

Candidate Questions

Questions for Candidates at the State & Federal Level in the 2020 Election

Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) develops and advances policies and practices that value our urban cores and metropolitan regions as the Ohio's economic drivers. Through advocacy, research, outreach, and education, GOPC strives to create a policy and political climate that allow our communities to stabilize and thrive for statewide economic growth.

We are living through an unprecedented time period which will create many challenges - and opportunities - for Ohio's legacy communities. Responding to this crisis has required leadership at all levels – federal, state and local. That is why it is important as we head into the 2020 election season that policymakers at the local, state and national level be well informed about the issues and opportunities facing Ohio. What follows, is a series of questions that GOPC believes candidates should have answers for going into the 2020 election.



Investing in Brownfields to Support Economic Growth & Quality of Life

Questions

Brownfields—environmentally contaminated sites—are often located on real estate that offers prime redevelopment opportunities, however, in Ohio, it can cost \$15,000 to \$30,000 per acre to remediate. ***What would you do to help communities return these sites to productive use?***

Ohio's current brownfield remediation program, the Brownfield Revitalization Program, primarily supports manufacturers, large employers, and offer loans. ***What will state and local policymakers need to do to ensure that more programs support quality of life revitalization, not just economic revitalization?***

Quick Facts

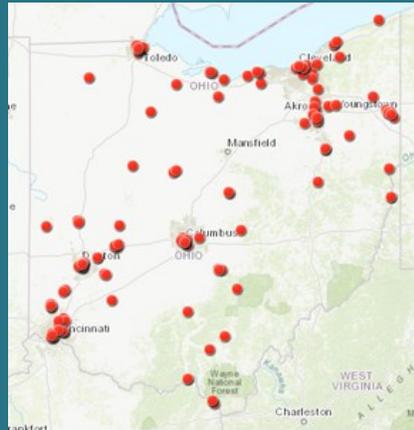
- Experts estimate there are **over 9,000 brownfields in Ohio**; they are located in every county in the state. Ohio's manufacturing history is shared by many other states around the country, which also have high numbers of environmentally contaminated sites.
- Ohio's previous investment in brownfield redevelopment leveraged **\$4.67 in new economic activity for every \$1 invested** by the state into brownfield clean-up.
- Research completed by GOPC found that for every one job created or sustained through activities directly tied to remediating a brownfield, more than one additional job was indirectly created or sustained.
- During the Clean Ohio Revitalization Program (2002-2013), **\$1.4 billion were annually contributed to the state's GDP** as result of remediation and \$500 million in household and business earnings were generated through remediated sites
- Brownfields are located in places where infrastructure is already in place; development in greenfields usually requires new road infrastructure and utilities and transportation solutions that connect workers to work sites.

Former Steel Mill Transforms into Retail Complex for Rural Appalachian Community

The Southern Ohio Port Authority received \$3.3M in CORF funding to remediate the former New Boston Steel facility, with an additional \$4.24M leveraged from public and private sources. The redevelopment created a retail complex of more than a dozen businesses employing 500 people.

CLEANUP 2003	REDEVELOPMENT 2008	OPERATIONS ONGOING
<p>\$13.3 MILLION in new economic activity</p> <p>\$250,061 in local taxes generated</p> <p>\$445,939 in state taxes generated</p>	<p>\$24M IN POST-REMEDATION CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>\$37.9 MILLION in new economic activity</p> <p>345 JOBS created and supported</p> <p>\$388,472 in local taxes generated</p> <p>\$811,528 in state taxes generated</p>	<p>\$22.9 MILLION in economic output per year</p> <p>559 jobs supported and sustained per year</p> <p>\$1.2 MILLION in local taxes generated per year</p> <p>\$2.0 MILLION in state taxes generated per year</p>
<p>Estimates show that the state's CORF investment of \$3.3M was fully paid back within one year of current operations on the site.</p>		
<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.GREATEROHIO.ORG/BROWNFIELDS</p>		
<p><small>Figures estimated using IMPLAN 2019 data and other available information at time of publication.</small></p>		

Brownfield Facts



CORF Projects in Ohio: 2003-2013

Source: Ohio Department of Development Services (Map by GOPC)



Innovating Mobility & Infrastructure

Questions

The FAST Act, which has provided nearly \$305 billion in funding for the nation's surface transportation since 2016, is set to expire on September 30, 2020. Any and all efforts to enact meaningful legislation to address the nation's aging infrastructure system over the past four years has been met with inaction. **What will you do to quickly and sustainably address the issues of investing in a modern infrastructure system that supports all modes of transportation and ensures that all Ohioans have access to quality, high-speed broadband?**

One of the biggest challenges business owners in Ohio cite is employees who have unreliable transportation. **What will you do to help connect ready-to-work workers to available jobs?**

Ohio's population is aging, especially in Ohio's rural areas. **How will you help Ohioans' "age in place" and maintain their quality of life, which includes accessing medical care, grocery stores, and other critical services?**

On average, nearly one bicyclist and two pedestrians are killed or seriously injured every day in Ohio. **As more people bike and walk for recreation and to get to their destinations—including workplaces—what will you do to protect these Ohioans?**

Quick Facts

- Ohio enacted a **10.5 cent increase** in the motor fuel tax in 2019, the first increase in **14 years**. The federal motor fuel tax (18.4 cents) has not been adjusted since 1993. Adjusted for inflation, that tax is now equivalent to **just 10 cents per gallon**.
- Annually, the state contributes **one-tenth of what overburdened local sources contribute** to support and maintain their local transit authorities.
- Creating safe roads not only protects all roadway users, including drivers, but also saves money by avoiding collision and injury costs.
- 33 states currently have implemented active transportation polices** and ensure roadways are developed and maintained to accommodate all users, including pedestrians and cyclists.





Empowering Legacy Cities

Questions

How will you ensure that communities, small and large, have the ability to attract talent and business, particularly as work-from-policies increase the possibility that employees will chose where to live based on amenities and quality of life factors?

Communities across Ohio are finding more of their low-and moderate-income residents facing burdensome housing costs. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this problem, with millions threatened with eviction. *What will your administration do ensure that no one has to face the threat of losing their home?*

Home values in many cities are often too modest for market-rate homeowners to secure financing for rehabilitations or new construction. Cities need strategic tools and incentives that spur new housing for all types of homeowners and renters while also limiting sprawl. *What will you do to ensure cities have the tools they need to achieve these needs?*

Infrastructure investments are necessary but expensive. *What is the balance between fixing and maintain existing infrastructure, and building new systems?*

Quick Facts

- States like **Michigan and Massachusetts** have broadened their economic development portfolios to include **investments that create quality places that attract talent and businesses**. Placemaking and community development are part of the state’s economic development strategy. For example, Michigan provides grants to communities that want to undertake a comprehensive plan. Those communities that do planning and implement strategies approved by the state become certified as “Redevelopment Ready Communities” that are more aggressively marketed by the state to site selectors.
- Other states, like **Pennsylvania**, consider how characteristics like **population size or distress level impact how policy is implemented** in different places because solutions that are “one-size-fits-all” rarely get the right resources to the right places.
- **Ohio’s population is growing at rates slower than the national rate.** Building new roads today creates additional costs that we will not be able to pay tomorrow. “Fix-it-first”, meaning focusing on maintaining our existing infrastructure assets, is a more economical way to ensure a strong, connected transportation system.

Legacy City Facts

A Positive Vision

In Spring 2018, a bipartisan, cross-sector network of leaders from small legacy cities released “A Vision for Ohio’s Reinvention Cities.” Endorsed by more than thirty organizations representing the private, public, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors, this forward-looking agenda outlines achievable state policies that are key to ensuring the revitalization of Ohio’s Reinvention Cities.

Stewarded by the Greater Ohio Policy Center, these cities are working to identify, develop, and advocate for policy solutions. The network urges Ohio’s state lawmakers to enact the policies outlined in the “Vision for Ohio’s Reinvention Cities” to support their communities as they transition to be fully competitive in the 21st Century economy and provide opportunity for their residents to thrive.



Reinvention Cities of Ohio

Places that work.

