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**A NEW  
BEGINNING**

for

**OHIO**



**GREATER OHIO POLICY CENTER  
2018 POLICY PLATFORM**

# A NEW BEGINNING ON THE HORIZON FOR OHIO

The past decade has seen considerable progress as job growth has remained steady and communities across the state have experienced promising comebacks. Yet, cities and towns across the Buckeye state continue to struggle to find sites for new businesses and employees, and many of Ohio’s businesses are desperate to connect workers to job opportunities. Communities big and small are looking to enhance their quality of life for their citizens. These challenges threaten to obstruct the advancements that have been made across Ohio.

The mission of the Greater Ohio Policy Center is to champion revitalization and sustainable growth. We believe Ohio deserves robust, effective policies and practices that reinvigorate communities, strengthen regional cooperation, and preserve open spaces and farmland.

What follows are recommendations for Ohio’s next statewide leaders and legislative policymakers for building on Ohio’s recent success by recognizing potential, leveraging momentum, connecting people to places, and reviving our most important assets to ensure a Greater Ohio.



## INCREASE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT BY REDEVELOPING BROWNFIELDS

Unlock the ability to bring in millions of dollars in investment, job growth, and economic development through the remediation of brownfields—blighted industrial properties—that discourage investment and create barriers for communities throughout Ohio.

- Streamline Ohio EPA’s **Voluntary Action Program (VAP)** by providing options in addition to the covenant not to sue. Make regulatory reforms that provide legal assurances from the state to prospective landowners and real estate developers who did not contaminate a site under consideration.
- Establish a new **Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund** that is designed for long-term stability, and would provide \$25 million annually for brownfield clean-up and revitalization. This funding would complement and enhance current brownfield programs focused on industrial expansion.

from the state rental car tax.

- Adopt a **Statewide Active Transportation Policy** that ensures the state’s roadways can safely accommodate all types of users and is sensitive to local context, facilitating the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services.



## BOLSTER ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS BY ENSURING COMMUNITIES CAN ENGINEER LONG-TERM PROSPERITY

Communities big and small provide Ohio with a unique quality of life that cannot be found anywhere else. Capitalize on these assets by investing in their success.

- **Expand the scope of JobsOhio** to include support for activities to assist cities and towns competing for jobs and skilled workers to create places where people want to work, live and recreate.
- **Incentivize public/private collaboration** with state grant allocations for initiatives focused on local community and economic development.



## BETTER CONNECT WORKERS TO JOBS BY INNOVATING OHIO’S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Meet market demand for 21st century transportation options by prioritizing and diversifying Ohio’s transportation network.

- Establish a source of **Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation**, derived from existing revenue sources that provides \$30 million per year to ensure workers connect to jobs and Ohio’s vulnerable populations have access to safe, reliable transportation options. For example, 10 states dedicate funding for public transit with revenue

*Pragmatic policies for a brighter future*  
Read the detailed policy platform at [www.greaterohio.org/policyplatform](http://www.greaterohio.org/policyplatform)