



STATEHOOD DAY

MARCH 1, 2022

2022 Legislative Priorities

— Strengthening Ohio Through Heritage —

➤ **Fund Ohio’s “America 250” initiative and fully support the work of the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial**

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding. A national effort to commemorate the occasion is underway with important themes aimed at strengthening the vitality of the American experiment in democracy: to educate, engage and unite. America 250 will offer Americans and Ohioans the opportunity to reflect on the past, embrace the present and to move us toward a future that fulfills the ideals (realized and unrealized) of our nation’s founding—as Abraham Lincoln observed—striving together toward a more perfect Union.

National strategies for celebrating this event include those to educate and inspire, as well as to thank military veterans for their service and to spark volunteerism and civic engagement. By raising awareness of the sites that tell America’s stories, including those in Ohio, increased visitor spending will support organizations and businesses.

Ohio is now launching a new Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial to engage Ohioans in this historic initiative. Although the State of Ohio has created the Commission, it has not yet provided funding to hire a small staff and begin this important work. Time is short and this cannot afford to wait.

★ **Request: State leaders should allocate a minimum of \$700,000 through the end of the FY 2022-23 biennium that ends June 30, 2023. Additional state and private funds will be required in subsequent years.**

➤ **Invest in Ohio history and the cultural assets that add to Ohio’s competitive advantage in the state capital budget and Ohio’s next federal relief allocation**

Landmark buildings and other historic places help lay the groundwork for strong, resilient communities where Ohio pride can be highlighted. As we move toward America’s 250th anniversary in 2026, Ohio leaders should invest now to capitalize on this opportunity to connect Ohio’s rich history with the vibrant future we all desire. When we preserve historic places, revitalization becomes contagious and new investment follows.

The state’s FY 2023-24 capital budget and its second-year allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be allocated soon. This will result in billions of dollars of investment into Ohio’s communities and infrastructure. Ohio is rich with history—in fact, only two states have more buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Keep investing, Ohio!

★ **Request: Support major investments in the upcoming state capital budget and ARPA funds that support Ohio’s historical and cultural assets.**

➤ **Support Senate Bill 225 to strengthen the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit for smaller communities**

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit (OHPTC) has been successful in leveraging over \$7 billion in redevelopment of historic buildings across Ohio since the program began in 2007. However, due to a restrictive cap, only 1/3 of the applicants are awarded the credit. Senator Schuring has introduced SB 225, which provides temporary enhancements (through June 30, 2023) taking the allocated dollars available from \$60 million to \$120 million a year. This bill also increases the project cap from \$5 million to \$10 million and the credit from 25% to 35% in communities with populations under 71,000.

This enhancement gives smaller cities a better opportunity to revitalize their vacant and under-utilized buildings and helps ensure that more projects are able to move forward each year. The OHPTC helps revitalize our Ohio cities, attract and retain our young people, talent and entrepreneurs while at the same time it creates jobs and makes our cities—large and small—more resilient.

★ **Request: Support Senate Bill 225 to temporarily enhance the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit**

Statehood Day is sponsored each year by the Ohio History Connection, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Museums Association, Ohio Humanities, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the Ohio Archaeological Council, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Travel Association, the Ohio Council for Social Studies, the Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board, the Ohio Academy of History and the Society of Ohio Archivists.