2026

CLERMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CLERMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Accredited Chamber
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Clermont Chamber of Commerce proudly represents over 600 businesses, ranging from small enterprises to large corporations, that collectively employ over 38,000 individuals throughout southwest Ohio. As we embark on 2026, we remain committed to fostering a strong business climate, advocating for economic growth, and ensuring our region continues to thrive.

In 2026, our focus remains clear: strengthen the local business climate, reduce barriers to growth, and ensure Clermont County remains a competitive place to live, work, and invest.

This year presents new opportunities to collaborate with federal, state, and local leaders to advance policies that support workforce sustainability, responsible tax reform, infrastructure modernization, and regulatory efficiency.

Guided by member feedback and ongoing engagement with business leaders, this Legislative Agenda outlines the priorities most critical to maintaining economic strength and long-term prosperity in Clermont County.

By working proactively with policymakers at every level, the Clermont Chamber will continue to ensure that the voice of our business community is heard and respected.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Clermont Chamber will focus its advocacy by actively engaging business leaders, stakeholders, and legislators in these primary areas:

STRENGTHENING A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE & SKILLED WORKFORCE

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

STRENGTHENING A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Clermont County's economic success depends on a predictable, growth-oriented policy environment.

THE CLERMONT CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

RESPONSIBLE TAX REFORM

- Policies that prioritize fairness, simplicity, and predictability.
- Meaningful property tax reform that prevents excessive burdens on businesses while ensuring sustainable funding for essential services.
- Efforts to reduce or modernize taxes that hinder competitiveness, including commercial activity taxes.

MODERN REGULATORY & PERMITTING PROCESSES

- Streamlining regulatory requirements that delay development and investment.
- Establishing clear timelines ("shot clocks") for permitting and approvals.
- Eliminating unnecessary administrative barriers that restrict business growth.

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

- Local and state incentives that support business retention and expansion.
- Policies that attract capital investment and high-quality job creation.
- Collaboration between public and private sectors to support responsible growth.

A competitive business climate requires both disciplined tax policy and efficient government processes.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE & SKILLED WORKFORCE

A strong economy requires a workforce prepared for today's jobs and tomorrow's industries.

THE CLERMONT CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION ALIGNMENT

- Continued support for public education funding models that promote stability and fairness.
- Alignment between K-12, career technical education, and regional workforce needs.

EXPANDING CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Increased funding for career tech facilities and workforce-aligned curriculum.
- Expanded apprenticeship and employer-partnership programs.
- Financial aid and grant programs supporting high-demand skilled trades.

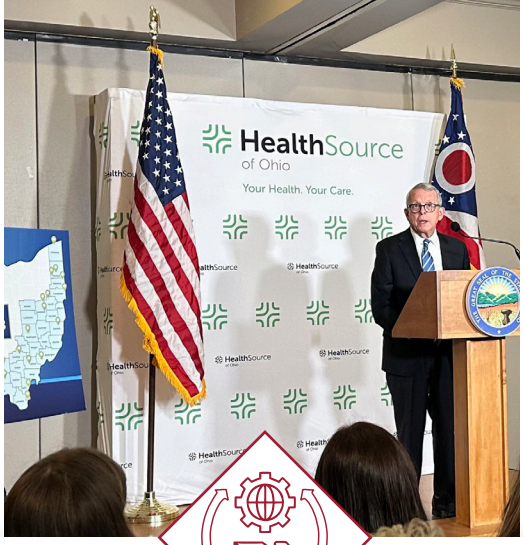
TARGETED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Workforce grants that incentivize on-the-job training and paid internships.
- Sector-based strategies addressing shortages in healthcare, manufacturing, construction, and public services.

HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY & WORKFORCE STABILITY

- Policies that expand access to quality healthcare while improving employer cost sustainability.
- Support for innovative benefit structures that enhance workforce competitiveness.

Workforce development must focus not only on pipeline growth, but on long-term sustainability and affordability for employers.



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

Access to modern infrastructure is essential for economic mobility and business expansion.

THE CLERMONT CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

BROADBAND EXPANSION

- Continued investment in high-speed internet, particularly in rural areas.
- Closing connectivity gaps that limit workforce and business participation.

RELIABLE & AFFORDABLE UTILITIES

- Energy policies that ensure stability, cost-effectiveness, and capacity for growth.
- Infrastructure investments that support industrial and commercial expansion.

TRANSPORTATION & WORKFORCE MOBILITY

- Infrastructure projects that improve connectivity between residential and business corridors.
- Solutions that address workforce accessibility challenges.

Infrastructure investment must remain strategic, fiscally responsible, and aligned with economic development priorities.

2026
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE WATCHLIST

KEY ISSUES TO MONITOR

The Clermont Chamber remains committed to advocating for policies that enhance the region's economic growth. Key legislative priorities for 2026 include:

Advocate for increased investment in local infrastructure projects.
Strategic funding for transportation, broadband, utilities, and site development strengthens economic competitiveness and attracts private investment.

Promote stable and predictable trade policy that protects supply chains and avoids unnecessary cost increases for local businesses.
Sudden tariffs or trade disruptions can significantly impact manufacturers, retailers, and consumers in Clermont County.

Oppose the elimination of property taxes until a responsible, fully funded replacement plan has been agreed upon.
Public safety services, schools, and essential county agencies must remain stable, predictable, and adequately funded.

Support smart energy policy that ensures reliability, affordability, and long-term capacity for growth.
Businesses depend on consistent, cost-effective energy to operate and expand; reforms must protect grid stability and economic competitiveness.

Support the continued implementation and stability of Ohio's Fair School Funding framework.
A predictable and equitable funding model benefits students, employers, and communities alike.

The Chamber will actively engage with legislators and policymakers to promote these initiatives and ensure a strong, business-friendly climate in Clermont County.

MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

SENATOR JON HUSTED
SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3353
www.husted.senate.gov

SENATOR BERNIE MORENO
SR-B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315
www.moreno.senate.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONGRESSMAN DAVID TAYLOR
4350 Aicholtz Road
Suite 110
Cincinnati, OH 45245
Phone: (513) 474-7777
www.taylor.house.gov

OHIO REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

SENATOR TERRY JOHNSON (14TH DISTRICT)
Statehouse
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor - Rm. 226
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-8082
www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/johnson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JEAN SCHMIDT (62ND DISTRICT)
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466-8134
Email: rep62@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov/members/jean-schmidt

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM BIRD (63RD DISTRICT)
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 644-6034
Email: rep63@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov/members/adam-c-bird

CLERMONT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
David Painter – President
Bonnie Batchler – Vice President
Claire Corcoran

AUDITOR
Linda Fraley

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF COURTS
Paul Kamphaus

COMMON PLEAS CLERK OF COURTS
Allen Freeman

CORONER
Brian Treon

ENGINEER
Jeremy Evans

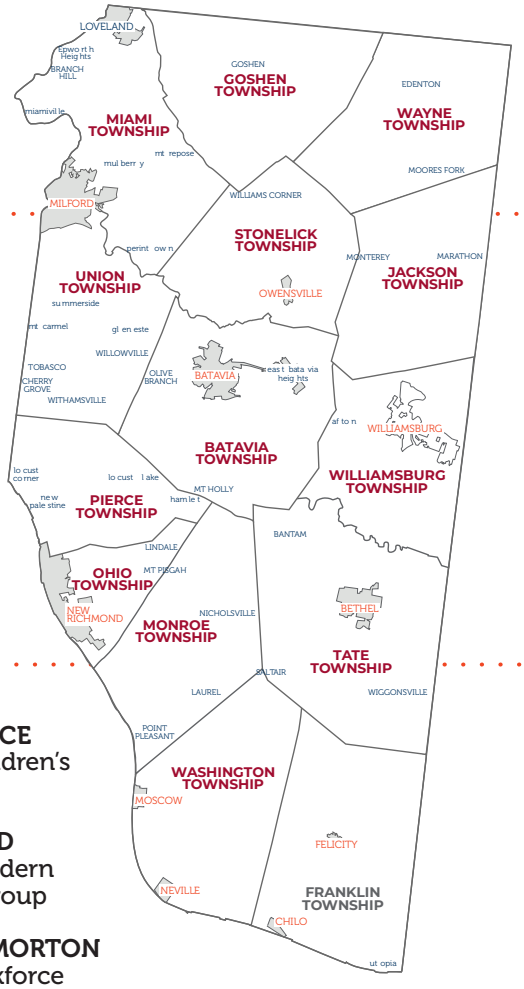
PROSECUTOR
Mark Tekulve

RECORDER
Tim Rudd

SHERIFF
Christopher E. Stratton

TREASURER
Jeannie Zurmehly

CLERMONT CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



2026 OFFICERS

BOARD CHAIRMAN
DAMON JONES
Burke, Inc.

VICE CHAIRMAN
HOLLY BINNIG, M.D.
HealthSource of Ohio

TREASURER
ALAN GREENWELL
Brixey & Meyer

SECRETARY
DAWN SORRELLS
Clermont County Educational Service Center

CHAIR EMERITUS
TIM PRESTRIDGE
Mercy Health - Clermont Hospital

PRESIDENT
JOY LYTLE
Clermont Chamber of Commerce

2026 DIRECTORS

SAM BAIN
Charter Communications (Spectrum)

JEFF BAUER
UC Clermont College

JEFF BAUMGARTH
The Myers Y. Cooper Company

ANNA DAUGHERTY
Fifth Third Bank

TOM DILLINGHAM
Total Quality Logistics

KOSTA ELEFTER
Tata Consultancy Services

MIKE FERRITTO
Nestlé Purina North America

CHRIS HARDING
Duke Energy

MIKE PARRY
Grant Career Center

KANAN PATEL
Tru by Hilton Milford-Cincinnati

GEORGE PATTISON
George E. Pattison, Attorney at Law

BARBIE PRICE
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

KATE REED
American Modern Insurance Group

ROBIN THROCKMORTON
Dynamic Workforce Services Inc.

JOE WAGNER
Park National Bank

RIC WELKER
RJ Cinema Distillery & Taproom

MARK WIESENHAHN
Sporty's Pilot Shop

E. TODD WILKOWSKI
FBT Gibbons

CLERMONT CHAMBER GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT + CEO
JOY LYTLE
Clermont Chamber of Commerce

VICE PRESIDENT
ANDREW McAFEE
Clermont Chamber of Commerce

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR
JEFF BAUMGARTH
The Myers Y. Cooper Co.

CLERMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | Accredited Chamber U.S. Chamber of Commerce

4355 Ferguson Dr. Suite 150, Cincinnati, OH 45245 | (513) 576-5000 | ClermontChamber.com