



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Kasich Administration Accomplishments for 2018

FOSTERING AN ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION

Over the past eight years under Governor John R. Kasich's leadership, Ohio has restrained spending to keep its fiscal house in order, 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 job creators have added more than 560,000 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.

- **Ohio – The Most Improved Business Climate in the Nation:** *Chief Executive Magazine's* 2018 nationwide survey of CEOs showed Ohio has the most improved business climate in America – ranking tenth overall and a full 33 places higher since 2010.
- **Strengthening Ohio's Essential Budget Reserves:** Finding a mere 89 cents in Ohio's emergency savings account when he came into office, Gov. Kasich continued to rebuild the state's depleted rainy day fund to record levels. At the end of the 2018 fiscal year, Ohio deposited another \$657.5 million into the fund, bringing the balance to \$2.69 million.
- **Ohio Minority-Owned Businesses See Continued Growth through State Purchasing Program:** For the fourth consecutive year, Ohio has exceeded the goal of its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program by purchasing 21.63 percent of eligible goods and services through certified minority-owned businesses, while spending \$268 million. Ohio's MBE program, enacted in 1980, required state agencies to establish a 15 percent goal of their annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses.
- **Reducing Workers' Compensation Costs:** With strong investment performance, Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation was once again able to provide a massive rebate to its customers. With a rebate of \$1.5 billion in 2018, Ohio employers have now saved \$8 billion through rebates, credits and rate reductions. As a result, Ohio has moved from the third highest rates in the country in 2008 to the 11th lowest.
- **Spurring Job Growth:** During the first three quarters of 2018, JobsOhio finalized 180 projects with commitments for 16,503 new jobs and 33,836 retained jobs for a total of \$2.69 billion in annual payroll. Additionally, new and existing companies made \$6.4 billion in total capital investments. (JobsOhio's final 2018 metrics will be available March 2019.)
- **Recognized for Leading the Nation in Economic Growth:** Ohio's economic successes continue to gain recognition, such as a top ranking from Ernst & Young, who named Ohio as the best state for job creation in business development projects in a 2018 report.

- Helping New Americans Find Opportunities In The Buckeye State: By executive order, Gov. Kasich created the Office of Opportunities for New Americans and the New Americans Advisory Committee. These entities are helping immigrants become better integrated into the fabric of their communities by making sure they are job ready by coordinating existing efforts at the state level, communicating with immigrant support groups and by identifying and tearing down state barriers that prevent or impede their integration into society and economic success.
- Columbus and Cincinnati Are Ranked as Leaders of the Nation's Top Cities for Start-ups: *Forbes* magazine rated Columbus number one among America's emerging start-up cities in 2018, with Cincinnati also in the top ten. The Ohio cities' scores were based on low costs of doing business, availability of venture capital funding and support for entrepreneurship, among 13 business-friendly metrics.
- Investing in a \$2.6 Billion Capital Budget Construction Plan: A \$2.6 billion capital improvements budget was advanced by the Kasich Administration and General Assembly in 2018 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.

SAFEGUARDING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Aggressive New Action to Improve Lake Erie Water Quality: Gov. Kasich signed an executive order to initiate aggressive new action by state agencies and their partners toward further reduction of nutrient runoff from watersheds in Lake Erie's western basin by targeting eight watersheds with high levels of phosphorus.
- Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area: Gov. Kasich announced the creation of a new state park and wildlife area named in honor of one of America's and Ohio's greatest heroes, Olympic track gold medalist Jesse Owens. This major new addition to Ohio's state park system began in August 2018 with an initial property acquisition in Morgan and Muskingum counties, and over the next two years will grow to at least 13,000 acres – and potentially more. As it continues to grow, Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area will provide the public with opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of Ohio's natural resources, including camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and horseback riding.

CARING FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

- Expanding Access to Technology to Help Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities: Gov. Kasich signed an executive order making Ohio the first state to place an emphasis on expanding access to technology for people with developmental disabilities. Working with county boards of developmental disabilities, individuals served and their families will be able to explore the many ways technology can expand opportunities. This is not a technology-only policy; instead, the goal is to help people learn more about how technology can improve the quality of their lives.

- New Twin Valley Behavioral Health Hospital: In keeping with his Administration’s commitment to improving mental health resources, Gov. Kasich announced that Ohio will build a new behavioral healthcare facility on the Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare campus in Columbus, replacing the main hospital there, the busiest in the state. The new \$112 million facility will replace the existing facility, which was constructed in 1977 to originally serve geriatric patients and which, over the past 40 years, is no longer optimal for serving its patient population of younger individuals with more complex needs.
- Helping Improve Community Centers across Ohio: In an effort to expand youth programs and provide positive social interaction and mentorship opportunities, Gov. Kasich allocated \$20 million to improve local community infrastructure, including community centers and youth program facilities. These centers can provide young people with opportunities to develop resiliency skills, especially important with high-risk youth or those in under-served areas.
- Leading the Nation in Driving Transparency on Prescription Drugs Costs: Nearly six months before a federal law took effect providing more transparency to consumers, Ohio led the way to ensure a level playing field for pharmacies and consumers when it comes to prescription drug pricing. In April 2018, Ohio prohibited insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from charging consumers more for their prescriptions than what it would otherwise cost without insurance. In addition, Ohio banned “gag orders” on pharmacists, ensuring that they are able to discuss with customers what payment options are available to them when it comes to paying for their prescriptions.

CREATING A SAFER OHIO

- Stopping Drug Traffickers: Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers have continued to make tremendous strides in removing illegal drugs from Ohio’s roadways. Troopers are on pace to increase their total drug-related arrests for the ninth consecutive year in a row. Preliminary results indicate troopers have broken their own records for the largest single heroin (81.6 pounds), methamphetamine (141.8 pounds) and fentanyl (63.9 pounds) seizures this year.
- Ensuring Tougher Punishment for Drug Traffickers. Ohio put in place harsher penalties for drug traffickers selling fentanyl-related compounds.
- Improving Background Checks for Guns to Make Ohioans Safer from Gun Violence: Gov. Kasich signed three executive orders to improve the background check system that helps make sure guns stay out of the hands of people prohibited by law from having them. This included adopting emergency rules to require law enforcement agencies to upload protection order and warrants into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) to close a reporting gap that was discovered by a working group the governor convened. The executive orders followed recent reforms proposed by a bipartisan group the governor convened in 2018 that recommended changes to improve compliance by local governments and others with the background check system.

STRENGTHENING OHIO’S FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

- Investing \$1 Billion in Ohio's Fight against Drug Abuse and Addiction: In FY2018, the state invested more than \$1 billion to help fight drug abuse and addiction.
- Creating a Pilot Program to Build Student Resiliency: The Kasich Administration worked to develop a pilot program in Pike County to provide enhanced community support for young people impacted by drug addiction in their families. Working with the YMCA, local churches, four local school districts, mental health providers and other community stakeholders, programs were developed to help support students, improve resiliency and guide students toward success. This includes training to equip adults with the skills they need to best manage a child in need, transportation to the YMCA with expanded after-school programs, and teacher training to help reinforce good behavior and teach kids how to cope with their struggles.
- Increasing Patient Awareness of the Risk of Opioid Misuse and Addiction: Addressing pain before it becomes a chronic problem can lead to more effective treatment. In 2018, the Kasich Administration developed new rules for prescription opiates for the treatment of long-term pain (lasting 12 weeks or more) and sub-acute pain (lasting between six and 12 weeks). These new rules strengthen communication between physicians and patients by establishing check points for additional assessment to ensure that anyone with long-term prescribed opiates is more carefully managed. Physicians are now required to engage in conversations with patients before starting on long-term medication treatment to ensure opioids are actually improving function and the patient is offered other non-opioid treatments when appropriate.
- Combating Opiate Abuse across the Drug Supply Chain: Ohio expanded its monitoring and tracking tools to the more than 500 wholesale pharmaceutical distributors doing business in the state. These companies buy drugs from manufacturers and resell them to the some 20,000 Ohio pharmacies, doctors, clinics and hospitals that, in turn, sell and dispense and administer directly to patients. Wholesalers often have substantial information about the overall flow of drugs, and large spikes in their shipments hint at problematic activity that could be illegal. Giving law enforcement and regulatory officials a better, more consistent and more accurate understanding of these kinds of shipments – and giving them better tools to ensure compliance – will only help make Ohio safer from the opiate epidemic and those who would seek to profit from it. With these new regulations in place, Ohio will have one of the most comprehensive and rigorous approaches to combating the opiate epidemic of any state in the nation.
- Advancing New Scientific Breakthroughs to Battle Addiction: Ohio has awarded funding to support innovative projects that hold promise in diagnosing and preventing opioid addiction and overdose, connecting people to resources and protecting first responders from exposure. The funding is part of \$20 million Gov. Kasich set aside through the Third Frontier Commission to help fund technologies that can be used to combat drug abuse and addiction.
- Helping Recovering Addicts Safely Reenter the Workforce: The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation launched the Opioid Workplace Safety Program, a two-year, \$5 million pilot program to help employers in Montgomery, Ross and Scioto counties hire, manage and retain workers in recovery from an opioid addiction. Partnering with local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and

Mental Health boards to reimburse employers for pre-employment, random and reasonable suspicion drug testing; training for managers/supervisors to help them better manage a workforce that includes individuals in recovery; and a forum/venue for so-called “second-chance” employers to share success stories that will encourage others to hire workers in recovery.

EMBRACING THE FUTURE AND ENSURING THAT OHIO BENEFITS FROM NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Creating One-Stop-Shop for Development of New Connected Vehicle Technologies: Gov. Kasich signed an executive order creating a one-stop shop that will make it easier for companies and researchers to advance connected and autonomous vehicle technologies. The new center, DriveOhio, brings together those responsible for building infrastructure in Ohio with those who are developing new transportation technologies to better coordinate efforts and connect transportation providers with automotive and equipment manufacturers.
- Encouraging More Autonomous Vehicle Testing in Ohio: Gov. Kasich signed a second executive order that authorizes researchers to test on Ohio roadways as long as their vehicles meet certain safety requirements and are capable of complying with Ohio traffic regulations. The order also created a voluntary Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Program to assist local governments in working with automotive and technology companies to advance technologies in their communities.

