



**COLUMBUS**  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA



The Columbus Chamber of Commerce creates a Public Policy Agenda to guide its advocacy role with local, state, and federal policymakers.

**OUR MEMBERS:**

- Second Stage, growth-minded companies
- In business three or more years
- 77% have fewer than 100 employees

**WE ADVOCATE FOR:**

A sustainable and productive Regional business environment.

**WORKFORCE SKILLS & EDUCATION**

With a population growth rate of 1.3% annually, and more than 140,000 students in our 62 colleges and universities; we have the resources to shore up a formidable talent pool. These assets need to be supported by a unified workforce plan that aligns businesses and schools to create a pipeline of skilled workers.

**THE FACTS**

Jobs that require specific skills, such as advanced manufacturing, generally pay more than unskilled jobs.



MANUFACTURING CONTRIBUTED \$10.6 BILLION TO THE REGION AND EMPLOYED 82,850 WORKERS

COLUMBUS REGION HOSPITALS GENERATE MORE THAN \$7 BILLION IN PATIENT SERVICES REVENUE ANNUALLY AND EMPLOY NEARLY 50,000 WORKERS

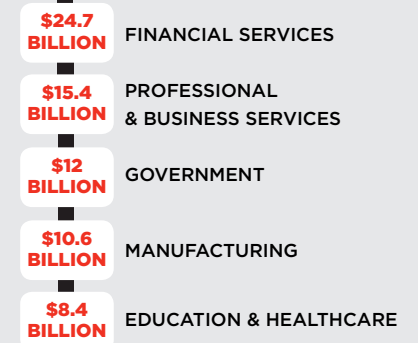
A large, educated workforce combined with superior research capabilities has allowed Columbus to become one of the fastest growing tech hubs in the nation.



62,440 PEOPLE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OCCUPATIONS

With no single major industry representing more than 18% of employment, Columbus needs a diverse, skilled, and educated population to sustain the economy.

**TOP 5 SECTORS**



We support policies that will:

ENABLE 100% OF COLUMBUS CHILDREN TO ATTEND A SCHOOL RATED A OR B AND BE READY TO SUCCEED UPON GRADUATION

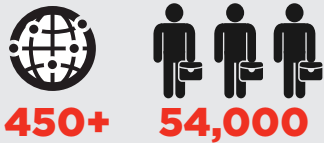
SEE THE RATE OF ADULTS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY WITH AT LEAST A TWO YEAR DEGREE RISE FROM 44% IN 2011 TO 60% IN 2025

# INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Success requires investment. As the fastest growing region in Ohio, our infrastructure is vital to the strategy and development of job creation. A vibrant community with a modern and robust infrastructure will attract investment to our region and fuel our economic growth.

## THE FACTS

Foreign investment and increased exports create good jobs, increase innovation, and diversify the economy and culture.



MORE THAN 450 FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESSES EMPLOY 54,000 IN THE REGION, WITH EVERY \$1 BILLION IN EXPORTS CREATING OVER 5,000 JOBS

Population and business growth are straining existing infrastructure.



OUR POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY MORE THAN 500,000 PEOPLE IN THE NEXT 40 YEARS

Investing in public works improves the quality of life and productivity of residents.

**1** NO. 1 RANKED ZOO, PUBLIC LIBRARY AND SCIENCE MUSEUM IN THE NATION

A strong infrastructure attracts new businesses, connects existing businesses to customers, and provides future opportunities.



CENTRAL OHIO IS A LOGISTICS HUB WITHIN A 10-HOUR DRIVE FOR 45% OF THE US POPULATION

IN 2014, THE TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING SECTOR CONTRIBUTED \$4.4 BILLION TO REGIONAL OUTPUT



Port Columbus serves 6+ million passengers annually, while Rickenbacker International Airport offers shippers \$660 million in cost savings.

WE SUPPORT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT HAVE A DIRECT CORRELATION TO LONG TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB GROWTH FOR THE REGION

# COMPETITIVE CIVIC CLIMATE

In order to thrive, businesses need a civic infrastructure that supports economic development. Fiscal stability, fair and equitable tax systems, and a strong commitment to making our region competitive should be enhanced by collaboration between the private and public sectors.

## THE FACTS

Government incentives through tax abatements, financing options, grants, and other opportunities generate jobs, investment, and growth.



THE OHIO THIRD FRONTIER COMMISSION COMMITS \$2.3 BILLION TO TECHNOLOGY GROWTH

A reliable and efficient experience with government is crucial to the small business community.



CURRENTLY 11% OF COLUMBUS PERMITS CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE, WITH A GOAL OF 50% BY THE END OF 2015

★★★ **13,000** ★★★  
Military installations contribute 13,000 jobs and \$2,895,045,953 in economic activity to the Columbus Region.

A predictable tax climate will help attract investment and enable high-growth opportunities to flourish.

## SUCCESS



OHIO RANKS 33RD FOR PER CAPITA STATE TAXES, FALLING JUST BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

## CHALLENGE



MULTIPLE LAYERS OF TAXATION AND FEES ARE LISTED AS TOP CONCERNS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND SITE SELECTORS

WE STRIVE TO WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE SMART REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT CREATE A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT





The Columbus Chamber of Commerce provides connections, resources and solutions to help your business thrive, which in turn drives the economy.

As the primary business advocate for the Columbus Region, we work to build partnerships with our members and elected officials to ensure that business needs are a top consideration when policy decisions are made.

Adopted by the Chamber's board of directors, this public policy agenda will guide our government relations work as we advocate on behalf of central Ohio businesses.



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