



**Greater Ohio Policy Center
Strategic Document -- Years 2015-18
January 2016**

The Mission of the Greater Ohio Policy Center is to champion revitalization and sustainable growth in Ohio.

GREATER OHIO POLICY CENTER VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is that Ohio lead the nation in building statewide economic prosperity and establishing sustainable growth in its urban and regional communities. Ohio has robust, effective policies and practices creating revitalized communities, strengthened regional cooperation, and preserved Ohio's open space and farmland.

Strategic Plan Principles and Goals

PRINCIPLE 1: Revitalized neighborhoods in Ohio's cities that attract people and thrive economically

Goal 1: Develop and advance policies that incentivize new investments and redevelopment in neighborhoods

Outcomes:

- i. State and local policies that encourage infill development in Ohio's residential neighborhoods and commercial corridors by lowering market barriers
- ii. State policies that leverage intervention points in the foreclosure and/or property abandonment process to assist responsible end users in: 1) gaining control of properties more quickly; 2) returning properties to productive use with less expense; and/or 3) preventing future blighted properties
- iii. New state financing tools that promote new investments in underinvested areas

Goal 2: Create and aid in implementing model practices that result in residential and commercial neighborhood rebuilding

Outcomes:

- i. Innovative strategic advice and practices that accelerate the stabilization and revitalization of Ohio's neighborhoods
- ii. Local and state leaders recognize GOPC as an expert in revitalization and consult GOPC for our expert knowledge

Goal 3: Conduct cutting-edge research to inform strategies and policies that remove barriers to neighborhood regrowth and prosperity

Outcomes:

- i. Influential white papers and memos that identify specific policies and advocate for needed policy reforms
- ii. New state level policies that assist local partners with neighborhood stabilization and market re-engagement

PRINCIPLE 2: Communities and regions that leverage their assets fully and meet their potential as economic drivers in their regions and in the state

Goal 1: Develop and advance policies and practices that leverage local assets, such as anchor institutions, and their workforce and economic redevelopment potential

Outcomes:

- i. Community and regional workforce and economic growth policies that benefit all residents and provide opportunities
- ii. State budget line-item that funds urban-related research and collaboration

Goal 2: Develop and advance policies and practices that promote regeneration of medium-sized and smaller cities

Outcome:

- i. Medium-sized cities initiative, including research, convenings, and a network, to maximize these locales' competitive advantage

Goal 3: Conduct research focused on issue areas common among Ohio cities and regions, including demographics and other related trends, to support policy advancement

Outcomes:

- i. Influential white papers that frame complementary strategies and policies
- ii. A state and nationally recognized database that is relied upon by press, academics, local practitioners, and policymakers to make data-driven decisions about investments, strategies and policies

PRINCIPLE 3: Funded and rebuilt sustainable infrastructure that includes diverse and modernized transportation options and upgraded water and sewer infrastructure in Ohio's cities and regions to promote economic growth

Goal 1: Develop and recommend new financing tools for Ohio cities to use in upgrading their water and sewer systems

Outcomes:

- i. New state tools for financing public infrastructure, including public sector programs and/or public-private partnerships

- ii. New multi-state/regional tools for financing public infrastructure

Goal 2: Identify and advance policies that diversify transportation options in Ohio and recognize all transportation modes as economic redevelopment tools

Outcomes:

- i. Passage of transportation reform policies, including policies that provide additional funding for expanding public transit service and multi-modal options in major metros
- ii. Local MPO projects that lead to sustainable growth development patterns and practices on a local or regional basis

PRINCIPLE 4: Regional, sustainable growth in urban and non-urban areas that catalyzes private sector investment and results in economic development

Goal 1: Monitor, develop and advance policies that prevent sprawl and promote sustainable growth, green space protection, and improved quality of life

Outcomes:

- i. State policies and additional funding for transportation investments that preserve existing assets and enhance options on existing infrastructure, instead of building new
- ii. State and local policies that ensure true costs of new development are borne by developers and direct consumers and not an entire county or the state
- iii. Preserved open space and farmland and less greenfield development

Goal 2: Develop and advance state policies that incentivize regional cooperation and regional economic development

Outcomes:

- i. Local projects that lead to sustainable growth development patterns and practices on a local or regional basis
- ii. Improved regional economic development coordination

Goal 3: Conduct research identifying practices that quantify costs of new development and reduce costs to improve sustainable growth prospects

Outcomes:

- i. Documentation of cost savings achieved through reduction in service redundancies and increased coordination among local entities
- ii. Consolidated governance structures and shared services or other tactics that acknowledge rising legacy costs and declining tax base

PRINCIPLE 5: Citizens and elected officials who are well-educated about the pivotal importance of and engaged in helping with the transformation of Ohio's cities and metros to meet the previous four Principles.

Goal 1: Develop clear, bipartisan messages and communications strategy that conveys the urgency and importance of GOPC's policy agenda

Outcomes:

- i. New persuasive messaging for place-based economic policies and practices, including materials and data that quantify the cost savings that redevelopment and revitalization generate in the long term, as compared to new development
- ii. Communications plan that gains GOPC new partners in legislature, private sector, and other sectors and leverages media relations when appropriate
- iii. Work with federal partners on narrowly defined federal policies when appropriate and deemed essential to support and advance state policy work

Goal 2: Conduct multi-pronged, on-going education campaign with elected officials and private sector to broaden reach of sustainable growth messages and generate support and momentum for advocacy around specific policies

Outcomes:

- i. Increased awareness of GOPC issues and expertise
- ii. Increased number of local projects; GOPC seen as local and statewide resource on key topics
- iii. Clear definition that non-specialists understand of what sustainable development is and the cost benefits associated with sustainable growth and development strategies

Goal 3: Organize strategic coalitions and convene partners to support policy advocacy efforts and develops sustained momentum around GOPC policy agenda

Outcomes:

- i. Strong networks that facilitate idea exchange, advance policy and is a resource to GOPC for policy development and advancements.
- ii. Strengthened relationships with new and additional partners, including private sector partners, municipal and regional leaders and quasi-private entities, such as CDFIs and anchor institutions.
- iii. Network of leaders—private, public, and nonprofit—who are engaged in and actively advance a GOPC policies.