do not always receive the training that best prepares them for Ohio's in-demand jobs and Ohio's job creators do not always get the workers they need to compete and succeed. To resolve these problems, Ohio is working on a number of levels to align state programs with the three main federal workforce programs—Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This has been achieved through the development of a single, integrated plan instead of past reliance on three disconnected and thus less effective efforts.
- Prioritizing Veterans as a Ready Workforce: Veterans often have advanced training in many of the skills that Ohio job creators are seeking. Reforms in 2014 make it easier for veterans to transfer their skills to receive academic and licensure credit so they can quickly begin applying their skills in good-paying jobs that support their families, job creators and their communities.
- Creating an Online Career Center: Ohio launched a new, expanded OhioMeansJobs.com website that provides a central front door for individuals and businesses interested in employment programs. The website is a full-fledged online career center, providing a menu of career services for all Ohioans, including: high school and college students, out-of-work Ohioans, veterans, and employers.
- Providing Property-Tax Relief to Disabled Veterans: Ohio doubled the homestead exemption for veterans with full service-related disabilities.
- Helping Ohio Fraternal Organizations Continue to Raise Money for Charity: Ohio Lottery launched the new Multi-Purpose Next Generation program exclusively for veteran's posts and fraternal lodges across the state. The device is a legal gaming solution that allows these groups to provide an attractive interactive gaming product for their patrons and continue to raise money for the organization's charitable causes and organizational needs.

PROTECTING OHIOANS

- Fighting Human Trafficking: Building on the groundbreaking work of Ohio's 2012 Safe Harbor law, Gov. Kasich signed legislation making it easier to prosecute traffickers who prey on our most vulnerable children and youth. It is now easier for our justice system to protect minors who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and increases the penalty from purchasing sex from a minor to a felony offense from a misdemeanor offense. Also this year, Ohio launched a new statewide public awareness on human trafficking to educate the public on how to recognize and report suspicious activity and help victims gain access to services and treatment.
- Effectively Managing Ohio's Ebola Incident: Ohio took an aggressive response to keep our citizens safe and prevented prevent Ebola's spread in the state. After months of planning for a possible Ebola incident, Ohio put its plan in action after learning on October 15 that a Dallas nurse –who had tested positive for Ebola – visited

Northeast Ohio. Learning from the experience in Dallas, Governor Kasich directed state public health officials to take an aggressive approach to protect Ohioans by going beyond the recommended precautions.

- Keeping Ohio Students Safe: The Kasich Administration continues to take steps to further enhance the safety of our students – and give greater peace of mind to their parents. His Mid-Biennium Review included \$17 million in additional funding for school security upgrades through the Ohio School Facilities Construction Commission. In addition, the state will help schools build stronger safety plans.
- Judicial Symposium Attracts Nearly Every Ohio County: To assure that Ohio judges understand the dynamics of addiction and how to most effectively intervene, a Judicial Symposium on Opiate Addiction was held. This was part of Ohio's effort to better align criminal justice and addiction treatment systems.
- Decreasing Prison Offender Recidivism: Ohio is a national leader in taking a common-sense approach to restoring its citizens who have made mistakes in their past and are eager to live their lives as hard-working, contributing members of the community. This dramatic improvement in Ohio's approach to community corrections has helped our state reach a record-low rate of recidivism – released offenders who return to the prison system – sending that rate from 31.2 percent in 2011 to a record low of 27.1 percent today. If Ohio's rate mirrored the national rate of nearly 50 percent, approximately 4,400 inmates would have returned to Ohio prisons.

PRESERVING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ohio's renewed fiscal health, strengthening economy, careful budget management and stronger credit outlook made it possible to make key investments in Ohio's key infrastructure needs and support further job creation and an improved quality of life for Ohioans.

- Making an Unprecedented Investment in Ohio State Parks: Gov. Kasich's capital construction budget included \$88.5 million in improvement funds for Ohio's state park system, which attracts more than two million visitors each year and supports Ohio's tourism industry.
- Working Toward the Elimination of Open Lake Dumping in Lake Erie: The Kasich Administration will invest \$10 million as part of a first-of-its-kind agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin diverting more Toledo Harbor dredge material to other beneficial uses that are outside of Lake Erie. The state also worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that Cuyahoga River dredge material stayed out of the lake.
- Strengthening Our Fight Against Invasive Species: In 2014, Gov. Kasich signed the Council of Great Lakes Governors Mutual Aid Agreement for Combating Aquatic Invasive Species Threats to the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence River Basin. The agreement helps prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species and empowers states to work together and share staff and expertise in the event of a serious threat from invasive species.
- Developing new regulations on fertilizer application to reduce the nutrient runoff that contributes to algal blooms: In 2014, Gov. John Kasich signed into law Senate Bill 150 to improve water quality. The bill requires fertilizer applicators to undergo education and certification by the state, encourages producers to adopt nutrient management plans and allows Ohio to better track the sales and distribution of fertilizer throughout the state.
- Providing New Resources to Local Water Systems: Ohio is providing more than \$150 million in grants and loans to public water systems to test water quality, improve their facilities and reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our lakes and streams.

CARING FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE OHIOANS

Governor John R. Kasich has made it a priority to help our state's most vulnerable citizens. Even when Ohio faced an \$8 billion budget deficit in 2011, Gov. Kasich protected funding for efforts for the most needy, the mentally ill and Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Furthermore, since 2011, he has taken prescription drug abuse head-on, helped more families get needed support for children with autism, worked with Ohio's children's hospitals to fund new research for drug-addicted babies, strongly supported foodbanks, and expanded health care coverage to low-income residents.

- New Youth Drug Prevention Campaign: Gov. Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich kicked off "Start Talking!" a new youth drug prevention initiative designed to encourage conversations with youth and reduce the likelihood of youth drug use before it even starts. "Start Talking!" is rooted in research that shows youth are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs when parents and adults talk with them about substance abuse than youth whose parents do not. Since it was launched, the program has interacted with more than 24,000 students, and engaged more than 700 student ambassadors to stand up and be leaders in their schools.
- Strengthening Support for Ohioans with Mental Illness and Addiction: The governor's Mid-Biennium Review increased access to crisis intervention and safe places for Ohioans with mental illness and addiction. The bill reprioritizes the spending of \$47.5 million in one-time resources to focus on strengthening Ohio's system of behavioral health.
- Increasing Ohio's Fight Against Tobacco: The governor allocated \$26.9 million from the Master Settlement Agreement to the Ohio Department of Health to support a five-year plan for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- Expanding Services for Individuals with Autism: Governor Kasich created a free-of-charge online training and certification program for Ohioans interested in getting training on how to work with individuals with autism. This service will improve the quality and safety of the supports available to families of children with autism.
- Preparing People for Life: To begin the process of preparing people for life and the dignity of work by breaking down silos within the state system for those in poverty, a new Human Services Innovation Office has been created within the Department of Job and Family Services.
- Enhancing Access to Childcare: Ohio allocated \$16 million in new early childhood education funding to help struggling families provide an education for their children, provide greater access to high-quality childcare and assure childcare for parents on the first day of a new job. In addition, the state added \$22 million in new funding to expand high-quality preschool opportunities for 3 and 4-year olds from economically disadvantaged families. To help teachers better understand a child's strengths and weaknesses to develop a customized learning plan, Ohio created and launched the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Balancing Long-Term Care: In September, Ohio reached its target of directing 50 percent of all long-term care funding to home and community-based settings. By reaching 51 percent funding, Ohio reached its goal one full year ahead of its target date.
- Helping Ohioans Move Home: During the summer, Ohio Medicaid announced that it had successfully transitioned its 5,000th individual out of an institutional setting of care and into a community-based option through the HOME Choice program. HOME Choice was launched with the goal of transitioning a total of 2,000 individuals. Today, it has far surpassed its initial charge and earned national recognition for its success.

- Launching MyCare Ohio: Ohio launched MyCare Ohio, an innovative new program to coordinate care for individuals insured by both Medicare and Medicaid. While 'dual eligible' beneficiaries make up approximately 14 percent of the overall Medicaid population, they collectively account for 34 percent of overall spending.
- Reducing the Impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Ohio has invested \$4.2 million to combat Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a complex disorder that impacts newborns who have been exposed to addictive drugs, by reducing hospital stays by 30 percent. The hospitalization rate per 10,000 live births for NAS has gone from 14 in 2004 to 125 in 2013. The Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) program supports the treatment and needs of a minimum of 300 mothers and their babies from prenatal care to one-year post birth in order to give newborns the best possible start in life.
- Eliminating the Waiting List: Individuals with significant disabilities now have immediate access to vocational rehabilitation services. For the first time since 1991, Ohio has succeeded in eliminating the waiting list for these individuals to obtain such services that prepare them for employment.





JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Taking Ohio to the Next Level for Jobs and Opportunity

2015 Accomplishments

Consistent with their priorities during the previous four years, Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor continued to tackle reforms to improve Ohio's business climate and set the stage for long-lasting economic growth. Since 2011, more than 385,000 private-sector jobs have been created and the state's unemployment rate continues to be significantly lower than the national rate. Accomplishments of the past year have been achieved through strong partnerships between the Kasich Administration and members of the General Assembly on both sides of the aisle, with educators, local officials, and business and community leaders, allowing Ohio to improve upon the positive momentum that's been built over the past four years.

KEEPING THE STATE'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

- Maintaining Fiscal Discipline: After hard work and tough choices helped get Ohio back on its feet, many have called for relaxing Ohio's budget discipline, but Gov. Kasich has been through this challenge before and adhered to his fiscally conservative principles. As chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee, Kasich was the architect of the first balanced federal budget in a generation, but watched with frustration and amazement as, after he left Congress, Washington backslid from conservative budget principles and blew a projected \$5 trillion surplus in a few short years. He is committed to making sure Ohio does not go down that same path. As governor, his state budgets have been built with conservative revenue estimates and spending projections, tax cuts and a stronger rainy day fund. At a time when many other states are struggling with fiscal challenges, Ohio's new state budget is among the strongest, thanks to John Kasich's fiscal discipline. The result is an economic climate friendly to job creators and a formula for future prosperity that helps more Ohioans participate in our state's economic revival.
- Rebuilding Ohio's Essential Budget Reserves: Finding a mere 89 cents in Ohio's emergency savings account when he came into office, Gov. Kasich was determined to rebuild the state's depleted rainy day fund to a healthy level. With an initial deposit of \$247 million in July 2011, the governor's three biennial budgets have produced more than \$2 billion in surpluses for the rainy day fund – the strongest emergency reserves in Ohio history and a convincing sign to taxpayers and job creators alike that Ohio's economy is back on track. At the end of 2015, those meager savings of 89 cents have grown to \$2,004,568,922.44.

CREATING A STRONGER CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION

- Helping Small Businesses Grow: The governor worked with the Ohio legislature to improve the state's business climate by phasing out income taxes on many small businesses. Small businesses earning under \$250,000 in business income will no longer pay taxes on income earned in 2016 and income above \$250,000 will now be subject to a new, low flat tax rate of three percent. Through these tax reforms, Ohio has created opportunities for business growth and job creation that will keep our economy growing.

- New Businesses are Being Created: So far in 2015, Ohioans have created 83,215 new businesses – a pace that puts Ohio ahead of last year's record. The 83,215 new businesses are 23.4 percent more than had been created at this same point in 2010.
- Spurring Job Growth: During the first three quarters of 2015, JobsOhio finalized 233 projects for a total of 14,480 new job commitments and 31,768 retained jobs for a total of \$2.3 billion in annual payroll. Additionally, new and existing companies made \$4.7 billion in total capital investment. (JobsOhio's final 2015 metrics will be available in March 2016.)
- Ohio Sets New Record for Minority Purchasing: For the first time ever, Ohio achieved the goals of its Minority Business Enterprise program by purchasing a record 19 percent of eligible goods and services through minority-owned businesses while spending a record \$228.5 million. Established in 1980, the program mandates that state agencies set aside 15 percent of their annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses, but for far too long state government failed to live up this expectation.
- Job Creation Continues to Improve: Ohioans have created more than 385,000 new private sector jobs since Gov. Kasich came into office in January 2011 and Ohio continues to be one of the top ten job-creating states in the nation. Additionally, Ohio's unemployment rate is 4.5 percent, much lower than the nation's rate of 5.0 percent. Wages for Ohioans also continue to grow at a faster rate than the rest of the country.
- Incentivizing Companies to Invest in Ohio: Ohio is setting records in job creation through economic development thanks in part to job creating incentives. Companies are investing in Ohio and compliance with commitments has improved each of the past five years in every incentive category, as verified by independent review by Ohio's Attorney General.
- Reforming Ohio's Regulatory Environment: Led by Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) was one of the first initiatives of the Kasich Administration, charged with eliminating excessive or duplicative rules and regulations that stand in the way of job creation. Since 2012, CSI has reviewed more than 7,700 rules with more than one-half being amended or rescinded.
- Lowering Income Taxes: Thanks to the new state budget, personal income tax rates are now at their lowest rate since 1982. With nearly \$2 billion in net tax cuts this past year, Ohio will have reduced taxes by \$5 billion since Gov. Kasich took office, with income tax rates for all Ohio taxpayers lowered by another 6.3 percent this year. This means Ohio's top marginal income tax rate will have been cut from 5.925 percent when Gov. Kasich came into office in 2011 to 4.997 percent in 2016.
- Reducing Workers' Compensation Costs: Ohio continued to reduce workers' comp costs for both public and private employers, decreasing rates by nearly 11 percent for private employers and 9 percent for public employers. Since January 1, 2011, private employer rates have been reduced 21 percent and public employer rates are 26 percent lower. This is in addition to \$2 billion in rebates in 2013 and 2014 and an additional \$1.2 billion in credits to help transition Ohio to a modern workers' comp billing system, which already is supporting lower rates for employers.
- Ohio Forms Agreement to Maximize Growth in Shale Gas Industry: In an effort to maximize growth in the shale gas region, Ohio entered into an agreement with West Virginia and Pennsylvania to collaborate on areas critical to the success of the growing industry. As part of the new agreement, the three neighboring states within the Appalachian Basin will discuss ways to cooperate in marketing efforts to attract new businesses, strengthen workforce development programs, spur investments in expanding infrastructure and delivery of natural gas and liquids, and encourage their academic institutions to expand and collaborate on research.

MEETING OHIO'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

- **Ohio Takes on 1,600 Highway Projects:** Building upon the progress made in the governor's first term to address critical transportation needs, the governor signed a transportation budget that brings Ohio's total investment over the past three years to nearly \$6.7 billion for almost 3,000 projects across the state. These projects have put thousands of people to work and helped expand and maintain our transportation system to meet the needs of Ohio's growing economy.
- **Making Significant New Investments to Ohio's State Parks and Dams:** A record 118 projects have been completed or are in the planning and construction process at state parks and state-owned dams, as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources works to catch up on infrastructure repairs that had been postponed for decades.

CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR K-12 EDUCATION

- **Record Support for K-12 Education:** Ohio increased funding for K-12 education to record heights. Most significantly however, Gov. Kasich has emphasized not only increasing funding for schools, but ensuring money is going to the schools that need it the most and supporting the needs of students in the classroom.
- **Improving the Way Ohio Helps Struggling Schools:** To help students stuck in struggling schools, Ohio revamped its Academic Distress Commission process to accelerate change in districts that have fallen into academic trouble. The new plan gives the district leader the freedom to innovate and requires clear, measurable goals that will ensure students get the education they deserve.
- **Ensuring a Quality Education:** Ohio's Educational Choice Scholarship Program has been giving students from under-performing public schools a choice to attend another school for almost two decades. This past year, Gov. Kasich ensured its continued success by increasing EdChoice scholarship amounts to \$4,650 for K-8 and \$5,900 for high school in FY16 and \$6,000 in FY17. By expanding these scholarships, the governor is ensuring students have access to a quality education.
- **Strengthening Oversight and Accountability of Ohio's Charter Schools:** Ohio now has new tools to dramatically increase oversight and accountability for all charter schools and their sponsors. Ohio will hold charter sponsors to a strong set of consequences based on quality practices to ensure their schools help students grow academically and comply with state law. Ohio's focus on quality choice options for students is protected by the state's ability to revoke the right of the poorest-rated sponsors to authorize and oversee schools, while clamping down on low-performing schools by making it harder for poor-performing charters to switch sponsors. Thanks to tougher new laws, equipment purchased with state funds for use in a charter school maintains its public status and belongs to the school, not a private school operator.
- **Helping Students Advance at Their Own Academic Pace:** It is important to understand each student learns differently and at a different pace. Creating space for individuality in a structured learning environment can sometimes be difficult, but is vital for successful students and schools. Ohio will create as many as five pilot programs that advance students when they master course material, not just after they have spent a set amount of time in a class.
- **A Continued Commitment to Mentoring:** Ohio's Community Connectors mentorship effort has sparked much interest in communities across the state, bringing together parents, schools, communities, faith and value-based groups, and businesses. In 2015, Ohio awarded nearly \$10 million to 117 community partnerships for new mentoring initiatives. To further support the program, Gov. Kasich successfully sought \$20 million in new funding over the next two years to jumpstart additional mentorship programs in our schools.
- **Expanding Early Childhood Education:** Gov. Kasich doubled the number of preschool opportunities in his first term for economically disadvantaged children by expanding the program from 5,700 to 11,090 children. This year, Ohio added

an additional \$40 million to provide preschool for 6,125 additional children, which will bring the total number of children served to more than 17,000 by 2017 – more than a threefold increase from 2013 in both children served and funding. Additionally, because we know that most brain development takes place in the first five years of life, Ohio is taking steps to ensure that children, of all ages, who attend quality-rated childcare facilities, have access to at least 12.5 hours of educational instruction each week. This will align childcare standards with preschool education.

- Helping Ohio Adults without Diplomas Get Back on Track: In today's society, obtaining a high school diploma is becoming increasingly necessary, and a lack of a diploma can provide a road block to many of Ohio's job opportunities. However, after the age of 22, adults are no longer eligible for traditional high school diplomas. In 2014, the governor's Mid-Biennium Review launched a pilot program allowing two community colleges and three Ohio technical centers to create new initiatives to help adults earn credits toward a high school diploma, while pursuing in-demand job training coupled with industry-recognized credentials. The recent budget provided an additional \$1.25 million for up to five additional pilot sites at Ohio community colleges and Ohio technical centers to help adults without diplomas get over the hurdle. This will provide increased venues for Ohio adults to better themselves and prepare for Ohio's in-demand jobs.
- Straight A Fund: Two years ago, Gov. Kasich created the Straight A Fund to help improve student achievement, increase efficiency and tear down barriers to college and career training. The program sparked a wave of creativity in our schools and so the program is continuing with \$30 million in new funding over the biennium.
- Revolutionizing School Programs: In the 2015-2016 school year, the state superintendent of public instruction will be able to grant 10 additional waivers to districts that allow them to explore new, innovative ways of assessing student learning and evaluating teacher effectiveness.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION

- Creating More Learning Opportunities: Building upon previous reforms to help students earn college credit in high school, \$10 million has been allocated to credential more teachers for college-level instruction and provide competitive grants to universities for teachers to become credentialed for college credit plus courses. With more high schools able to offer college-level credit, students can get a jump start on college at no cost and reduce their overall college education costs. Students will also have access to College Credit Plus during summers.
- Making College More Affordable: Ohio has frozen tuition and general fees at two- and four-year state supported schools, assuring Ohio remains a leader in holding down the growth of tuition and general fees. At the same time, a nine-member Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency appointed by the governor, provided a report detailing how public colleges and universities can further reduce costs and pass those savings on to students. Ohio also will establish a new \$10 million grant program to promote educational excellence and economic efficiency to stabilize or reduce student tuition rates. In addition to efforts to minimize tuition rates, Ohio will invest an additional \$13 million to enhance several scholarships, including the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, War Orphans and Ohio National Guard funds.
- Reaching Out to Communities: To help low-income community college and regional campus students accelerate their coursework, the recent state budget gave students access to funds from the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) to fill a gap in the federal Pell Grant, which does not fund year-round studies. Through this effort, Ohio's college campuses can be put to greater use during the summer months, to help low-income students succeed.
- Preparing Students for the Workforce through Work Experiences: While time in the classroom is invaluable, the best way to prepare Ohio's students for their future careers is to partner in-class education with real-world experience in the workforce. Ohio is working with its public and private colleges and universities and the business community to embed

work experiences into the curriculum of degree programs. This will include co-ops and internships for in-demand jobs, such as computer science.

- Strengthening Ohio's School Counselor System: To help more students get the college and career advice they need to succeed in the workplace and to compete for Ohio's in-demand jobs, Ohio developed first-ever standards for school counselors, which will include Ohio-specific knowledge of career counseling. At the same time, Ohio's colleges and universities were tasked to put in place a career counseling program by December 31, 2015.

PROTECTING OHIOANS

- Strengthening Community-Police Relations: Ohio's Task Force on Community-Police Relations, appointed by the governor, presented a report with recommendations on how to strengthen relationships between communities and law enforcement. These recommendations are based on the underlying belief that both the community and law enforcement have a responsibility to improve community-police relations. To begin to implement these recommendations, Gov. Kasich created the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. The board developed Ohio's first-ever standards for the proper use of force, including deadly force, and the recruiting, hiring and screening of potential law enforcement officer candidates. All of Ohio's law enforcement agencies are being asked to adopt these policies.
- Making Campuses Safer: Campus safety is a leading issue among colleges and universities throughout the nation. With recent issues centered around high rates of sexual violence on college campuses, Ohio is dedicated to taking steps to make campuses safer. To help address this problem, Ohio identified best practices for preventing and responding to campus sexual violence and allocated \$2 million to implement these new strategies.

PRESERVING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Protecting Lake Erie: In partnership with the General Assembly, as well as conservation and agricultural organizations, the Kasich Administration achieved historic changes to improve Lake Erie's water quality. In early 2015, Kasich signed legislation to aggressively tackle water quality issues in and around the Lake Erie basin by making it illegal to put manure or fertilizer on frozen, snow covered, or rain soaked ground unless proper farming techniques are used; eliminate the disposal of dredge material in Lake Erie by 2020; and modify new and existing wastewater discharge permits for major wastewater plants while expanding monitoring and continuing to limit phosphorus in state waters. Ohio also reached an agreement with Michigan and the Canadian Province of Ontario to achieve a 40 percent reduction in the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Erie's western basin by 2025.
- Keeping Buckeye Lake Residents Safe and Fixing a Long-standing Safety Problem: Buckeye Lake has long been a popular outdoor recreation area, but its dam was deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be in danger of catastrophic failure due to decades of inaction by the state to make needed repairs. The Kasich Administration took swift action to keep those in the flood zone safe and began construction of a new dam to restore tourism in the area as quickly as possible. Also, an additional \$25 million in capital funding was allocated in the state budget to get the project started.

CARING FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE OHIOANS

- Improving the Lives of Nursing Home Residents and Caregivers: More than 300 Ohio nursing homes signed up to participate in the Ohio Music & Memory Quality Improvement Project. Music & Memory is an innovative approach to dementia care that uses personalized playlists to help residents reconnect with cherished memories and the world around them. It also builds lasting, caring relationships, provides a calming effect, improves the care experience for all involved, and may reduce the use of certain medications. Since July 2013, Ohio nursing homes have been required to participate in at least one quality improvement project every two years. Music & Memory is one of several projects

approved by the Department of Aging. In November, 2015, the department announced a second phase of the project aimed at recruiting as many as 150 additional nursing homes in the program.

- Supporting Ohio's Disabled: The governor has taken great strides to ensure every Ohioan with a developmental disability who wants to live and work in the community can do so by investing \$286 million over the next two years to increase home- and community-based services, support community work opportunities and create new options for individuals who want to leave institutions. Gov. Kasich believes all Ohioans should be able to choose the setting for care that is right for them and has continued to build on the success of his first term to improve the quality and accessibility of home- and community-based alternatives to institutional placements. Today, more than 50 percent of long-term care spending is directed to home- and community-based options, rather than institutional settings. This year's budget instituted unprecedented new investments in services to ensure that more Ohioans with developmental disabilities who want to live and work in the community can do so.
- Empowering Prescribers and Pharmacists to Prevent Opiate Abuse: Ohio became the first state in the nation to provide funding to integrate the state's prescription monitoring system directly into medical records and pharmacy systems. By helping more prescribers and pharmacists get instant access to the state's prescription drug monitoring program, healthcare professionals can intervene quickly when they see warning signs of opiate addiction, get Ohioans the help they need and prevent drug overdose deaths.
- Combatting Infant Mortality: The governor strived to reduce Ohio's high infant mortality rate by dedicating funds to provide enhanced maternal services through Medicaid health plans for women living in neighborhoods most at risk for poor infant health outcomes. The budget dedicated funds to provide grants to private, nonprofit or government entities that demonstrate the ability to deliver evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions to pregnant women and women living with children who reside in communities most at risk for poor infant health outcomes.
- Improving the Lives of Individuals with Autism: Gov. Kasich supported the creation of an online training and certification program to improve the quality of life for individuals and families by creating a better trained support system. The program offers practical information and skills that are demonstrated with real-life examples, and can benefit anyone who interacts with individuals with autism, including parents, grandparents, service providers, teachers and first responders. The program, which is free for all Ohioans, can be accessed anywhere, even in the most rural areas of our state.
- Advancing Children's Health through Research Collaboration: The governor pledged an additional \$2 million to support shared medical research among children's hospitals in Ohio. The funds were directed to two research projects, with \$1 million to study asthma treatment options for children and another \$1 million to focus on pediatric pneumonia diagnoses. The research will be funded with federal dollars that Ohio was awarded for enrolling more eligible children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Gov. Kasich committed \$2 million in 2011 as well to support collaborative research among hospitals on children's health issues.
- Providing Mental Health and Addiction Care: The Kasich Administration prioritized helping individuals with mental health and addiction by increasing funding for services and extending Medicaid coverage to nearly 400,000 individuals needing behavioral health treatment. The recent state budget continued this trend by including plans to redesign the Medicaid behavioral health benefit package and improving care coordination through managed behavioral health care. The budget also dedicates funding toward priorities such as suicide prevention and saving lives through the drug naloxone, which blocks effects of opiate overdose.
- Helping Ohio's Communities Strengthen Their Fight Against Drug Abuse: The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team

- assembled a toolkit to help communities across the state implement strategies critical to Ohio's fight against opiate abuse.
- New Behavioral Health Resources for Young Children: The impact of poverty and trauma on young children can have a lasting effect on their emotional and academic well-being. To help address these issues, Ohio is applying best practices developed over the past three years and will provide \$5 million over the biennium to train staff and develop support plans for children in need; make Early Childhood Mental Health Counselors available to children, teachers and early childcare staff; create a hotline for acute problems; and make an early childhood counselor available for site visits within 48 hours of a request to conduct observations.
- Improving Healthcare Quality: The governor sought to improve health care in Ohio by expanding care coordination services and reforming hospital payments. In 2015, the governor improved healthcare for children in foster care by providing them the coordinated care benefits of Medicaid's managed care plans instead of the old, government-run fee-for-service program. Additionally, individuals with developmental disabilities will have the option to enroll in Medicaid through managed care plans.
- Further Linking Nursing Facility Payment to Quality: Building on reforms of the first four years, the Administration has taken additional steps to align payments distributed to nursing homes with the quality of care they deliver. By way of the Executive Budget, beginning in FY 2017, facilities will need to meet a set of five measures in order to receive full quality payment.
- Reducing Health Problems Caused by Smoking: While smoking is generally known to lead to a wide array of serious health ailments, exposure to second-hand smoke also is known to put the general public at risk for lung cancer. In order to create disincentives for smoking in order to protect the public well-being, Ohio's cigarette tax was increased by 35 cents.

STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

- Ohio "Bans the Box" for State Government Hiring: Ohio state government has removed from their employment applications a requirement or box that asks applicants to disclose whether or not they have a prior criminal conviction as it focuses on policies that create opportunities for all Ohioans to get back on their feet, become productive members of society and take part in the state's economic renaissance. New legislation will require all public employers to remove the checkbox from their applications.
- Reducing Recidivism and Treating Addiction in Ohio's Prisons: Approximately 80 percent of Ohio's prison inmates have histories of drug and alcohol addiction and those who don't overcome their addiction have a higher likelihood of re-entering prison after their release. By leveraging the clinical expertise of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio is expanding services and getting inmates the help they need to overcome their addiction while they are serving their sentences and provide a seamless transition of services and supports to ensure sustained recovery after their release. In addition, the state will begin transferring low-level, non-violent inmates with addictions to serve their short-term sentences in community treatment facilities rather than in a state prisons where they might not receive the treatment they need.
- Focusing on People, Not Programs to Help Ohioans Move Up and Out Of Poverty: For far too long, government has tried to treat the collected "symptoms" of poverty instead of seeking a cure for the underlying challenges that low-income Ohioans face. The budget starts addressing this by allocating existing federal and state funding to create the framework for a Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program to provide services customized around an individual's employment-readiness needs and to better support them as they move up and out of poverty. By

creating a person-centered case management system the governor is reshaping Ohio's welfare system to better support the needs of Ohio's poor and to create greater opportunities and means for self-betterment. New initiatives are initially focused on those ages 16-24 in order to have the greatest impact and prevent the poverty cycle at an early age. The goal is to expand this approach to other low-income populations in the future.

- Removing Barriers to Moving Up: The lack of access to affordable and quality childcare remains one of the biggest employment barriers for low-income parents. The loss of subsidized childcare once a family's income grows above 200 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$3,298 a month for a family of three) is one of the most detrimental benefit "cliffs" working poor encounter as their economic situations improve. Ohio allocated \$14 million over the next year to soften the impact of these types of "cliffs" and to remove copays for families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. A significant disincentive to economic advancement for the working poor has been removed by raising the income limit for initial childcare eligibility and allowing families to keep subsidized childcare longer as their incomes gradually increase. Families would instead have their child care subsidies phased out gradually until their income reaches 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$4,948 a month for a family of three.





JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Kasich Administration Accomplishments for 2016

FOSTERING AN ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION

Over the past six years, Ohio has cut taxes by more than \$5 billion, streamlined regulations, strengthened workforce programs and sought reforms to improve Ohio's business climate. As a result, Ohio has created 436,200 new, private sector jobs, and the state is increasingly being recognized for a strong, business-friendly environment for jobs creation, capital investment and economic success.

- **Two National Surveys Confirm the Impressive Turnaround in Ohio's Business Climate:** *Chief Executive Magazine's* 2016 nationwide survey of 513 CEOs showed Ohio has the most improved business climate in America – a leap of 12 spots since 2015 to number 10 overall and a full 34 places higher since 2010. Ohio's improving business climate was also confirmed in a report from The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business and its National Center for the Middle Market. The survey of 1,000 executives, from firms with \$10 million to \$1 billion in annual revenue, shows Ohio companies are making more money and hiring more workers than those in other states.
- **Ohio Tops the Annual List of "Best Cities for New College Grads":** Ohio claims two of the top three cities in SmartAsset.com's 2016 assessment of America's "Best Cities for New College Grads." With high scores for affordability, lifestyle and employment opportunities, Cincinnati was rated number one and Columbus ranked third. Cleveland and Toledo also made the top 25. No other state matched Ohio's high marks in this year's ranking.
- **Dun & Bradstreet Study Says Ohio Leads the Nation in Growth of Middle-Market Businesses:** Dun & Bradstreet's 2016 Middle Market Power Index ranks Ohio first in the nation for growth in the number of middle-market firms over the past five years. According to the report, Ohio has more than 7,200 middle-market enterprises (\$10 million to \$1 billion annual income), more than double the number of such businesses here in 2011.
- **Forbes Places Four Ohio Cities among America's Top 20 Best for Mid-Career Professionals:** In a *Forbes* magazine analysis of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas, four Ohio cities rank among the top 20 as "America's Best Cities for Mid-Career Professionals in 2016," with Columbus in first place. Other Ohio cities in the top 20 are Cincinnati (4th-tie), Dayton (16th) and Akron (20th). These cities won honors by excelling in areas such as local unemployment rates and job growth projections; median salaries for experienced, college-educated workers; cost-of-living data; percentage of the local population aged 25 or older with a degree; and the cost to buy a home.
- **Ohio's Tax Climate Rated among the Best in the Nation for Small Business Success:** The 2016 Small Business Tax Index rates Ohio's small business tax climate as the 8th best in America, outscoring all of Ohio's neighboring states. The tax climate report, published annually for more than two decades by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, credits Ohio's rise in its index to the state's reduced individual income taxes and the elimination of corporate income taxes. The index measures 25 factors in a state's tax code, including whether tax brackets are adjusted for inflation and whether property can be expensed rather than taxed.
- **Cincinnati Region Tops the List of America's Up-and-Coming Places for Recent College Grads:** *Forbes* magazine and ZipRecruiter.com, a national jobs placement website, rated the Cincinnati-Middletown metro region as the nation's top place for recent college grads to find strong job opportunities, a broad range of leisure-time activities.

The 2016 ratings found the Cincinnati region to be an especially good place for those seeking careers in the retail, insurance and customer service industries, with affordable housing and low cost-of-living.

- **Ohio Minority-Owned Businesses See Continued Growth Through State Purchasing Program:** For the second consecutive year, Ohio has exceeded the goal of its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program by purchasing 23.63 percent of eligible goods and services through certified minority-owned businesses, while spending a record of nearly \$298 million. Ohio's MBE program, established in 1980, mandates that state agencies set aside 15 percent of their annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses.
- **Helping Our Businesses by Paying Off Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Debt:** In 2009, Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Fund was depleted and the state was forced to borrow billions of dollars from the federal government in order to continue providing unemployment benefits to struggling families. As a result of Ohio's strong fiscal health and growing economy, the state worked with the business community to pay off the debt to the federal government, early ultimately saving employers an estimated \$350 million.
- **Ohio Moves Up for Fifth Straight Year on *Forbes* List of Best States for Business to #11 in the Nation:** From a dismal rating of #38 when Gov. Kasich came into office, Ohio has moved up for five straight years in *Forbes* magazine's list of Best States for Business, coming in at #11 in the 2016 rankings. The editors cited lower business costs and a dramatically improved economy, noting that Ohio's economic growth (which was the nation's second worst in 2011) is now ninth best among all the states. Ohio also ranked #1 in quality of life, thanks to low cost of living, short commutes and wide range of colleges, cultural offerings and recreational opportunities.
- **Ohio Workers' Compensation Insurance Rates at Their Lowest Point in 40 Years.** Over the last five years, rates for private employers have dropped an average of 28.2 percent and rates for public employers have dropped an average of 26.5 percent. In 2008, Ohio we had third highest rates in the country, and today we have the 11th lowest rates.
- **Spurring Job Growth:** During the first three quarters of 2016, JobsOhio finalized 195 projects with 13,435 new job commitments and 39,564 retained jobs for a total of \$2.6 billion in annual payroll. Additionally, new and existing companies made \$3.1 billion in total capital investment. (JobsOhio's final 2016 metrics will be available in March 2017).

PROVIDING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS TO MEET OHIO'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Ohio's fiscal health, growing economy, careful budget management and stronger credit outlook made it possible to make key investments in Ohio's primary infrastructure needs, as well we support further job creation and an improved quality of life for Ohioans.

- **Investing in a \$2.4 Billion Capital Budget Construction Plan:** A \$2.4 billion capital improvements budget was advanced by the Kasich Administration and General Assembly in 2016 to provide fiscally responsible appropriations to maintain and improve the state's educational and public-service infrastructure, focusing on the most pressing maintenance and construction needs of state government, schools and higher education.
- **Making Record Investments in Ohio's Bridges and Highways:** At a time when many states have struggled to maintain their transportation infrastructure or have been forced to raise motor fuel taxes, Ohio enjoyed its third straight record highway construction season in 2016, with \$ 2.1 billion in more than 1,000 roadway and bridge improvements. Since 2011, Ohio has initiated nearly 6,000 transportation improvement projects worth a total of \$12.5 billion – all without increasing taxes.
- **Keeping the Ohio Turnpike in Top Condition with the Largest Construction Budget in 15 Years:** The Ohio Turnpike maintained its reputation as one of the nation's premier transportation links with investments of \$145 million in roadway, bridge and service plaza improvements in 2016. This was the Turnpike's largest construction budget in 15 years and it included the first projects to replace the roadway's 60-year-old foundation pavement.

HELPING MORE OHIOANS FIND PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE OR CAREERS

Gov. Kasich continues to make education reform a top priority as the success of preparing students for the future plays a key role in Ohio's long-term economic success. At a time when a record amount of state support is going to our schools, the governor continues to champion initiatives to strengthen education in Ohio and prepare Ohioans for the workforce.

- **Strengthening Education and Workforce Opportunities for Ohioans:** Gov. Kasich has consistently focused on reforms that help connect Ohioans of all ages to educational and employment opportunities. Thanks to new reforms, more Ohioans will have the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency. Previously, Ohio provided only one testing company's computer-based platform for adults looking to receive their high school equivalency certificate. This posed a challenge for those seeking an alternative format, such as a written exam. To help more adults get the certificate they need to increase job opportunities, Ohio is making additional testing options available.
- **Creating a Uniform High School Equivalency Certificate:** In order to provide employers a greater level of confidence in the value of high school equivalency exams, Ohio will begin awarding a state-recognized high school equivalency certificate issued by the Ohio Department of Education to test completers.
- **Giving High School Students a Jumpstart on Professional Licenses:** Thanks to earlier Kasich Administration initiatives, in the first year of College Credit Plus more than 50,000 Ohio students earned college credit – tuition free – while still in high school.
- **Working with Ohio's Public Campuses to Reduce College Costs and Increase Attainment:** Gov. Kasich created the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education to make recommendations to Ohio's public colleges and universities. The Task Force issued a report organized around ten key areas to advise campuses on administrative and academic practices with the goal of improving the quality of education while lowering costs for students. Ohio's public campuses responded to the call, and produced efficiency reviews and implementation plans.

SAFEGUARDING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Protecting Ohioans from Lead in Drinking Water:** Gov. Kasich initiated new state standards to protect public health – backed by tighter deadlines and administrative fines – to ensure public water systems notify and educate the public in a timelier manner. Additionally, Ohio is leveraging a number of funding mechanisms to help communities replace lead service lines and help schools identify and replace outdated, lead-based water-service fixtures.
- **Tightening Community Water Testing Requirements:** The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency director has been provided additional authority to set water testing requirements for a system based on the age of its infrastructure and whether the system has an active corrosion control program that reduces lead from seeping into old, lead-based household lines and fixtures.
- **Requiring Corrosion Control Studies and Plans in Certain Situations:** Ohio now requires a corrosion control study whenever a water system changes its water source, makes substantial renovations, repairs its system or water treatment plant, or experiences an event that potentially impacts the quality or corrosiveness of water in the system.

CARING FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

- **Creating Opportunities for the Disabled:** A new interactive "toolkit" makes it easier for Ohio employers to recruit, hire and retain qualified workers with disabilities. The toolkit was created in response to a recommendation of the Ohio Workforce Integration Task Force, which Gov. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly created in 2014. The Task Force gathered and analyzed data, and made recommendations regarding barriers to employment and income parity for Ohioans who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind.
- **Modernizing Health Care Administration:** In a home care setting, the caretaker typically has a long-term relationship with an individual; a sense of comfortability is maintained over time. And yet, these same caretakers had not been allowed to administer basic health care products. Now, by increasing the types of medications and

health care-related activities that can be administered by a direct care staff member, individuals' needs can be met in a timelier manner.

- Improving Continuity of Service to Ensure That Young Ohioans Thrive: Convinced that bureaucracy should never get in the way of the quality of care our children with developmental disabilities deserve, the Kasich Administration has reformed early intervention services provided to young children with developmental delays from birth to three years of age. Previously these services were administered by two separate state agencies – the Department of Health and the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Now with the alignment of this program within a single agency – DODD – children in need of additional services as they grow older now benefit from a seamless transition of care.
- Building a New Model to Deliver Better Health Care at a Lower Price: Continuing his administration's efforts to transform Ohio's antiquated fee-for-service health care payment system, Gov. Kasich announced the launch of the state's Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) Program. This initiative allows the state's four largest private health insurance plans, along with Medicaid and Medicare, to financially reward those primary care providers who keep their patients well and hold down costs. The goal of this program is to give Ohioans the quality of care and information they need to improve their health and to reduce the overall cost of care by improving cost efficiency.
- Developing Acute Pain Opiate Prescribing Guidelines: Prescription opiate pain medications are a significant contributor to unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio. Expanding upon opioid prescribing guidelines issued for hospital emergency departments in 2012 and for the management of chronic pain issued in 2013, the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team announced in 2016 the adoption of new opiate prescribing guidelines for the management of acute pain that is generally resolved within 12 weeks. Developed in conjunction with the medical community, the new guidelines recommend: non-opioid treatment options when possible; prescribing only the quantity of opiates needed to manage pain in order to reduce the number of leftover medication available for potential abuse; and encouraging prescribers to check the Ohio Board of Pharmacy's prescription drug monitoring system (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System) before prescribing opiates to see what other controlled medications a patient might already be taking.
- Enacting New Reforms to Strengthen Ohio's Fight Against Drug Abuse: New reforms proposed in Gov. Kasich's 2016 Mid-Biennium Review and enacted in Senate Bill 319 improve oversight of individuals who have access to prescription opiates, ensure responsible opiate addiction treatment, expand access to life-saving naloxone, hold pharmacy technicians to stronger accountability, establish new oversight for purchasing and distributing controlled substances, limit high-volume prescriptions to prevent misuse and establish common sense regulation for methadone clinics.
- Helping Low-Income Teens and Young Adults Move Up and out of Poverty. Ohio launched the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, an innovative, statewide youth employment program that provides education and training supports so that more low-income young people have the skills to not only get a job but be positioned for long-term success. Established in Gov. Kasich's last budget, the program leverages the strengths of both the workforce and human services systems to provide an individualized approach to address the various challenges faced by low-income youth.

STREAMLINING STATE GOVERNMENT FOR COST-SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY

- Delivering Greater Efficiencies and Enhanced Safety for All Who Enjoy Ohio's Outdoors: As part of its strategy to make state government more efficient, cost effective and user friendly, the Kasich Administration consolidated the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) divisions of Watercraft and State Parks. This reform offers Ohioans improved services and cost savings while also enabling ODNR law enforcement to provide greater protections for visitors at Ohio's state parks, natural areas, rivers and lakes. This builds on ODNR's efforts in recent years to cross-train its Forestry, Parks and Watercraft officers, successfully reducing training costs and improving

officer response and safety efforts across state properties. With consolidation of these two ODNR divisions, outdoor enthusiasts and taxpayers are now better supported by enhanced customer service and safety.

- Giving Small Businesses a Strong, New Tool to Navigate Regulatory Issues: The Kasich Administration, through the governor's Common Sense Initiative (CSI), developed an electronic small business toolkit, designed to help businesses navigate regulatory issues and other matters. Developed in conjunction with business members of the Council of Smaller Enterprises, the small business division of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, this toolkit provides business owners assistance in a simple, accessible way to encourage greater participation in the CSI process.
- Achieving \$120 Million in Savings and New Efficiencies through the Use of Technology: The Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology in state and local, awarded the State of Ohio to earn an "A" rating for the use of technology to increase government efficiency. The center's 2016 ratings cited improvements over the past five years which produced \$120 million in savings for Ohio taxpayers.

CREATING A SAFER OHIO

- Stopping Drug Traffickers: Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers made tremendous strides in removing illegal drugs from Ohio in 2016. Troopers increased their total drug-related arrests for the eighth consecutive year in a row. Troopers also broke their own records for the largest single heroin (59.5 pounds), methamphetamine (26.5 pounds) and prescription pill (33,230 units) seizures this year.
- Combating Human Trafficking: The Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force continues to prioritize extensive training of individuals in a position to assist potential victims of trafficking, and provide technical assistance to organizations serving survivors. New resources were launched this year including a quick reference guide for Ohio's law enforcement officers, guidance on accessing Medicaid to serve victims of trafficking, a training partnership with the Columbus Airport and State Medical Board of Ohio and the Department of Justice supported training for prosecutors and investigators.
- Keeping Ohioans and Our First Responders Safe: The Ohio Department of Natural Resources put in place a simplified "one-call" emergency notification system designed to improve response times in the event of an oil or gas incident and eliminate the need for companies to make notification calls to multiple agencies and responders. ODNR's one-call, 24/7 notification system simplifies the process of reporting an incident by making that department responsible for notifying and dispatching all appropriate resources. This streamlined process allows companies to focus their immediate efforts on mitigation and ensures first responders of consistent coordination of state resources with public safety as the top priority.

EMBRACING THE FUTURE AND ENSURING THAT OHIO BENEFITS FROM NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Creating Ohio's First Smart Highway: Signaling its commitment to maintaining Ohio's historic leadership role in transportation innovation and technology, the state announced a \$15 million investment in Ohio's first smart highway. Strategically linking major transportation research centers in the central Ohio, the 35-mile-long U.S. Route 33 Smart Mobility Corridor will be equipped with fiber-optic cable and state-of-the-art sensors to become a real-life test site for advances in autonomous and connected vehicle technologies. This is the first in a series of smart highway developments in Ohio, including the Ohio Turnpike and two additional sites to be announced on I-270 in Columbus and I-90 in northern Ohio.
- Taking a Lead in Drone Technology with the Nation's First "Sense and Avoid" Test Facility: Drone and unmanned aircraft technology is another promising area where Ohio – "the Birthplace of Aviation" – is embracing the future. The state has committed \$1.5 million to a cooperative project with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory and Wright State University to develop a ground-based "sense-and avoid-system" for unmanned aircraft at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport in Clark County. This project, with total state and federal investments of \$5 million, will

empower drone operators, for the first time anywhere in the nation, to fly unmanned aircraft beyond their line of sight. This is the type of advanced research that will give Ohio a major advantage as unmanned aircraft and drones become the basis for new industries and economic growth.

- Keeping Children Safe – Analyzing the State's Data to Address Child Welfare Issues: The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) launched a data analytics project to improve Ohio's response to child welfare cases identified as having a higher probability of a potentially dangerous situation. After a competitive bidding process, ODJFS has chosen a national firm with a proven track record to implement a predictive analytics system with a predetermined algorithm that will immediately elevate a case for greater oversight by county caseworkers when certain risk factors are found. Ohio will be one of just a handful of states with such a high-tech system for increasing child safety and promoting better familial support.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

Under the leadership of Gov. Kasich, Ohio became the first state to create a task force of community leaders and law enforcement specialists to craft strategies for strengthening the bond between communities and the police. Based on those efforts, the governor's Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board made significant progress over the past year in implementing task force recommendations.

- Helping Ohio Law Enforcement Agencies Become Certified under Ohio's First-Ever Standards: Ohio now has statewide standards for law enforcement agencies on the use of force, deadly force, and the hiring and recruitment of law enforcement personnel. The state has partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to certify law enforcement agencies on these standards, with nearly 250 agencies – representing nearly 50 percent of all law enforcement officers in the state – approved or in the certification process to date.
- Adopting Additional Standards to Strengthen Trust between Law Enforcement and Communities: Building off the first-ever standards adopted last year, the governor's Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board also adopted statewide standards for law enforcement dispatchers, body-worn cameras and community engagement.
- Launching a New Statewide Education Campaign: Ohio launched an outreach and education campaign called "Change Starts Here" to help promote positive interactions between communities and police.
- Helping Communities Implement Their Best Ideas to Strengthen Community-Police Relations: A growing number of law enforcement agencies in Ohio are implementing new strategies to improve relationships with their communities. The state is helping fund many of these efforts by awarding \$400,000 to 20 local agencies.

REDUCING OVERCROWDING AND IMPROVING SECURITY IN OHIO'S PRISONS

Knowing that expanded capacity and reduced inmate density are critical to managing a large correctional system and maintaining a safe, secure prison environment for staff and inmates alike, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction took aggressive steps in 2016 to address concerns about the state's near-record prison population density and security issues raised by overcrowding.

- Helping Ohio Communities Manage Low-Level, Non-Violent Offenders: A significant contributing factor to the increase in Ohio's prison population is the number of offenders coming into state prisons for low-level felonies or other non-violent offenses. In response, the state has initiated a pilot program to assist local communities with managing low-level offenders as a less costly, more effective alternative to state prison while also ensuring these individuals receive the essential treatment they need. The first such partnership was launched with Clinton County officials in late 2016.
- Moving Death-Penalty Inmates to the Toledo Correctional Institution: Moving Ohio inmates facing the death penalty from the state correctional facility in Chillicothe to more appropriate housing at the Toledo Correctional Institution will better serve the needs of this aging population and help to reduce overall housing density at state prisons

system-wide. This relocation will make space available for another Ohio prison reform by establishing the new Level 3 unit at Chillicothe as a regional release preparation center for Level 3, high-security inmates – the first such facility in Ohio's state prison system.

- Earning Honors as First Recipient of a New National Award for Commitment to Prison Safety: The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction became the first prison system in the United States to receive the American Correctional Association's Lucy Webb Hayes Award, recognizing the state's strong commitment to prison safety by ensuring all areas of operation meet or exceed nationally recognized standards.

