



Highlights of the State of the State 2022

“What unites us is stronger than what divides us. EVERY Ohioan deserves the chance to succeed -- no matter their zip code; no matter if they live in Appalachia, in our cities or in our suburbs; no matter who their parents are. They deserve the chance to get a good-paying job, to raise a family comfortably, to be secure in their future, and to live their version of the American Dream.”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Now is the time to “seize our Ohio moment!” Ohio’s economy is surging! Our state budget is on firm footing. Our bond rating is the highest it has been since 1979. Our unemployment rate out unemployment rate is only 4.3 percent – near historic lows. And manufacturing is flourishing!

But our work is not done. In many ways, it is just beginning. Ohio will not rise to its highest level unless we do even more than we already have in several important areas.

- We are investing in neighborhoods across Ohio to demolish dangerous, decaying, unsightly buildings and to clean up hazardous, brownfield properties to spur economic development that will help our communities grow.
- We are closing the digital divide in Ohio, so that every community in this state will have the necessary broadband services on which our citizens depend for everything from homework to healthcare!
- We have invested significantly in career education, job training, and workforce development, to help give every Ohioan an opportunity to get a fulfilling and well-paying job. We’ll be working to provide additional help to our career centers, community centers, and four-year institutions to provide them with state-of-the-art equipment to get better training for jobs of the future.
- We are positioning our state to become a global leader in science, technology, and medicine through the launch of three, cutting-edge

“Innovation Districts” in Ohio. These Districts -- one in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus -- are poised to produce 60,000 jobs over the next ten years and generate billions of dollars in pioneering, life-saving research and development.

- We have balanced the state budget -- twice -- and with overwhelming bipartisan support.
- We have slashed state spending by a whopping \$1.2 billion and brought a record-level surplus into our state treasury.
- We cut taxes by more than \$3.6 billion -- creating Ohio’s lowest tax burden in more than 40 years, leaving more money for businesses to re-invest into our economy and more money in the pockets of our fellow Ohioans!
- We have attracted companies to Ohio from the East Coast and West Coast – they could have gone to other states, but they chose Ohio because we have lower taxes; fewer (and more rational) regulations; a strong, predictable, and stable business climate; great quality of life.
- Since 2019, Ohio has welcomed 30 new companies, 9,000 jobs, and \$545 million in payrolls -- all coming from the coasts.
- We announced the single, largest economic development investment by one company in the history of the State of Ohio! Intel Corporation will invest \$20 billion in Ohio, just in the first phase, to build two new, state-of-the-art fabrication facilities to make semi-conductor chips. These facilities will employ 3,000 Ohioans directly -- with an average salary of \$135,000 per year -- and the project will bring at least 7,000 construction jobs and tens of thousands of indirect and support jobs right here to Ohio!
- In addition to Intel, there are many other economic development success stories including:
 - Sherwin Williams’ new research facility in Brecksville and new world headquarters in Cleveland
 - Cleveland Cliffs steel manufacturing plant in Toledo
 - Sierra Nevada in the Miami Valley
 - Global Cooling in Athens
 - Ultium Cell in the Mahoning Valley
 - Nestle Purina in Clermont County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISION: APPALACHIA

One of the most important things we can do that will benefit – not only the 32 counties in the Appalachian region, but also our entire state – is to make a long-overdue, comprehensive investment in Appalachia.

We will work with local leaders to create an investment program to revitalize and rebuild economies and the Main Streets of the area where Ohio began. We have an historic opportunity to dedicate resources to an area of our state that is ready to flourish!

- In the coming days and weeks, we will help the region plan and implement improvements that reflect the vision of local communities, investing in things, such as downtown re-development, further expansion of broadband coverage, workforce development, student wellness in schools, and fighting the on-going battle against addiction.
- We will create an investment program to revitalize and rebuild the economies and main streets of Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.
- We will incentivize opportunities for investment in Appalachia.
- We will redevelop the area so there is a secure foundation for economic development.
- We will make the region a playground for recreational opportunities that further drive economic growth.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

We must make help for mental health and substance use disorders visible, accessible, and effective in all communities in Ohio. We can do this by investing significantly more resources in the following: growing our behavioral health workforce; increasing research and innovation; and, building a community capacity for care that offers better crisis response services and treatment, increased prevention efforts, and more residential and outpatient services.

- Eased restrictions on telehealth services to expand access to care.
- Doubling medically-assisted drug treatment capacity.
- Increasing mental health stabilization services by 77%.

- Increasing training for first responders so they can more safely assist Ohioans with mental, emotional, or developmental challenges.
- Focusing funding to provide on-site medical clinics; additional counselors and mental health services; and new training and programming around childhood trauma and mental health for our most vulnerable kids.

MENTAL HEALTH VISION: FULFILLING A DECADES-OLD PROMISE

- We must identify and treat mental health problems and addiction at their earliest onset to lessen the chances of life-long challenges.
- We must ensure families get support in their communities and at school, so that teachers can teach, kids can learn, and parents can worry less, because ALL kids benefit when every child has the support to be physically and mentally healthy and the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential.
- We must have expanded residential and community-based, outpatient treatment options, so fewer Ohioans need to be institutionalized or placed in long-term hospital care.
- We must harness the innovative potential of our research colleges and universities to conducting cutting-edge research.
- We must have the best, most robust behavioral health workforce in the country – a workforce that is hailed as heroic and valued as a vital part of our health system.
- Fewer families should face the unimaginable grief of losing a son, daughter, brother, sister, or parent to suicide or overdose. Shame, fear, stigma, and embarrassment are erased. Mental illness is treated as a health issue – not as a crime.

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

Ohio is a great state, but there remain gaps in access to opportunity for too many children in this state, and we have a moral obligation to remove the barriers to their success. Every child needs a responsible, reliable adult in their lives. For most kids, those mentors are their parents or grandparents. But there are some children in Ohio who don't have that, or they don't have it consistently. All children need mentors – someone who can teach them life skills and help them deal with the challenges of growing up and the added burdens of living in difficult, chaotic, stressful, and complex situations.

- Investing in the Student Wellness and Success Fund that has provided much-needed wrap-around services for students mental and physical health, right in their own school buildings.

INVESTING IN STUDENTS VISION: MENTORSHIP

- Governor DeWine intends to work with the legislature and community leaders to create a combined scholarship and mentorship program so that no child in the state lacks guidance and direction while they have the financial support necessary to go to college or technical school.
- This effort will depend on engaged Ohioans who are willing to serve as mentors. We are fortunate to have many opportunities in Ohio, but we won't flourish as a state, if we leave those opportunities untapped. This initiative will help ensure even more Ohioans have the opportunity to live up to their full potential.

WATER

We are blessed in Ohio with an abundance of water, and we are the stewards of this precious resource. Together, we have taken unprecedented steps to preserve it and make it accessible to all Ohioans.

- We are in our fourth year of H2Ohio, our visionary plan to rid Lake Erie of toxic algae blooms, which threaten the drinking water of nearly three million Ohioans.
- We have invested in replacing and repairing water infrastructure in every county in Ohio to ensure that our citizens have access to clean drinking water and reliable water systems.

STATE PARKS

We want our Ohio state parks to be the best state parks in the country. The promise of grand views, exciting exploration, and the opportunity to discover your next adventure has drawn people to Ohio State Parks in record numbers over the last few years. Last year, alone, the Parks were visited millions of times, with our 9,000 campsites and 500 cabins booked for most of the entire year.

- We are working to make our wonderful state parks even better. Improvements are being made at parks in every corner of the state:
 - We are working on a masterplan that will connect The Wilds, the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area, Jesse Owens State Park, and Burr

Oak State Park to create an unparalleled outdoor experience, within reach of all Ohioans.

- At Shawnee State Park, guests will soon be able to mountain bike, paddle, travel along one of the Imagination Library's Storybook Trails, and stay at a full-service campsite at this fully reimagined property.
- Ohio's first new State Park lodge in more than 30 years will soon be open in Hocking Hills.

STATE PARKS VISION: ACCESSIBLE AND IMPROVED PARKS

- We will invest in our state parks to give Ohioans and visitors the best state parks system in the country. By continuing to invest in our parks, when visitors come, they will know they are in Ohio. They will feel like family, and they will say "This is Ohio!"
- We will make our state parks more accessible, so that more people can enjoy them, because Ohioans need affordable, close-to-home places where they can get fresh air and exercise, spend quality time with their families, and relax.
- We will invest in new and/or repaired trail signs to better direct people.
- We will invest to ensure our cabins and lodges are clean and maintained so that when people stay there, they are comfortable.
- We will invest to repair boat ramps, pave roads and parking lots, and fix bathrooms.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Whether driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs or driving while texting, too many Ohio lives – too many family members -- are still being lost on our highways. Last year, fatalities on our roads were at their highest since 2002 -- and we know that distracted driving is a key factor behind many of these crashes.

- Through the State Highway Patrol and Ohio Department of Transportation, we've created targeted distracted driving enforcement corridors on Ohio highways where the problem is at its worst -- and we're seeing positive results. The corridor at I-76 and I-80 near Youngstown has reduced deadly and injury crashes by 31 percent in just two years.

DISTRACTED DRIVING VISION: SAFER ROADS

- We want Ohio's roads to be the safest roads in the country. Governor DeWine has committed to signing House Bill 283, which is pending before the General Assembly. If passed, this law will:
 - Change the culture around using electronic devices while driving.
 - Help compel more drivers to put down their phones and use hands-free technology, which will help prevent crashes and save lives.
- Twenty-four other states have implemented similar legislation and have seen double-digit reductions in serious and fatal accidents.
- Ohioans overwhelmingly support tougher distracted driving laws. In a 2021 survey of Ohio drivers, 78 percent of respondents supported legislation to cut back on distractions behind the wheel.

PUBLIC SAFETY

For our state to succeed, we also must have safe neighborhoods. The most essential function of government is to protect the people. While some people talk of defunding the police -- we are doubling down on our support for law enforcement by giving them more resources -- not fewer -- to keep our communities safe!

- We have allocated \$250 million to, in part, address violent crime in our communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY VISION: LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

Our current generation of law enforcement officers are the most educated, best trained, and most technologically savvy individuals to ever work in the profession. Yet, state funding for on-going training has been haphazard at best. Professional development training, year after year, is something that every single police officer wants, and it directly benefits the public.

- Governor DeWine has committed to signing a bill to that would help standardize oversight of our law enforcement professionals, increase transparency within the system, and require independent investigation of officer-involved critical incidents.
- We want a permanent funding source for continuous police training. To that end, we encourage General Assembly to adopt recommendations of the law enforcement training commission created in last year's budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY VISION: SAFER COMMUNITIES

Convicted violent offenders should not be able to possess guns. We know that just a small number of dangerous, violent offenders are causing the vast majority of violent crime in this state. We need to get tough on the convicted violent offenders who carry and use weapons in violation of the law. If we can remove this small group of dangerous offenders from our streets, the violent crime in our distressed neighborhoods will be reduced dramatically, and the citizens and families who live there will be safer and lives will be saved.

- We will continue to support efforts to strengthen our laws to deal with offenders who have lost their legal right to possess a firearm, but still carry and use guns to commit violent crime.
- We support the bill currently pending in the General Assembly that increases the penalties for violent offenders who continue to carry and use guns and help law enforcement deal with the most violent offenders in their communities.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The legislature provided the funds to get the Governor's Imagination Library, which was created by First Lady Fran DeWine in partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, started. Local communities also provide half of the money to operate the program in their counties.

A child's brain grows to 80 percent of its full size by age three. So, these first years of development are so very important. Enrollment in the Imagination Library improves Kindergarten readiness and family literacy habits, especially for children who live in high poverty areas. And, no matter where you live in Ohio, your child is eligible.

- When we started, 13 percent of kids ages zero to five were signed up. Now, it is 43 percent, and so far over 6.9 million books have been mailed to children in all 88 Ohio counties!
- This month, alone, nearly 313,000 children will receive an age-appropriate book in the mail at no cost to their family.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY VISION: EXPANDED ENROLLMENT

- Our goal is to soon enroll 50% of eligible children in Ohio into the program.