

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Kasich stands firm in push for Ohio turnaround

By Joe Cogliano, DBJ Senior Reporter

Ohio Gov. John Kasich refuses to budge for his following of highly-vocal critics.

After pushing a flurry of initiatives during the first seven months of his term, Kasich seems pleased with what he sees as the state's dramatic turnaround and dismisses those who say he is moving too fast and trying to force reform without much room for dissent or discussion.

"Thank goodness we're moving quickly because if you got yourself in deep trouble, if you're one of three states that have lost more jobs than any other state, what are you supposed to do, sit around and relax?" Kasich said during a recent interview with WDTN-TV's Dan Edwards in Columbus. WDTN is the Dayton Business Journal's TV news partner.

Kasich said it didn't make sense to stay on the same path and points out his policies — such as balancing the budget, eliminating the estate tax and pushing to privatize numerous government services — triggered a dramatic rise in Ohio's credit rating, something that attracts out-of-state investors.

[Click here for database of all 50 state credit ratings.](#)

"You've got to tax less, you've got to regulate less, you've got to create your priorities and you've got to get Ohio in an environment where people say 'I'd like to locate my business there,'" Kasich said "We've balanced the budget, I mean we had an eight billion dollar hole and we didn't have to raise taxes to make us less competitive, in fact we've cut taxes and maintained the income tax and killed the death tax so our best and brightest don't have to leave Ohio as they get older."

Article continued here: <http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/news/2011/08/10/kasich-stands-firm-in-push-for-ohio.html>

###