



FIGHTING TO RENEW OHIO  
MORE JOBS. HIGHER PAY. BETTER GOVERNMENT.

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You may be asking yourself: who is Matt Mayer, why might he run for Governor in 2026, and why is he starting so early? These are three very good questions. Let me be blunt: **I'm frustrated and fed up with the status quo of mediocrity that we've had to live with for far too long.** I may run



in 2026 because Establishment career politicians have had every chance to reenergize Ohio, but instead have ignored the very reforms we have demanded for decades.

Since 2009, my job running two public policy groups has afforded me the opportunity to speak to thousands of Ohioans across our great state. I've driven over 25,000 miles hitting big cities like Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and

Toledo, as well as small communities like Bryan, Marietta, Rockbridge, Wapakoneta, and Wooster. **Each passing year, the voices expressing discontent and anger with the Establishment here and in Washington, D.C., have grown.** In 2016 and 2020, millions of Ohioans voted for Donald Trump because they felt he would take on the Establishment and drain the D.C. swamp. In Ohio, however, the Establishment maintains a firm grip on control in Columbus, as evidenced by the deal cut in early January with Democrats to put a moderate Speaker in charge in the Ohio House. I believe it is high time we take back control, which won't be easy.

I am not an Establishment candidate. **I am like you – a hard-working parent who grew up in Westerville delivering newspapers, bagging groceries, making pizzas at Donato's, and serving ice cream at Dairy Queen.** I'm a proud graduate of St. Francis DeSales High School, The University of Dayton, and The Ohio State University. I coached youth sports for over a decade. I clean my own house, cut my own grass, clip my own hair (no hair jokes, please), and still mostly drive an old Honda just because, well, it's a Honda. **As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Ohioan raising the 6<sup>th</sup> generation, I want Ohio to be a great place to raise a family and a thriving state where people come to live and work** just like my great-great grandpa Herman Kroger did in the 1850s when he immigrated



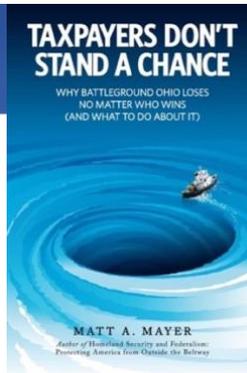
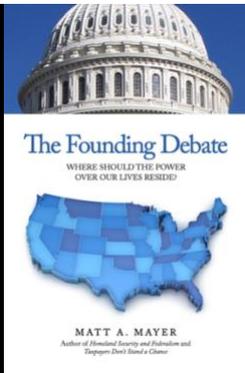
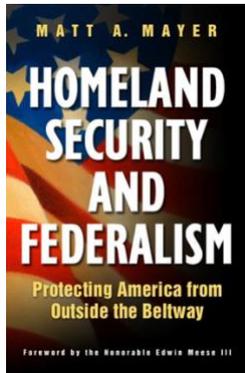
to Dayton from Germany and helped found a church. His son, Joe, started a grocery store, putting my family on the path towards living the American Dream.

I've had the great honor of working for a governor and a president running government entities and fighting against the bureaucracy to make government work better. **It is a tireless fight requiring determination, grit, and passion.** My work deregulating overregulated businesses and individuals in Colorado earned the Denver Business Journal's Innovative Product/Service Award in 2003.



From Ground Zero to The White House Situation Room, from NATO Headquarters in Brussels to the Israeli Defense Force in the Negev desert, and from meeting with intelligence services across Europe to exploding a bomb in the New Mexico desert, **I pushed aggressively to help millions of police officers, firefighters, and other first preventers and responders gain the capabilities they needed to keep America safe.** I've tangled with politicians at hearings, on phone calls, and in the halls of power, so I know full well what it takes to get them to do the right thing. I've been to the southern border and worked closely with officials charged with defending it. My first and third books defended the power of states against encroachments from Washington and I was honored President Ronald Reagan's Attorney General and longtime conservative legend, Ed Meese III, wrote the Foreword in my first book.

For over a decade, I've crunched and analyzed the economic data and developed lots of ideas on



what Ohio needs to do to regain its status as a leader among the states. Heck, I even wrote a book, **Taxpayers Don't Stand a Chance**, outlining what is wrong with Ohio and how our politicians could fix it. **Whether as a Visiting Fellow at The Heritage Foundation or the American Enterprise Institute or running Opportunity Ohio, I've always let the**

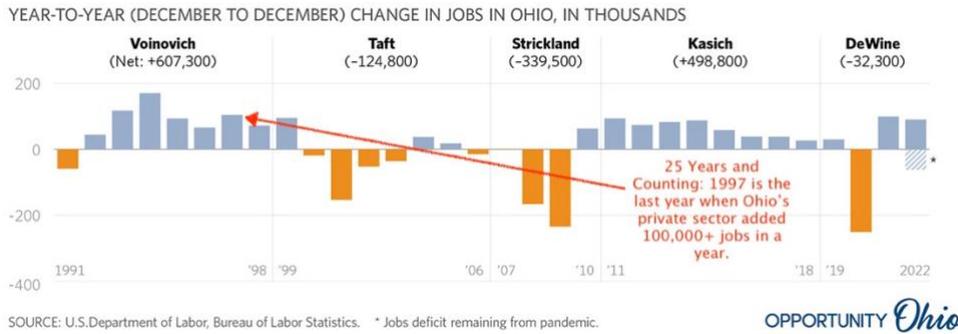
**facts drive my ideas.** That is why I fought Medicaid expansion in nine states. I knew it would grow uncontrollably once unleashed because that is what the data from other states said would happen. Ten years later, over 3.5 million Ohioans—74% the size of Ohio's private sector— are dependent on it as it swallows 50% of state spending every year.

I have three simple questions for you:

- Given Ohio's weak private sector job growth since 1990, do you truly believe the Establishment politicians who have failed so far are capable of turning things around?
- Why is it that, as Ohio has become increasingly Republican, it failed to become more prosperous, free, or a beacon of what sound conservative government can be (like Texas and Florida)?

- Do you have anything to lose by having coffee with me to talk about our future?

Despite what the glitzy mailings and emails from Establishment politicians and JobsOhio say, **the facts on Ohio's private sector are crystal clear.** From 1990 to 2000, Ohio's private sector ranked

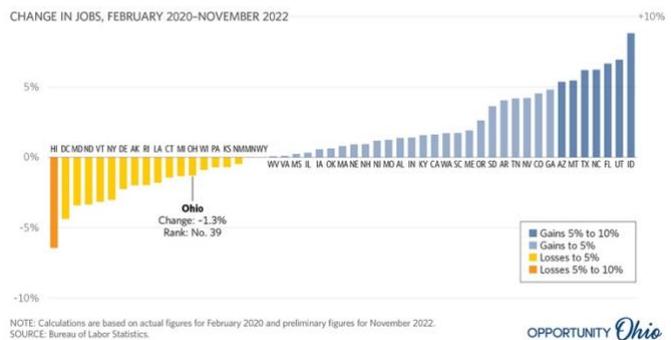


38<sup>th</sup>; from 2000 to 2010, it came in at 50<sup>th</sup>; and from 2010 to today, it is America's 34<sup>th</sup> best job market. **In 2022, Ohio ranked 47<sup>th</sup> and, over the last 32**

**years, Ohio's private sector ranks a dismal 48<sup>th</sup>.** And, Ohio's recovery from the pandemic is more of the same (ranked 39<sup>th</sup>)—pathetic and largely concentrated in the Columbus and Cincinnati areas, with the rest of Ohio falling farther behind.

I am a fighter who works every day to improve this great state. Should I run in 2026, I will not take “No” from the legislature on the reforms I have outlined below. **If they fail to move forward on these reforms, I will use my voice to name names, raise money, and run ballot initiatives to get the reforms enacted.** I also will recruit candidates to oppose those legislators standing in the way of putting Ohio on the pathway back to greatness. Unlike career politicians, I won't run to make friends, get applause from lobbyists, or because it's the highest paid job I can get. **I will run to get Ohio off the path of mediocrity and on the path of prosperity, so we have an economy that works for our families, so our population and the political power that comes with it grows, and so, when our time in office ends, Ohio will serve as a bright beacon of hope for how to get things done and done right.**

Virus Impact on Jobs Across the U.S.



**Frankly, we need more DeSantis and less DeWine.**

### Ohio Near Bottom in Pandemic Jobs Recovery

CURRENT NUMBER OF JOBS, NOVEMBER 2022 VS. FEBRUARY 2020, IN THOUSANDS

Texas	+682.3	Oregon	+43.2	Nebraska	+7.9	Delaware	-9.1
Florida	+528.1	New Jersey	+42.7	Iowa	+7.5	North Dakota	-12.0
California	+242.3	Indiana	+38.5	New Hampshire	+5.6	Connecticut	-21.0
North Carolina	+241.0	South Carolina	+31.8	Virginia	+3.4	Wisconsin	-23.1
Georgia	+190.3	Missouri	+30.5	Mississippi	+2.2	DC	-24.7
Arizona	+137.2	Massachusetts	+25.8	West Virginia	+0.4	Louisiana	-30.1
Tennessee	+113.6	Kentucky	+25.5	Wyoming	0	Hawaii	-34.2
Colorado	+106.6	Alabama	+23.2	Minnesota	-0.4	Pennsylvania	-38.7
Utah	+92.2	Montana	+21.7	New Mexico	-3.2	Michigan	-51.3
Idaho	+56.6	Illinois	+17.1	Alaska	-5.0	Ohio	-62.2
Nevada	+53.0	South Dakota	+13.2	Vermont	-8.1	Maryland	-78.3
Washington	+50.1	Maine	+10.2	Kansas	-8.2	New York	-252.9
Arkansas	+43.3	Oklahoma	+8.4	Rhode Island	-8.7		

NOTE: Calculations are based on actual figures for February 2020 and preliminary figures for November 2022. SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If I run and win, I promise to fight aggressively to take the actions items laid out in my agenda below. **Together, we will use this list in the coming months and years to hold Mike DeWine, Jon Husted, and Ohio's General Assembly accountable for finally doing what needs to be done. It is well past time Ohio**

**policymakers governed like they have the supermajority they have. If you support the agenda below, please let me know and demand action on each item from your State Representative and State Senator.**

### **Grow Ohio's Economy for the 21st Century**

- Make Ohio Right-to-Work
- Eliminate JobsOhio & Invest Its Funding in Infrastructure Like a World-Class Airport
- Enact Science-Based Responses to Energy & Environmental Issues – No Green New Deal
  - Make China and Mexico Pay for Harming Our Communities
    - Put Regulatory Reform on Steroids
  - Evangelize for Ohio Jobs Here and Abroad

### **Shrink Ohio's Spending & Taxes**

- Freeze State Spending & Eliminate the State Income Tax
- Prune State Government & Decentralize Departments and Agencies Across Ohio
- Streamline Local Government to Reduce Your Local Income, Sales & Property Taxes
- Take on the Hospital Industrial Complex so Ohioans Don't Get Hit with Inflated Medical Bills

### **Make Our Children's Education the Best in the Country**

- Safeguard Our Kids from Being Guinea Pigs and from Woke Indoctrination
  - Have State Funding Follow the Kids So Competition Raises All Schools
    - Re-Balance Higher Ed, Tech & Trade for the 21st Century
- Require Use of Standardized Test for All Colleges Receiving Any State Aid
- Ensure Professors & Administrators Place Teaching Ahead of Publishing
- Solve the "4pm-to-8am" Problem Harming Our Most Vulnerable Kids

### **Rein in Our Out of Control Elected Officials**

- Reduce the Power of Incumbency & Adopt Pay for Performance for Elected Officials
  - Fight Washington When Necessary & Push Competitive Federalism
    - Demand Action by Our Congressional Delegation
- Oppose Action Sanctioning Illegal Immigration & the Settlement of Unvetted Refugees
  - Reform the Judicial System So Ohioans Get Fair & Equal Justice

### **Govern Using Constitutional Principles**

- Protect the Right to Life for Ohio's Unborn Children
  - Defend the Second Amendment

If private sector job and population growth are good measuring sticks on how a state is doing, Ohio is among the worst performing states in America. We remain 64,000 jobs below a full pandemic recovery and 43,000 Ohioans have left since 2020. **Those results must change and change now!**

Let me be clear about one thing: **if these smart policies are put in place in the next four years, then I will have no reason to run and happily will remain outside of government.** It is my hope that this document will help spur action by our elected officials. **If, however, DeWine, Husted, and Ohio's General Assembly continue to refuse to adopt President Reagan's plea to "paint with bold colors, no pale pastels," then I will have no choice but to run, as I firmly believe Ohio's**

**trajectory will not change without big ideas that truly move the needle.** We've seen the same stale ideas tried again-and-again over the last thirty-two years with the same meager-to-poor results. **As Albert Einstein wisely noted, doing the same thing and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. Rest assured, under my leadership, we will do things very differently and the results for Ohio, its citizens, and its businesses will be outstanding.**

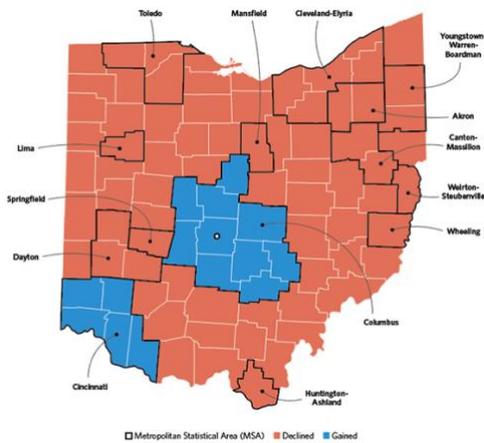
If you want more of the same, I'm not your guy. I'll be the most pro-worker, pro-business, and pro-Ohioan candidate no matter what the business chambers, Big Labor, or Columbus special interest groups say or who they endorse. For details, keep reading and check out my personal website at [www.ohiomatt.com](http://www.ohiomatt.com). To see the policy ideas I've produced for over a decade go to [www.opportunityohio.org](http://www.opportunityohio.org) and listen to my weekly Thursday radio interviews on the Bruce Hooley Show (98.9FM in Columbus and 94.5FM in Dayton/Cincinnati) in the coming months and years. You also can follow me on Twitter (@ohiomatt) or sign-up for my free Substack newsletter, The Patriot Mind, at <https://mattamayer.substack.com/>. Most critically, you can join the movement to renew Ohio by signing up to be part of Mayer's Movement at [www.ohiomatt.com](http://www.ohiomatt.com). Finally, if you have an idea you think will make Ohio stronger, email me at [mayer4governor@gmail.com](mailto:mayer4governor@gmail.com).



## **An Agenda Focused on More Jobs, Higher Pay & Better Government**

**A. Jobs:** Ohio's private sector is 64,000 jobs SMALLER than it was before the Chinese government

Changes in Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2000-2022



SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Ohio calculations.

OPPORTUNITY Ohio

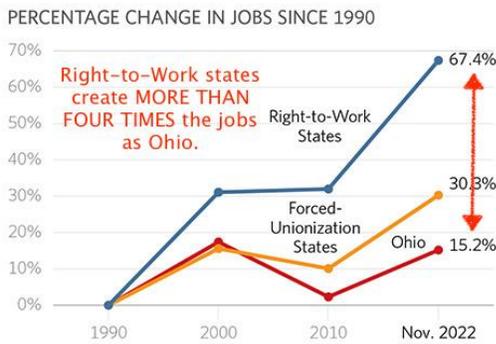
irresponsibly allowed international travel from Wuhan to continue despite shutting down domestic travel in China, resulting in the worldwide spread of COVID and the DeWine-Husted shutdown of Ohio. Even worse, after adjusting for population growth, **Ohio's private sector is 272,000 jobs SMALLER than it was in March 2000 when it set a record for the percentage of Ohioans working.** It is deeply problematic that Ohio's Medicaid population is now 74% the size of its private sector. For too long, the Greater Columbus and Cincinnati areas have prospered while the rest of Ohio hollowed out. Ohio desperately needs more jobs across the state for three reasons:

- 1. Too many Ohioans remain unemployed or underemployed.** A good paying job strengthens self-confidence; allows workers to provide for their families with healthy food, reliable cars, and safe homes; and gets entry level workers started on the path of the American Dream.
- 2. With a robust jobs economy, worker pay goes up and benefits get better as companies compete for workers.** Competition is what made America great. Without more jobs, workers get stuck in dead-end jobs and companies take workers for granted. More jobs put power back into the hands of individual Ohioans and their unions.

3. We spend billions of dollars on K-12 public schools and our robust public higher education system only to watch Ohio's best and brightest graduates seek greener pastures in others states where job opportunities are plentiful. **If we want to keep our best talent and future leaders here and attract them from other states, we have to have an economy that provides for them the same kinds of opportunities they see in Florida, Texas, Utah, and Idaho.**

**Jobs Reforms**

**Enact Right-to-Work:** Ohio simply can't compete day-in, day-out for the good paying manufacturing jobs unless we join our neighbors in Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, and Kentucky as a right-to-work state. To my union friends, I ask you: what kind of jobs economy puts your union and its bargaining power in the best position to get you higher pay and better benefits—an economy that creates few jobs so competition for workers is minimal, or an economy that is

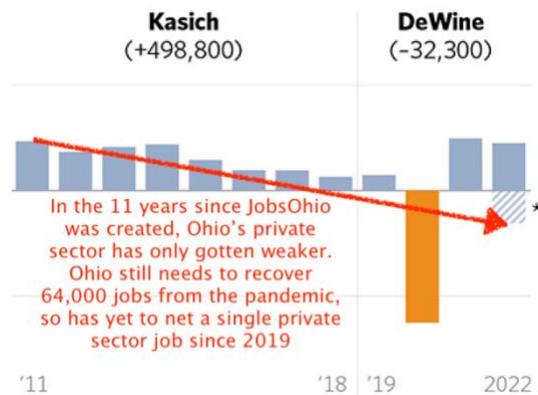


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics. OPPORTUNITY Ohio

booming in which workers can easily take their skills elsewhere? If your union bosses are worth what they claim they are worth, then they will get how a **booming right-to-work economy is a win-win for Ohio workers and unions.** If you are unionized now, you'll remain unionized after we enact right-to-work...and your unions will have more leveraging power to get the pay increases and benefits your union bosses have been powerless to get you over the last thirty years.

material, the reality is JobsOhio has had over a decade to works its magic. But it hasn't worked and Ohio's private sector remains among the weakest in America. Instead of letting a handful of overpaid bureaucrats pick winners and losers in the marketplace, **we can use the funding JobsOhio has used ineffectively to invest in infrastructure that will keep and attract businesses in Ohio** like world-class airports that allow you to get from here to most anywhere in one flight, to fund deregulatory activities, and to facilitate the creation of job magnets to leverage Ohio's natural resources far better than done today.

**Eliminate JobsOhio:** Despite its shiny marketing



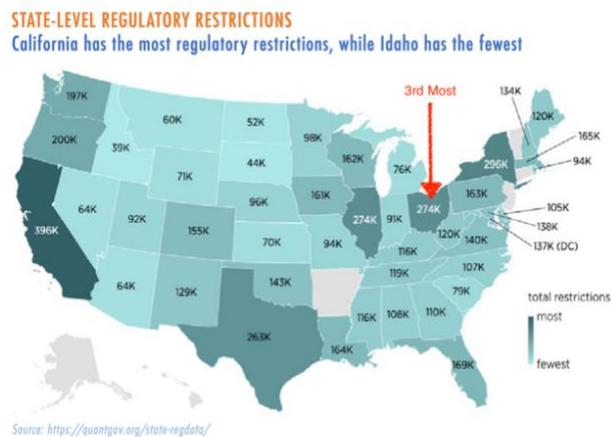
**Enact Science-Based Responses to Energy & Environmental Issues:** Ohio is blessed with plentiful and clean natural gas deposited below our fields. Our energy portfolio must move to a green energy base of natural gas/nuclear with renewable energy as a supplemental source. I know no

better stewards of our land than farmers, hunters, and fishermen, so we will work with them and others to move Ohio forward. I will reject any attempt by the Left to kill Ohio's economy to advance ideas that are not based in science and don't balance the cost of action with the benefit derived from acting. **I believe there are smart ways we can keep our environment pristine by limiting pollution and protect our economy.**

**Make China & Mexico Pay for Harming Our Communities:** First, the Chinese government used its entry into the World Trade Organization to steal Ohio jobs and factories, leaving many Ohio communities with few opportunities and little hope. Then, the uber-surveilling Chinese government looked the other way as Chinese companies produced fentanyl that got shipped to the Mexican drug cartels and, as the Mexican government stood and watched, entered America through our porous southern border where over 40,000 hopeless Ohioans overdosed and died from opioids. Finally, the Chinese government intentionally allowed COVID to spread to America where it killed nearly 42,000 Ohioans and, because of the DeWine-Husted shutdown, devastated our economy and kids' educations. **The Chinese and Mexican governments must pay for the devastation wrought by their acts and omissions. Like the 9/11 terrorist attack victims who are seeking redress from Saudi Arabia, we will leave no stone unturned to move legislation and legal actions to make Ohioans whole for what those countries did to our communities.**

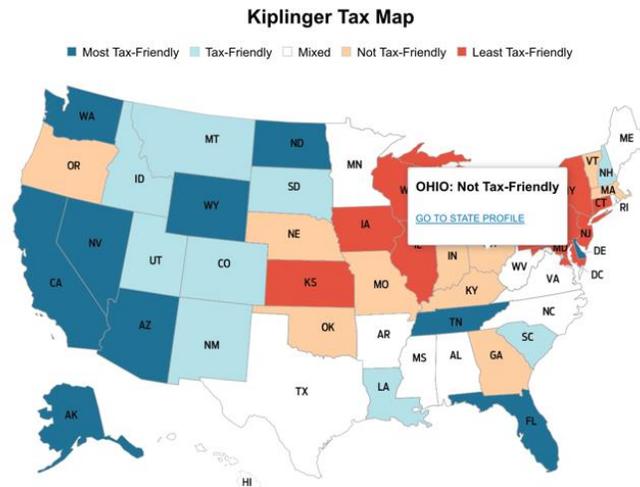
**Put Regulatory Reform on Steroids:**

Too many industries and too many professions face regulatory burdens that simply don't make sense. I will name a Chief Deregulator and **we will move quickly to deregulate where we can** and put in place the type of award-winning regulatory notice system I put in place in Colorado twenty years ago to make it harder for bureaucrats, lawyers, lobbyists, and big corporations to stifle competition by overregulating their competitors and new entrants. Part of that system will require a four-for-one exchange in which four regulations must be eliminated in exchange for any new or amended regulation.



**Evangelize for All of Ohio:** Once my team is in place and our work to change the arc of Ohio's future is underway, we will **develop a plan in concert with key stakeholders to promote Ohio and why it is a premier place** that American and foreign companies should relocate to. From our access to reliable, inexpensive energy to our strategic location near 50% of American consumers, from our educated population capable of doing any task required in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to what will become the best environment in America for innovation, my team will spend every waking moment selling Ohio to anyone here and abroad who will listen. That approach brought Honda of America to Marysville in 1979, it can bring tomorrow's great company here today. Intel is a good start, but it is an old company in crisis, not a market leader or the next Apple. Critically, we will not sell-out the rest of Ohio so Columbus and Cincinnati thrive as your counties die.

**B. Right-size Ohio Government:** Too much power rests in the hands of elected officials and their bureaucrats who simply have failed to produce the results Ohioans have needed for thirty-two



years. Because they have managed to convince high-end political donors that they will support policies like right-to-work and eliminating the state income tax without actually doing so, pushing them back into the private sector is hard. As a result, more talented men and women with real world experience are prevented from putting their time and talents to work for Ohio. Additionally, Ohio’s political jurisdictions were created for a different time. As a result, Ohioans face more taxing jurisdictions and among the

highest local taxes than nearly every other American. These taxes hit our income, property, and consumption at every turn. Kiplinger ranked Ohio as “Not Tax-Friendly” noting it has the 13<sup>th</sup> highest property tax burden in America.

**Government Reforms**

**Streamline Local Government:** According to Governing Magazine, Ohio has the 4<sup>th</sup> most local government entities in America (2,327), with each entity having the power to tax your income, property, and consumption. An old friend once noted, Ohio’s 88 counties were drawn to allow farmers to get from their farms to the courthouse and back in a day. Many counties have lost much of their population over the last thirty-two years, but the government structure inside that county remains big and burdensome. Similarly, Ohio has over 600 school districts, with each school district having countless high-paid administrators. **It is time to bring Ohio’s local government structures into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by combining entities to substantially reduce the tax burden needed to cover all of those local fiefdoms.** Within six months of being sworn-in, I will name a commission to dig aggressively into the issue to make recommendations on what Ohio needs to do to streamline government and, most importantly, lower the local tax burden on your income, property, and consumption. That commission will have one year to produce solutions for voters to approve.

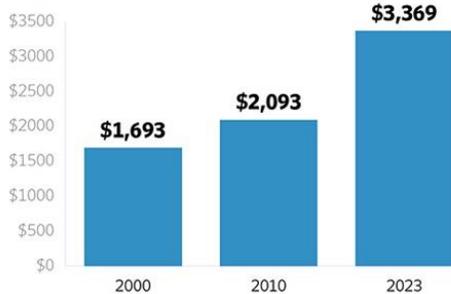
- Illinois: 2,828
- Minnesota: 2,720
- Pennsylvania: 2,625
- Ohio: 2,327 ←
- Kansas: 1,993
- Wisconsin: 1,924
- Michigan: 1,856
- North Dakota: 1,718
- Indiana: 1,662
- New York: 1,587

**Prune State Government:** Within two weeks of being sworn-in, I will appoint a team to conduct an A-to-Z review of every department, office, program, board, and commission in state government to determine if it should be eliminated, remain in existence, or, if getting good results, expanded. This review won’t be a typical soft-ball gimmick focused on issuing press releases, but will be like an endoscopy and colonoscopy that dig deeply into the bowels of state government to ensure its healthy and, where it isn’t, fix it or flush it. Ohioans simply can’t afford the runaway spending pushed by elected officials over the last twenty years. **My budgets will demand a four-year spending freeze to give us time to finalize plans for the various reforms noted herein.** Thereafter, we need to keep spending increases limited to inflation plus population growth with the aim **to repeal John Kasich’s insatiable Medicaid expansion and to eliminate the**

state income tax as quickly as possible, thereby making Ohio the tenth state without an income tax, which will spur greater job growth and economic activity. We also will aim to decentralize

**Ohio Per-Capita Spending Nearly Doubles in Just 23 Years**

PER-CAPITA SPENDING



SOURCE: Ohio Legislative Service Commission, <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/reference/current/historicallexpendrevenue/table3.pdf>.



government agencies across Ohio to spread the wealth of state government more fairly and take on the Hospital Industrial Complex, especially non-profits that pay no taxes, to stop Ohioans from getting hit with inflated medical bills that bankrupt them. A medical crisis shouldn't result in a financial crisis.

**Re-Balance Ohio's Higher Ed, Tech, & Trade Schools & Require Use of Standardized Tests for All Admissions:**

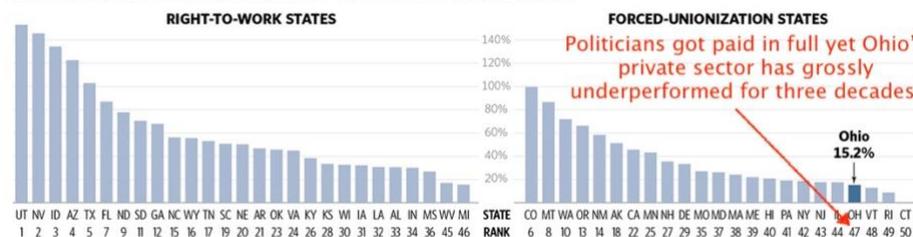
We simply must do more than give lip service to tech and the trades in our K-12 system. The 21<sup>st</sup> century economy has opportunities that don't require a college degree, yet we still push too many of our kids to go to college where they will take on too much debt to get a degree. We

must forcefully remove the bias against tech and trade by putting our money where our mouths are. At the same time, too many of our public colleges and universities have too many professors who don't spend enough or any time in the classroom teaching and interacting with our kids. Publishing obscure articles in even more obscure journals might be the pathway to tenure, but it isn't going to give our kids the teaching time they are paying for. We will conduct a full review of every professor and administrator at every public college and university in Ohio to determine what value they are bringing to the classroom where our kids are and change the focus from publishing mumbo-jumbo no one reads to bringing the best minds to teaching our young men and women. We also will identify who are the best professors and use technology to put them in front of as many undergraduates as possible. And, we will no longer fund business, law, and medical graduate programs that aren't ranked in the top 100 among schools, but will reallocate funding to push our better programs into the top 20 in America, as well as require standardized tests for all colleges receiving state support of any kind.

**Reduce the Power of Incumbency & Incent Performance by Elected Officials:**

Term limits haven't worked because the Establishment figured out how to evade them by playing musical chairs with legislative and statewide offices. We need to replace term limits with a 20-year time limit for all statewide and legislative politicians. That is plenty of time to get to Columbus and get what you tell voters you want to do done. We also need to cut the pay of the governor, the lieutenant

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NON-FARM, NON-GOVERNMENT JOBS SINCE 1990



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



governor, and all legislators by 50% and tie their chance for a 100% bonus to hitting the top ten in net percentage private sector job growth each year. I personally pledge to

live by that commitment from day one. Those 134 men and women have the power. They should have the burden, too. Republicans have long argued for pay for performance in the classroom. I can think of no reason why that idea shouldn't apply with equal force to elected officials. And we

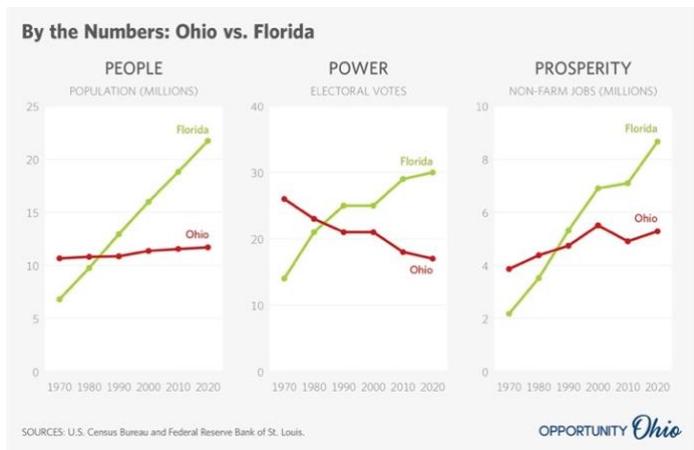
must close the “Husted” loophole that allows the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to receive pay from private companies while serving – taxpayer salaries should be enough. **Elected officials in Ohio also should live under the same plans as most of us live under**, so we need to move them from a defined benefit government pension to a defined contribution 401(k) plan and have them get their health care from their private sector jobs or the federal exchange. Finally, legislators spend too much time in Columbus getting too little done. **We need to move to a biennial legislature like Texas in which the legislature meets for six months every two years, with the rest of their time spent back home in their other careers.** Today’s system is simply too generous resulting in too many career politicians and not enough action.

**C. National Voice for Ohio:** One hundred years ago, Ohio was an economic and political powerhouse. It led the world in innovation from the Wright Brothers and John D. Rockefeller to Charles Kettering and Harvey Firestone. It also produced eight presidents. Now, the innovation that matters happens elsewhere. Ohio’s political power has shrunk nearly in half since 1980, with each census resulting in one more congressional seat heading south or west and our voice getting smaller. On too many national issues, Ohio’s voice either doesn’t matter or is barely heard because our leaders are timid or followers. **I will make Ohio’s voice heard and I will make sure Ohio leads with confidence and pride.**

***National Voice Actions***

**Fight Washington When Necessary:** When a President or Congress of either party pushes for federal action or mandates that hurt Ohioans, our businesses, or our futures, we will raise our voice rapidly and take whatever action is necessary to stop them. We will not wait for other states to act or put our fingers up to gauge popular sentiment. **We will lead. We will lead aggressively. We will lead relentlessly.**

**Push Competitive Federalism:** America’s greatness comes from the fact that our Constitution ensured power was retained by the People and our States. With fifty laboratories of competition, America has solved our toughest problems by letting the fifty states each come up with ideas and seeing which ones work and which ones don’t work. Over the last eighty-five years, the federal government has accumulated too much power and pushed too many one-size-fits-all mandates that haven’t worked and only impeded states from acting. **Ohio will become THE voice for competitive federalism** so that Californians have the right to fail by enacting their left-coast ideas while Ohioans have the right to succeed by enacting the common sense, midwestern ideas that work. Allowing states to learn from each other made America great. It can do so again.



**Demand Action by Congressional Delegation:** regardless of whether they are Republicans or Democrats, we will expect tangible results from our elected officials we send to Washington, D.C.

If they aren't fighting aggressively for Ohio and its citizens every day they are there, we will take action at the ballot box to end their time representing us.

**D. Other Critical Actions:** There are other key issues I will fight tirelessly to advance. The listing of these issues here doesn't signify in any way that I deem these issues less important than the ones listed above, a **Mayer administration will work on ALL fronts simultaneously to restore Ohio** to its place as the best state in America.

**Solve the 4pm-to-8am Problems Harming Our Kids:** We spend billions of dollars educating our kids only to see whatever gains were made in the classroom dissolve once some of those kids head home to chaotic and, in some cases, dangerous environments. **We must do better by those who need help most, especially our kids in foster care.** I will gather the best minds and most effective leaders from across America to figure out how Ohio can more effectively leverage its resources to help our kids and their single parents escape the generational poverty and dysfunction that make it harder to reach the American Dream. And, we will fully support our law enforcement heroes who fight every day to keep our neighborhoods and kids safe.

**Protect Our Kids from Becoming Guinea Pigs & from Woke Indoctrination & Make Sure State Funding Follows the Kids:** We will enact legislation to ensure Ohio's girls and young women can compete fairly in sports and empower parents when it comes to doctors performing sex operations on their kids or from prescribing puberty blockers to them when **so much remains unknown on the long-term impact those procedures and drugs have on developing bodies.** We also will enact legislation making sure parents voices are heard in their children's classrooms so that left-wing teachers can't use valuable teaching time to push their personal political agendas. Even more critically, we will fundamentally reform Ohio's K-12 funding by identifying what is needed for every child to receive an education and then make sure that all state funding follows the kids to their schools of choice. By tying state funding to the kids, the days of poorly performing public school districts that fail to get results will come to a close as those schools will either improve or lose their kid clients to better performing public, private, parochial, or charter schools.



**Protect the Right to Life for Ohio's Unborn Children:** I will unequivocally support the right to life for Ohio's unborn children by ensuring they have a strong voice in Columbus. At a minimum, we must ensure that science drives the protection of innocent life in Ohio. If we define death by the absence of brain waves and a heartbeat, then it is morally axiomatic that we define life by the presence of those two elements. No doctor can state that a baby with brain waves doesn't feel, think, emote, dream, and experience pain and joy. We, therefore, must align Ohio's laws to the irrefutable science that a human life entitled to our protection exists the moment her brain becomes active and her heart beats.

**Defend the Second Amendment Period:** I firmly believe in the Second Amendment's right to bear arms so I will fight any attempts by the Left to limit our rights thereunder.

**Oppose All Federal Action Sanctioning Illegal Immigration & Unvetted Refugee Resettlements:** While I strongly support increasing legal immigration aimed at bringing the world's best and

brightest to America to compete for us and believe compassion is a core value we must show to refugees, **Ohio will not become a landing zone for illegal immigrants or refugees who have not been thoroughly vetted or who share our values.** I also will push the federal government to restore the *Bracero* program that allowed workers to legally come to America every year for seasonal work so long as those workers return to their home countries at the end of their work. Likewise, I will push the federal government to fully use the E-Verify system to ensure companies are employing Americans and those here legally.

**Reform Ohio's Judicial System:** Too many judges issue opinions based on things other than the evidence and the law, especially in courts where judges, not juries, decide winners and losers. We need to insert judicial accountability into the system so bad judges suffer consequences for bad decisions. We've swung the pendulum too far to the left in domestic relations cases and gave judges too much discretion, so we need to rebalance elements giving more predictability to parties. Ohio also has too many lawyers who willfully violate their professional and ethical obligations without fear of repercussions. We need guardrails to ensure bad judges and unethical lawyers don't ride roughshod over any party's right to get her or his day in court.

Thank you for taking the time to read my ideas on how we can renew Ohio's greatness by bringing more opportunities and greater prosperity to all Ohioans. Having worked at the highest levels in state and federal government and at top think tanks, I have a national network of experts and highly accomplished colleagues who I can leverage to succeed where career politicians here have failed. **I realize the approach I am taking of announcing the exploration of a run so early is unorthodox, but I don't have millions to dump into this race so I have to build support from Main Street Ohioans and small business owners the old fashion way, which will take time and perseverance. I believe slow and steady wins the race.**



As I see it, mountains are meant to be climbed. Given the challenges ahead, reaching the summit won't be easy, but I've scaled one of the highest mountains in America, so I fundamentally understand what must be done to reach the peak. I look forward to talking with you in person about my ideas and to hear about ideas you might have that can reinvigorate Ohio. If you have questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to email me at [mayer4governor@gmail.com](mailto:mayer4governor@gmail.com).

Together, we really can make Ohio once again the shining state upon the hill for all Americans to see.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.