

OHIO CONTRACTOR

July ♥ August 2026

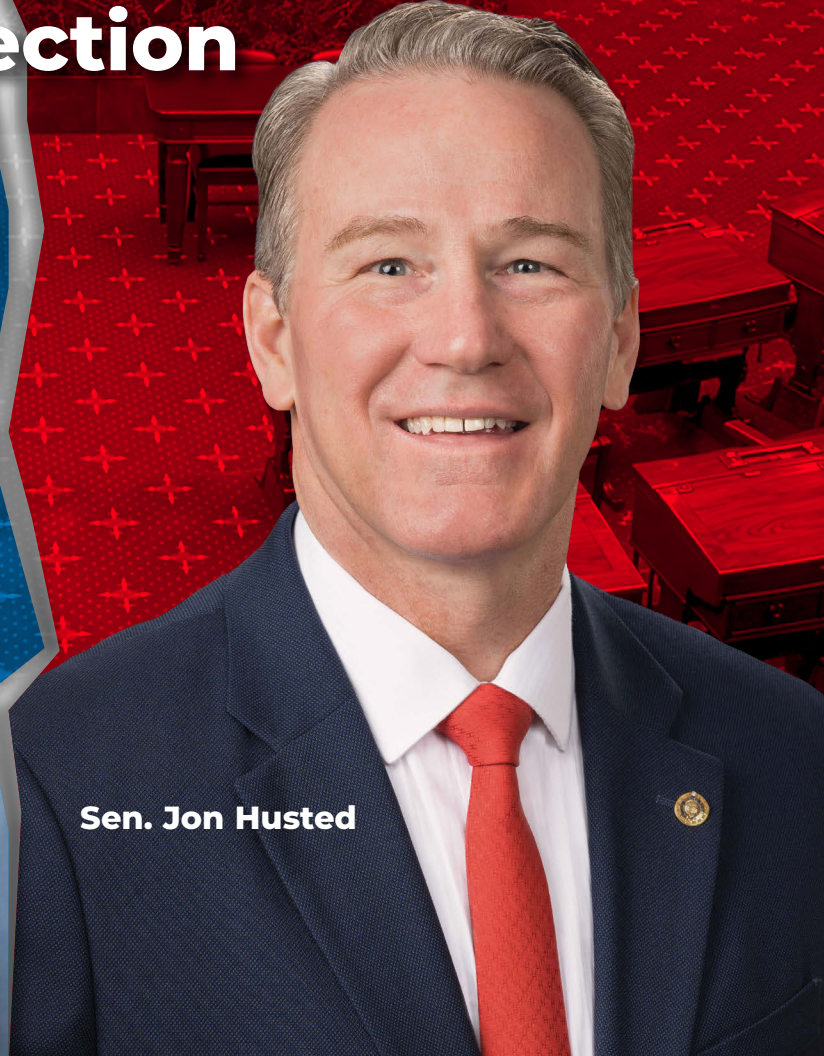
Q&A

WITH U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES

Brown, Husted Bring Statehouse & Capitol Hill Experience to Election



Sherrod Brown



Sen. Jon Husted

1950



1960



1970



1980



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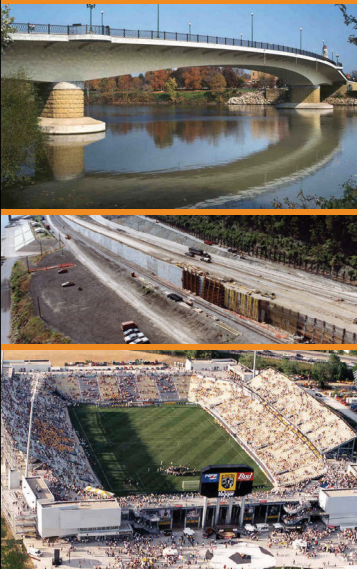
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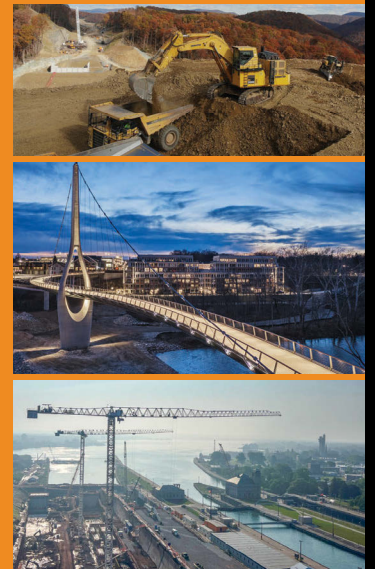
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2010



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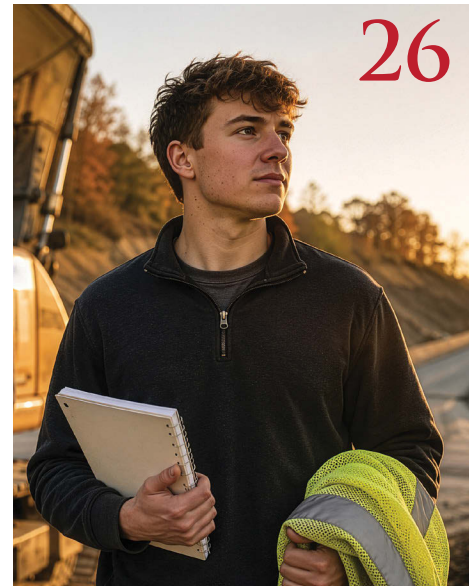


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PARTNERING – A RELATIONSHIP WORTH PROTECTING



CHRIS RUNYAN
OCA President

In our industry, we often talk about the importance of partnering. But I sometimes wonder if we fully appreciate just how far partnering in Ohio has come, and perhaps more importantly how fortunate we are to have the relationship with the Ohio Department of Transportation that exists today.

ODOT's first formally partnered construction project dates to the fall of 1991. That means for nearly 35 years, ODOT and Ohio's contracting community have been working to develop and improve a process that encourages communication, identifies problems early and provides a means for resolving disagreements before they unnecessarily impact a project.

Those principles sound simple. Putting them into practice takes commitment.

At the project level, partnering establishes an expectation that contractors and ODOT personnel will communicate openly, identify issues as they arise and make every reasonable effort to resolve them at the project level. When that cannot be accomplished, the three-step escalation process provides a defined path to move an issue through increasingly higher levels of authority.

The goal is not to eliminate disagreements. That would be unrealistic. The goal is to address disagreements professionally, fairly and as quickly as possible so

everyone can get back to what we are there to do – build the project.

But I believe one of the greatest successes of partnering in Ohio is that it has grown well beyond individual construction projects.

Today, the same partnering philosophy exists at the statewide level between OCA and ODOT. Our members and ODOT representatives regularly sit across the table from one another to develop specifications, discuss policies, identify industry concerns and work through issues affecting the entire construction program. We don't always agree, nor should we expect to. What is important is that we have developed a relationship that allows us to have those discussions, understand each other's perspectives and work toward solutions.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the country and spend time with



my association peers in other states. Those conversations have given me an even greater appreciation for what we have here in Ohio. Many are envious of the relationship our industry shares with our state's DOT and the level of communication that takes place between our organizations. I have also seen elements of Ohio's partnering approach used as a model as others work to improve their own project and agency relationships.

That is something we should be proud of but never take for granted.

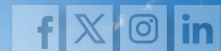
Relationships require work. They require communication, trust, respect and a willingness to listen to another perspective. Partnering is no different. What has been built over nearly 35 years can only continue if the people who follow us remain committed to those same principles.

As my own career in this industry begins to draw to a close, I find myself reflecting more often on the practices and relationships that have made a difference along the way. Partnering is certainly one of them. I have watched it grow from

an approach primarily focused on individual projects into a relationship between ODOT and our industry that others around the country have sought to emulate.

My hope is that those who follow us recognize its value and understand that it is not simply a process or another requirement of the contract. It is a practice that has served ODOT, our contractors and, ultimately, the traveling public well

It is a practice worth protecting.



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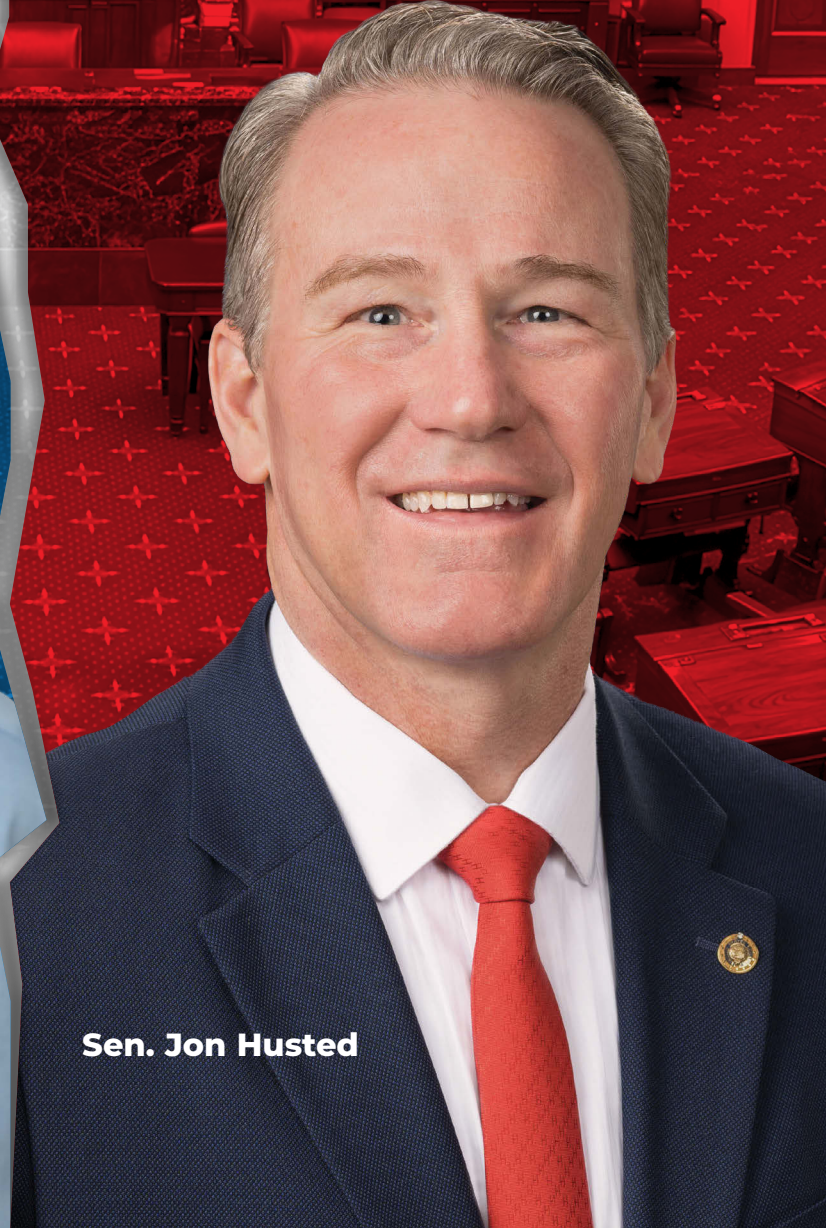
Q&A

WITH U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES

Brown, Husted Bring Statehouse & Capitol Hill Experience to Election



Sherrod Brown



Sen. Jon Husted

“High stakes,” “expensive” and “closely watched” are superlatives being thrown about for Ohio’s 2026 U.S. Senate race involving Sherrod Brown and Jon Husted. And the more than \$119 million from outside groups advertising in this November election battle only adds to the hype.

The election features two well-known Ohio political figures. Brown, a Democrat, has spent more than 50 years in government and is trying to return to the U.S. Senate for a fourth term. Husted, a Republican, is a 25-year political veteran who served six years as Ohio Lieutenant Governor before being appointed to the U.S. Senate 19 months ago.

One of 35 U.S. Senate seats to be decided this year, Ohio’s Brown-Husted race is one of two special elections being held in November. Ohio’s special election is needed to fill the final two years of J.D. Vance’s seat, which he won in 2022 but vacated when he began serving as U.S. Vice President. Husted was appointed by Gov. Mike DeWine to fill the vacant Senate seat in January 2025.

Along with being the state’s first special election for a U.S. Senate seat in 50 years, Ohio’s November 3rd election is being closely watched nationally. Heading into fall’s mid-terms, 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats and Independents are serving in the Senate. If Republicans maintain or increase its Senate majority, the Trump Administration’s priorities would likely move smoother over the next two years. However, if the Democrats win Senate majority by gaining four seats, it could shift legislative power in the 119th U.S. Congress.

The winner of the Brown-Husted election will join fellow Ohioan Bernie Moreno in the U.S. Senate.

Let’s learn more about the candidates in the 2026 election for Ohio’s U.S. Senate seat:



Sherrod Brown

In his more than 50 years in government, Brown, 73, has served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Secretary of State, the U.S. House of Representatives and most recently the U.S. Senate.

The Mansfield native, now a resident of Cleveland, is vying for a return to Capitol Hill, where he has built a reputation as a vocal advocate of labor and education.

A Yale University graduate, Brown received his bachelor’s degree in Russian studies in 1974 and later earned master’s degrees in public administration and education from The Ohio State University.

He began his political career in 1974 when he became the youngest person – at the time – to be elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. Brown served in the Ohio House for four terms (1975-82) before winning a statewide election – and reelection – for Ohio Secretary of State, a position he filled for two terms (1983-1990).

His more than 30 years of service in the U.S. Congress began in 1993. From 1993-2006, Brown represented Ohio’s 13th congressional district. He began serving in the U.S. Senate

in 2007, having defeated incumbent Mike DeWine, and has served three terms in the Upper Chamber.

Brown was defeated in his 2024 U.S. Senate bid by Bernie Moreno and announced another run for a fourth Senate term in August 2025. He earned his spot in November’s election by garnering nearly nine of 10 votes (89.4%) in the May 25 Special Democratic Primary against Ron Kincaid.

Brown and his wife of 22 years Connie Schultz, a columnist and author, are parents of three daughters and a son and grandparents to eight grandchildren.



Jon Husted

In his 25 years of political service, Husted has served in Ohio’s House and Senate, served as Ohio Secretary of State and Lieutenant Governor and the U.S. Senate.

Born in Royal Oak, Mich., Husted moved to Ohio at a young age with his foster family and grew up in Montpelier. He left northwest Ohio to attend the University of Dayton, where in 1989 he earned a bachelor’s degree in education and later a master’s degree in communications.

Prior to beginning his political career, Husted, 59, served as the Vice President for Economic Development with the Dayton-Area Chamber of Commerce. He began the first of four terms in the Ohio House of

Representatives in 2001 and served as Speaker of the House from 2005-2009. During his one term in the Ohio Senate, Husted won the first of two state-wide elections for Secretary of State, which he served from 2011-2019.

Husted joined the state's gubernatorial ticket as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2019 and served the next six years with Gov. Mike DeWine before being appointed to the U.S. Senate in 2025. Husted was appointed by Gov. DeWine to fill the Senate seat that opened once J.D. Vance became Vice President.



State and federal prevailing wage laws help ensure that hard work pays off for workers and that workers are paid fairly for their time.

Sherrod Brown

Throughout his tenure in state and federal government, Husted's focus has been on tax relief, workforce development and public safety. Currently, Sen. Husted serves on the 119th Congress' Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions, the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Committee on Environment & Public Works and the Special Committee on Aging.

Husted resides in Columbus with his wife of 20 years, Tina, who is a real estate professional. The couple has three children and one grandchild.

In their preparation for the November 3rd election, both candidates participated in a Question & Answer session with OCA:

Ohio Contractors Association: What are the top transportation priorities you believe should be addressed in Ohio over the next six years?

Sherrod Brown: "Currently, there are thousands of projects in Ohio funded from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, like construction of the new Brent Spence Bridge, that are improving our highways, roads and transit infrastructure. These projects are making a difference in Ohioans' lives while ensuring our state remains economically competitive. I will continue working with OCA to advance infrastructure legislation in the Senate and ensure transportation projects are funded for Ohio communities."

Jon Husted: "As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, I am working with my colleagues to negotiate a 5-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs, which are critically important to infrastructure and transportation projects across Ohio."

"Another priority over the next six years is efficiently delivering road infrastructure projects, which means tackling our permitting challenges at the federal level. At EPW, I am working with my colleagues on permitting legislation that ensures agencies are held accountable to timelines, so taxpayer dollars actually turn into completed projects rather than years of logjam. This includes making sure that permitting for major projects with a federal nexus, like the Brent Spence Bridge, are executed in a timely manner."

Ohio Contractors Association: What is the federal government's role in

planning, building and maintaining transportation infrastructure?

Husted: "The federal government should partner with states on federal highways and larger infrastructure projects, but not micromanage local project decisions. The federal government should also be focused on reforming its permitting process, which often increases the amount of time for states and localities to complete projects. As Ohioans, we know how efficient ODOT is, and that is because state DOTs know their planning, infrastructure and maintenance needs best. Thoughtful federal permitting reform policies should reflect this."

Brown: "The federal government plays a critical role in making sure that our infrastructure is up to date, functional and safe for all Ohioans. That's why we passed the Bridge Investment Act as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help repair our roads, rebuild our bridges and maintain the infrastructure that Ohioans depend on every day. I'll continue fighting to ensure that Ohio gets its fair share of investment and Ohio workers continue benefitting from this law and others like it."

Ohio Contractors Association: The way the nation currently funds transportation improvements and maintenance continues to be debated. The federal highway trust fund must now be supplemented with General Revenue Fund transfers, thereby increasing the deficit. What mechanism(s) do you support for ensuring our transportation infrastructure is properly funded?

Brown: "For decades, the Highway Trust Fund has helped fund our nation's highway infrastructure. We must continue to ensure there is dedicated and stable funding for the Highway Trust Fund to finance transportation improvements and maintenance."

Husted: “The Highway Trust Fund’s structural need for General Revenue Fund transfers year after year is unsustainable in its current form and adds to the deficit.

“Our roads should be supported by the communities and drivers who use them. Currently, EV owners do not pay into the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is unfair to other drivers on the road. Thirty-nine states have already enacted annual user fees for electric and/or hybrid vehicles; this includes Ohio, which charges annual fees of \$200 for EVs and \$100 for hybrids. The federal government should follow suit to prevent continued General Revenue Fund transfers.”

Ohio Contractors Association: Should user fees such as the motor fuel excise tax, port and waterway fees and airline passenger ticket fees be “firewalled” and protected exclusively for infrastructure maintenance and improvements in the mode in which they were funded?

Husted: “Yes, user fees like the motor fuel excise tax, port and waterway fees and airline ticket fees should stay dedicated to the infrastructure they’re collected to support.

“This is an issue that Senate EPW is tackling with Surface Transportation Reauthorization to ensure Federal Highway Trust dollars are used for Federal highway projects. Diverting funds erodes public trust that the fee is actually funding what it says it’s funding.”

Brown: “We have a lot of firewalls around the existing revenue sources that support our transportation trust funds. Going forward, we are going to need to look at a range of options to ensure our nation’s infrastructure will once again lead the world.”

Ohio Contractors Association: There were more than 6,000 traffic fatalities on Ohio roadways during 2021-2025. Of that amount, 117 deaths occurred in work zones.

Two of those fatalities included highway workers. What steps would you support at the federal level to improve roadway safety for motorists and highway workers?

Brown: “Too many Ohioans know the pain of losing a loved one to a traffic incident. The number of road-related fatalities nationally has not trended in the right direction and that must

“
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Jon Husted

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change. We must use all available strategies to prevent future accidents and avoid tragic fatalities on Ohio's roadways."

Husted: "One of my biggest priorities for transportation projects across Ohio and the country is safety. I've supported critical infrastructure projects across Ohio that improve and protect the lives of my constituents."

"This has included recently securing \$40 million in federal funding for the City of Fairfield's Symmes Road Grade Separation project in Butler County. This project would eliminate two at-grade railroad crossings on Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road, constructing an overpass to separate vehicular traffic from a major rail corridor used by CSX, Norfolk Southern, and Amtrak. This corridor sees nearly 50 trains daily."

Ohio Contractors Association: Do you support state and federal prevailing wage laws for public improvements such as road and bridge construction?

Husted: "I support laws that protect good-paying jobs for all Ohioans, especially those building our bridges and roads. I also support ensuring that those good-paying jobs go to Ohioans. Ohio wins when we have a skilled, trained workforce to meet the growing demand that projects like Intel and Honda have brought. In the U.S. Senate, I've made growing Career Tech Education and Apprenticeships a top priority, so Ohio has the workforce ready to keep building."

Brown: "Yes. State and federal prevailing wage laws help ensure that hard work pays off for workers and that workers are paid fairly for their time."

safely and complete projects on time and on budget."

Husted: "Federal construction investments should provide safe, good-paying jobs for Ohioans that come in on time and on budget. I work consistently with the USDOT to ensure that PLAs submitted by state and local governments are executed in a timely manner to provide predictability for local governments and contractors alike. Federal law should reflect that while also protecting a competitive bidding process to best serve taxpayers and best utilize tax dollars."

Ohio Contractors Association: What are your thoughts on environmental mitigation as it relates to the needs and costs of constructing, operating and maintaining our nation's transportation systems?

Husted: "Environmental reviews are important parts of project delivery, however, the federal process in itself has become a major driver of cost and delays. It is important that state DOTs are able to take over certain federal permitting responsibilities."

"This is why I introduced the Water Authority and Timely Environmental Review (WATER) Act earlier this Congress, which would allow state transportation departments to assume U.S. Army Corps and U.S. EPA responsibilities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This would streamline the permitting process for highway, rail and other transportation projects within Ohio."

"Environmental Impact Statements for federal highway projects have averaged over seven years, and the average length for these statements is over 1,000 pages. Our ability to build, compete, and lead depends on a faster and more predictable permitting system."

Ohio Contractors Association: The federal government encourages project labor agreements (PLA) on large public improvements. What are your thoughts on the use of PLAs?

Brown: "I support all efforts, including Project Labor Agreements, that ensure strong wages, good job training, support for high road employers and safe workplaces so that workers can do their jobs



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Brown: "It's important that we protect the environment as we update Ohio's infrastructure. At the same time, we must ensure environmental regulations do not complicate procedures, drive up costs, or cause delays on critical projects."

Ohio Contractors Association: Data centers are a major job producer for the construction industry as well as being a necessary component of national security and virtual communication capabilities. What conditions, if any, should be required for the continued creation of these critically needed facilities?

Brown: "Big corporations treat Ohio's electric grid like a game – gobbling up energy to feed their data centers. I'll require the data centers to pay the full cost of electricity so that Ohioans don't foot the bill. I'll also fight to rein in out-of-control tax breaks that put billionaires before hardworking families. Ohioans should get to decide if data centers are built in their community instead of out-of-state investors and billionaires."

Husted: "The growth of data centers cannot come at the expense of Ohio families and small businesses, and siting and zoning should stay with states and local communities, not a federal mandate."

"That is why I introduced the Ratepayer Protection Act, which would require states to consider establishing standards for states and Public Utility Commissions when connecting large electricity users like data centers to the grid. This ensures that these users are able to cover the cost of the power generation, transmission and grid infrastructure needed to serve them, rather than potentially shifting costs onto Ohio families and small businesses."

"The companion bill has passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously, and I've been working with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to get it across the finish line."

"In March of this year, I joined a roundtable at the White House promoting the Ratepayer Protection Pledge to have companies commit to building, buying, or bringing their own power for new data centers."

"My bill would ensure that the ratepayer protection pledge becomes law, so that states would require data centers to pay for their own electricity regardless of who holds federal office."

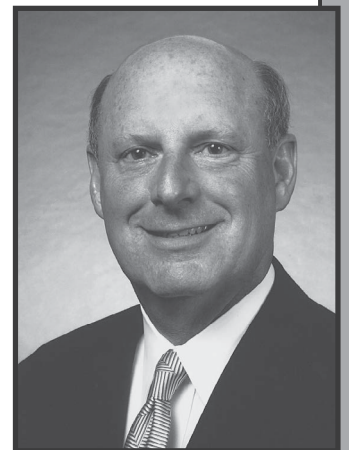


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ODOT PAVEMENT SELECTION PROCESS STUDY CONCLUDES

While one comparison review in north central Ohio has yet to reach its midpoint, another comparative study of Ohio's asphalt and concrete pavement has been completed.

Concluding findings in the 50-year-long U.S. Route 30 Pavement Research Project (WAY-30) are still nearly 30 years away (see page 16), but the "Ohio DOT Pavement Selection Process Analysis" was finalized this summer.

During the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) most-recent biennial transportation budget process in 2025, the 136th Ohio General Assembly, as part of House Bill 54, legislatively mandated the state DOT to conduct a study of its pavement selection process. HB54, signed by Gov. Mike DeWine on March 31, 2025, allocated, among other initiatives, funding for Ohio's transportation projects for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

HB54's Section 755.20 required ODOT to contract with a neutral third party (NTP) to examine the Department's pavement selection process by looking at pavement life-cycle costs and user delay analysis, pavement constructability, relevant environmental factors and other

considerations. In addition, the analysis would include the NTP to compare ODOT's pavement selection process to other states as well as to national practices.

A seven-member Pavement Selection Advisory Council, chaired by ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn, was assembled to select the NTP as well as take recommendations from the analysis to issue a final report to state legislature members – which was released in May. Along with Director Boratyn, the Pavement Selection Advisory Council included a member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants; the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers; a statewide business organization member recommended by the Ohio House Speaker; a business organization member representing small or independent businesses recommended by the Ohio Senate President; and representatives from the Ohio Concrete and Flexible Pavements of Ohio associations.

Pavement Selection Advisory Council members included:

- Pamela Boratyn, ODOT Director, Chair
- Robyn Pollina, Palmer Donavin
- Jerrod Ronyak, All Ways Construction, ABC Ohio
- Curtis Roupe, P.E., Verdantes
- Rick Carfagna, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Tom Rozsits, P.E., Ohio Concrete
- Andrew Gall, Flexible Pavements of Ohio

Serving as the NTP for a similar analysis of ODOT's pavement selection process in 2003, APTech performed seven tasks in providing information for the recent study:

-

- **Task 4** involved APTech studying Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) documents and practices.

-
- Ohio DOT Pavement Selection Process Analysis**
- Final Report**
- PREPARED FOR:**
Ohio Department of Transportation
Pavement Selection Board General Council
1000 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43229
- PREPARED BY:**
Applied Pavement Technology, Inc.
200 South Main Street, Suite 302
Columbus, OH 43215
- LOGOS:**
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio State Road Board
Applied Pavement Technology, Inc.

Several recommendations made in the report include:

- ODOT Director Boratyn thanked both APTech and the Pavement Selection Advisory Council for their work in preparing the report and wrote: “ODOT is eager to maintain our partnership with Ohio’s concrete and flexible pavement industries to ensure a transparent and predictable operational process for their members and the cost effective, safe pavement for the traveling public. The report highlights ODOT’s strong performance compared to other states and points out areas where we can further improve.”

LONGER-LASTING COMPARISON OF ASPHALT & CONCRETE ENTERS 21ST YEAR

A literal side-by-side comparison of asphalt and concrete is entering its 21st year of a 50-year study on U.S. Route 30 east of Wooster.

The U.S. Route 30 Pavement Research Project, known as WAY-30, is in Wayne County near Wooster, between the U.S. 83 interchange and Kansas Road near State Route 57. The 8-mile, four-lane, \$54-million project, constructed in 2004, features the two westbound lanes constructed of Perpetual Pavement and the two eastbound lanes built with Portland Cement Concrete.

Construction specifications included:

Westbound Lanes (Perpetual Pavement): 6-inch base of dense-graded aggregate; 4-inch fatigue-resistant asphalt layer; 9-inch asphalt-treated base; 1.75-inch Superpave intermediate layer; 1.5-inch final wearing course

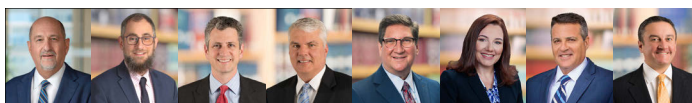
Eastbound Lanes (Concrete Rigid Pavement): 4-inch base of dense-graded aggregate with specialized

underdrains; 3-inch asphalt concrete base layer; 10-inch layer of Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement (note: concrete mixture substituted cement with industrial byproducts – fly ash or ground granular blast furnace slag – to boost long-term strength.)

(Source: Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the Environment [ORITE])

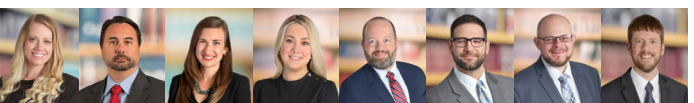
The comparison study is being done to learn how the long-life asphalt and concrete surfaces perform under “real-world” weather and heavy-commercial truck traffic. In addition to weather and traffic wear, the research project is evaluating the pavements’ construction, rehabilitation and maintenance – including salt usage and pavement marking – costs; safety in form of accident experience and skid resistance; construction and subsequent rehabilitation time/user delay; pavement smoothness, condition and response to travel loads; sub-grade moisture/weather data; and tire noise.





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OCA-MEMBER LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Exclusive \$2,000 Benefit for Member Companies

By Lynda Pomeroy, OCA Director, Membership & Advancement Foundation

In 2022, an OCA member suggested contractors would appreciate financial support to engage young talent just coming out of high school – including those interested in entering the trades.

In response, in 2023, the OCA Advancement Foundation (Advancement Foundation) introduced a benefit of OCA membership for member firms – the OCA-Member Legacy Scholarship Program (Legacy Scholarship), a program that complements other long-established OCA scholarship programs that have historically been limited to upper classmen pursuing traditional college degrees emphasizing heavy/civil construction.

The Legacy Scholarship benefits those who are already part of the heavy/civil industry workforce ... those who have made the industry part of their own lives ... like you, to participate as sponsors. The program encourages member firms to reach out to known recent/soon-to-be high school graduates or G.E.D. recipients and extend a personal “invitation” to join our industry by sponsoring them for the scholarship.

In Fiscal Year 2026, a selection committee comprised of 12 OCA members awarded 18 individuals a total of \$36,000 to explore careers in the heavy/civil industry.

The program is intended to be flexible enough to apply to a wide variety of real-life situations:

- As a benefit to top-performing employees who might want to “invite” their child, niece/nephew, grandchild into the industry
- A person who has worked for the company after school or on weekends, and who is championed by the company
- The company is free to apply to sponsor a special candidate known to them, provided they are at the very beginning of their career journey

So, which OCA member companies invited new talent into their firms by sponsoring a \$2,000 OCA-Member Legacy Scholarship in FY26?

HERE'S HOW THIS WORKS:

Applying is as Easy as 1-2-3! Here is what you need to know:

- 1 OCA member** completes a recommendation form – available at this QR code – indicating their interest in sponsoring a particular candidate. Sponsorship includes a commitment to foster a connection with the candidate through summer employment, or whatever appropriate schedule works for the OCA member and the candidate; the intent is to keep the candidate engaged with the industry between the first and second years of education/training.



Sponsor forwards the application link – at this QR code – to student.

- 2 Candidate** completes and submits the application forwarded to them by their OCA-member sponsor; the link to the application is provided on the OCA member recommendation form.
- 3 OCA** evaluates recommendations and makes awards:
 - First consideration is given to OCA member firms who have not yet participated in the program
 - Special attention will be given to include as many OCA Chapter areas as possible
 - OCA will provide a \$2,000 scholarship check in awarded candidate's name; this will be sent to the OCA member, along with a certificate to be used when presenting the check to the student

Awards are announced in December and in June.

1. SPONSOR: The Ruhlin Co.

"Ryan Miller has shown interest in the construction industry from a young age! Due to a program offered at his high school, he was able to work with Ruhlin while still attending high school. Upon graduation, Ryan started attending Kent State, in their Construction Management Program. He has continued to express interest in Ruhlin and ended up securing a summer internship with us. During his internship, he has shown his willingness to go above and beyond for his work. He has taken advantage of any extracurricular opportunity offered to our interns and I know he is very involved on campus in the Construction Management Student Organization. He has had a chance to work in multiple divisions here at Ruhlin, really giving him a well-rounded experience in our industry. Additionally, Ryan continues to express interest in continuing to work at Ruhlin and will be working part-time this fall while going to school." - Jackie Cooper, Project Controls Manager



From left, Tyler Bing
& The Ruhlin Co.
President Jim Ruhlin Jr.

Student Tyler Bing

"When I was a kid, I used to tell my parents that I wanted to draw pictures and then build them, and that always stayed with me. I operated heavy equipment while I was in high school and built greenhouses as well. Since then, I knew that I wanted to work as a team and in the construction field."

2. SPONSOR: Independence Excavating Inc.

"Nicolas (Nico) Briceno is a very driven and hard-working student. I have had the pleasure of witnessing his resilience and passion for the construction industry throughout his time with the organization. He possesses outstanding character and brings energy and dedication to his daily work. I am pleased to recommend Nico for this scholarship!" - Tracy Thomas, Corporate Recruiter/Co-op Program Coordinator



From left, The Ruhlin
Co. Project Controls
Manager Jackie
Cooper, Ryan Miller
& The Ruhlin Co.
President Jim Ruhlin Jr.



Student Ryan Miller

"I grew up around construction when I was a kid, and I always thought it was the coolest thing ever. Because of that, I wanted to get into construction so I could do something I have always wanted to do. My brother and my father both work in the industry - they are the reason why I love it and why it is what I want to do in life."

"For Tyler Bing's internship this summer, he has been paired with a mentor. Tyler's mentor is Noah Meek. We first connected with Tyler at The University of Akron Career Fair, where he immediately stood out to us. Tyler was personable, well-prepared, and had conducted thorough research on Ruhlin in advance. Based on our interactions with Tyler, we are confident he will excel in any division at Ruhlin." - Jennifer Watson, Director of Human Resources



**INDEPENDENCE
EXCAVATING**

From left, Nico
Briceno &
Independence
Excavating Inc. Co-Op
Program Manager
Tracy Thomas



Student Nico Briceno

"I have always been a very visual person, which is one of the main reasons the construction industry has appealed to me. I enjoy being part of projects that have a real, tangible impact on people's everyday lives, especially when I can physically see the progress and the result of that work. Another aspect that draws me to the construction field

is the constant problem-solving it requires. Through my internship experience, I have seen firsthand that there are always challenges to overcome, and often there is no single “right” way to solve them. This environment encourages creativity and critical thinking, which I find both engaging and rewarding.”

3. SPONSOR: Beaver Companies

“Zak Saleh is currently a Co-Op with us coming from Kent State majoring in Construction Management with an expected graduation date of May 2029. We are excited to have Zak working with us this summer and assisting in his development.” – *Donald Cramer, Talent and Development*



From left, Beaver Companies President Betsy Sterling, Zak Saleh & Beaver Companies President Matt Sterling

Student Zak Saleh

“I believe that the heavy/highway construction industry is a necessity to everyday life. It is a means of transportation, but it is also the result of a large amount of work that not many people know about. The amount of energy and effort that goes into something so important is very appealing to me. I also am inspired by the idea that the work I’m doing can help people do almost anything from traveling to seeing family and friends.”

4. SPONSOR: Turn-Key Tunneling Inc.

“Thomas Kitchen is super reliable. He has never missed a day or been late to work. When the alarm clock rings - he is always there to answer the bell!!! Thomas brought with him a knowledge of torch cutting and welding learned through high school career tech. He continues to develop these skillsets, and has even offered to assist older, more tenured employees as they also learn these trades. We look forward to seeing how far Thomas will go, as he is definitely a shining star that sticks out in all the muck and grime that the tunneling business has to offer.” – *Brian Froehlich, President*



From left, Turn-Key Tunneling Inc. President Brian Froehlich & Thomas Kitchen



Student Thomas Kitchen

“Having the opportunity to meet several highway construction contractors opened my eyes to the industry. It is one that is booming with growth and opportunity, as well as amazing people and colleagues; I couldn’t imagine going any other route. I will fit in because of my desire to grow as a person and worker, as well as my willingness and love for learning new things and broadening my skills. I am a hard worker and someone who does not give in even on hard days.”

5. SPONSOR: John R. Jurgensen Co.

“Corbin Simpson has performed many job shadows within heavy/highway during his high school years (quality control, equipment operations, welding, parts and surveying). He has always shown a strong interest in joining a trade and ultimately knows that heavy/highway is a great career path for him. Corbin plans on attending Cincinnati State for Construction Management and, if not able to afford it initially, will start working in the field (laboring or welding) until he is able to save up and take night classes. He is a team player, extremely respectful, a hard worker and just a great young man. He has a great opportunity to join this amazing industry.” – *Chris Simpson, Director of HR*



From left, John R. Jurgensen Companies Director of H.R. Chris Simpson & Corbin Simpson



Student Corbin Simpson

"My father and a few close family friends have worked in highway construction – my father for over 15 years. I have had the chance to see different jobsites, locations and shadow with different areas, and I know that this type of work will be great for me. I learned that this industry has so much stability and I want a career. I know that if I work hard and safe I will have the chance to better myself. I love the outdoors and playing sports. I think that working outdoors with my hands and being part of a team is something that I would enjoy doing."

6. SPONSOR: Keller North America Inc.



"Jenny King is a recent high school graduate who transitioned into the construction industry. She is daughter

to Jason King, an IUOE Local 18 superintendent for Keller North America. She currently is a field technician collaborating with the project team to perform layout and assist in drilling logs. She has a great attitude and strong work ethic and has expressed interest in furthering her education in construction management." – Michael Culbertson, Area Manager

Student Jenny King

"I chose the construction industry because I enjoy working with a team and as a team. Hearing about all the teamwork used on each job was the most appealing factor to me. Having a problem and working together to solve it, while learning from it, is something I find joy in doing. With my dad, Jason King, who is a superintendent for Keller and my uncle, Zach Greene, who is a superintendent for Michels Corp., I have always been inspired by the number of problem-solving skills they have. I would like to climb the corporate ladder with Keller."

7. SPONSOR: Brumbaugh Construction Inc.

"Brandt Patton is the son of one of our supervisors and is graduating from Versailles High School. He plans to pursue a degree in business and will be working for us this summer. I personally know Brandt, and he has a tremendous work ethic

and will be successful at whatever he puts his mind to!" – Joe Raterman, President



From left, Brumbaugh Construction Inc.'s Ben Patton, Brandt Patton & Brumbaugh Construction Inc. President Joe Raterman.

Student Brandt Patton

"My dad, Ben Patton, who works at Brumbaugh as a supervisor, has worked in the heavy/highway industry as long as I can remember. I've always been interested in what he's done for work. I remember being a kid and him coming home and showing me prints of jobs he was working. Since I've always had an interest in the industry, I decided to pursue a career in it."

8. SPONSOR: Beaty Construction Inc.

"Brant Davis started working for Beaty Construction in May 2024. He started in the Yard operations area as a Laborer. He is a very bright and conscientious young man, with a great deal of potential in his future. He is dedicated to learning as much as he can in the construction industry and has a high work ethic." – Eric Coburn, Vice President of Operations



Student Brant Davis

"I love bridge building and want to learn every aspect of it. My family has five generations in heavy/highway construction, and I have learned a lot. I want to go as far as I can while learning the ropes. I have several relatives – my dad, grandfather, cousins and uncles – who have all been part of the team at Beaty Construction."

9. SPONSOR: Oglesby Construction Inc.

"Braden Barman has exemplified the hard-working, honest and ethical values every employer is looking for. He was one of the first 'kids' in Ohio to utilize the mentorship program enacted by House Bill 33 when he started working for us; he was only 16 while being mentored by his cousin who is a foreman for our Concrete Division. Braden is currently in his first year in the construction management program at BGSU and he will work for us during the summers of his college years with the hopes of a full-time position upon graduation." – Tony Whitacre, CFO



From left, Oglesby Construction Inc. President Travis Barman, Braden Barman & Oglesby Construction Inc. CFO Tony Whitacre



Student Braden Barman

"I have always had interest in this industry since I was a little kid. Watching four of my family members, including my Dad and Grandpa, my whole life while they were running the family business made me have the drive to do the same as them. I think I will fit in because I have learned so much about this industry growing up and my knowledge of it started much earlier than most."

10. SPONSOR: Shelly & Sands Inc.



"Wyatt Brobst is a first-year apprentice. His father is working on the road with him." - Dana Bowling, HR Manager

Student Wyatt Brobst

"I chose heavy equipment operating because I've always loved the machines and my dad has been in the Operators 20+ years."

"Luke Castello just started working for us and is on the same crew as his father. He is a great guy and picks up quickly on what needs to be done. Luke is in our Concrete Division working on joint repairs." - Dana Bowling, HR Manager

Student Luke Castello

"My father and some great friends work at Shelly & Sands. It is a great company, with great people/family, and is a good place to start and stay for a lifelong employment opportunity. I hope to work here until retirement."

11. SPONSOR: Barbicas Construction Co. Inc.

"Bryson Giles returned to Barbicas Construction as a second-year employee while still in high school. He worked

last year and this year assisting shop staff with small tasks ... cleaning work areas for mechanics and cleaning up tools throughout the day. Bryson has shown improvement from year to year as he grasps the knowledge and experiences set before him. He is following in his father's footsteps; Bryson's father is actively employed as a project manager with Barbicas Construction. It is the plan for Bryson to continue his HS education to obtain his degree, and then to work in the trades with Barbicas Construction." - Marvilla Miller, Controller



From left, Barbicas Construction Co. Inc. Controller Marvilla Miller, Bryson Giles & Jared Giles



Student Bryson Giles

"I have done summer work at Barbicas Construction for two years, and plan to pursue a career in heavy/highway construction. My Dad works here as a project manager. I can tell he enjoys his work and the workers."

"Ava Winters joined our team this year with great ambition to learn. She has many family members that have been in the trades, including her father who actively works for Barbicas in management and a grandfather who retired from the Operating Engineers with over 30+ years. She is actively working in our shop keeping it organized while maintaining a positive attitude and desire to learn new tasks. Ava does not shy away from a task; she digs in and gets it accomplished. Ava shows potential to be a future leader." - Marvilla Miller, Controller



From left, Barbicas Construction Co. Inc.'s Valas Winters, Ava Winters & Barbicas Construction Co. Inc. Controller Marvilla Miller



Student Ava Winters

"I have grown up around the industry, and know it can be a really good living if you are willing to work hard ... and I am. This is my first job at Barbicas, where I am starting in the shop. I have multiple generations of family in the industry, including my grandfather, my uncle and my Dad, Valas Winters, who works here at Barbicas."

12. SPONSOR: Complete General Construction Co.

"Gavin Mount played baseball for my team for seven years and just graduated. Complete General sponsored him for the Operators Apprenticeship Program and he started last week. Gavin has always been hardworking, and we look forward to him becoming a member of our Team as an operator." - Mike Obert, Chief Engineer



From left, Complete General Construction Co. Chief Engineer Mike Obert & Gavin Mount

Student Gavin Mount

"I grew up around people who have worked their fair share of highway construction. I always had an appreciation for what they do, and I wanted to be like these people."

"Conner McKenzie is a first-year apprentice for us as an operator. Conner just completed and received his CDL. He just started operating our bridge groover for us since he received his CDL, which is a specialized piece of equipment that needed a new operator." - Mike Obert, Chief Engineer



From left, Complete General Construction Co. Chief Engineer Mike Obert, Connor McKenzie & CGC's Facility Superintendent Nate McCune.



Student Connor McKenzie

"I chose to join the heavy/highway pathway in construction because, I enjoy running equipment and learning the safest routes to take in completing a job. I believe I will fit in with a great work ethic and a willingness to learn something new every single day."

"Chase Greer is a young man that just started working with Complete General. He is willing to learn and is a very hard-working employee."

- Mike Obert, Chief Engineer

From left, Complete General Construction Co. Chief Engineer Mike Obert & Chase Greer



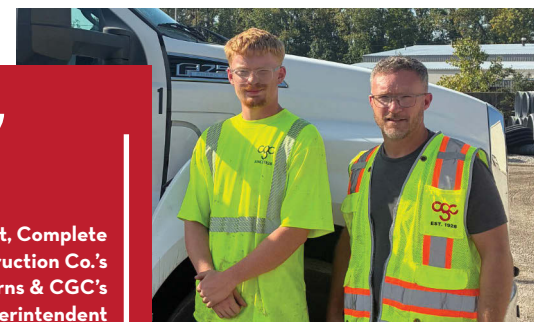
Student Chase Greer

"The reason I joined heavy/highway construction is because I have always dreamed of doing construction. I have relatives working for Complete General Construction - my stepdad, cousin and uncle. After completing my training, I would like to become a foreman here."

"Keegan has worked for us for a little under a year, while he completes his GED. He helps build forms, load trucks with a forklift and completes various other tasks around the yard. He will soon be going out in the field, working on one of our bridge crews." - Mike Obert, Chief Engineer



From left, Complete General Construction Co.'s Keegan Karns & CGC's Facility Superintendent Nate McCune.



Student Keegan Karns

"I enjoy working with my hands and plan to make this a career. My goal is to become a foreman."

The Ohio Contractors Association Advancement Foundation (OCAAF) was created in 2013 by OCA Board of Directors members to power OCA cornerstone initiatives that strengthen the industry by:

- Building awareness regarding jobs and career opportunities in the industry
- Providing development and advancement opportunities through education and training for both today's and future workers
- Maximizing our ability to offer scholarships for individuals pursuing careers in the heavy/highway industry.

In 2018, thanks to your extraordinary generosity and that of others who, like you, have an eye toward the future of our industry, an endowment fund was established – a \$1.6 million foundation upon which to grow.

Each year, growth from that \$1.6M has generated funds to power OCA marquee programs that align with the Advancement Foundation's purpose, like: The Rich DiGeronimo Constructor For A Day, OCA's Scholarship and OCA-Member Legacy Scholarship programs.



Today, the OCA Advancement Foundation is overseen by a Board of Trustees that includes Chair Nick DiGeronimo (Independence Excavating Inc.) and trustees Mike Dinneen (Agg Rok Materials), Matt Malone (Kurtz Bros Inc.), Parr Peterson (The Paul Peterson Co., retired) and Jim Ruhlin Sr. (The Ruhlin Co.). Total assets of the Advancement Foundation invested into the fund as of June 30, 2026 were \$2,685,418.03.

The endowment fund established in 2018 remains secure, alive and growing, offering industry-specific opportunities to enhance OCA's workforce development and awareness programs.



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR CHAPTER & HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIPS

While applications for OCA-Membership Legacy Scholarships are accepted throughout the year, the application period for two other OCA scholarship programs for the 2026-2027 academic year is closing October 30.

Whether you are a current college student or know someone preparing for a career in construction, now is the time to apply for OCA Chapter Scholarships or OCA Hall of Fame Scholarships. The association's scholarship programs provide financial aid to students pursuing careers in construction management, civil engineering, engineering technology and other heavy/highway-related fields.

Because the scholarship programs have varying application requirements, visit the OCA

Scholarship Program page on the association's website at this QR Code for more information.



OCA encourages its members to share these scholarship opportunities with students, interns, employees and their families to help build the future workforce of Ohio's heavy/highway industry.



OHIO'S OPERATING ENGINEERS CONTINUE BUILDING, SUPPORTING INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

IUOE LOCAL 18 SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS FOR '26-'27 SURPASS \$5 MILLION



“Membership has its privileges” isn’t just a long-past advertising slogan. For International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 18, part of “membership” in 2026 is in the form of more than \$5 million in scholarship opportunities.

While American Express made the slogan famous for its card-carrying members in the mid-1980s, IUOE Local 18 cardholders – or those members enrolled in its Health and Welfare Program – are enjoying the privilege of a record total in financial assistance for education and training.

The IUOE Local 18 is a more-than-17,000-member-strong labor union representing operating and stationary engineers in 89 Ohio and Northern Kentucky counties.

This year, according to Fund Administrator Carol Wilson, the IUOE Local 18 Education & Safety (E&S) Affairs Committee awarded 1,026 scholarships totaling \$5.1 million – which included “Regular” and “Industry-Related” scholarships as well as a doubling in the amount available for “Special Dependent Scholarships.”

While Local 18’s regular and industry-related scholarships benefit operating engineers, their spouses and dependents, the Special Dependent Scholarships – of which 10, \$10,000 endowments were awarded for the 2026-2027 academic year – are specifically for children of Local 18 members interested in pursuing a degree in a construction-related field.

“One of the most-significant recent changes was the creation of these larger individual \$10,000 industry-related awards,” said IUOE Local 18 Business Manager Michael Bertolone. “We wanted to take the scholarship program a step further and identify

students pursuing degrees that have a meaningful connection to our industry.

“By providing 10, \$10,000 awards, we are making a significant investment in individuals who could ultimately contribute to the future of construction, engineering, infrastructure and the industries our members work in every day,” added Bertolone, a 23-year Local 18 member and graduate of the Local 18 Apprenticeship Program.

IUOE Local 18 President Thomas Byers, who also graduated from the Local 18 Apprenticeship Program and has assisted in leading the organization for the past 11 years, is proud of the Special Dependent Scholarships’ increased offerings. “We usually award five Special Dependent Scholarships; this year, we awarded 10 ...,” said the 33-year Local 18 member, “It’s a fringe benefit paid by Local 18 members to further the education of other Local 18 members and their families. It’s the right thing to do ...”

Jason Baker, a 22-year Local 18 member who has chaired its Education & Safety Committee Fund the past three years, said the funding of scholarships is an IUOE Local 18 member-wide effort. "Part of our fringe package has an E&S Fund of 9 cents. So every hour that our members work, under most of our agreements, have our Health & Welfare Benefits attached to them, so they are paying in 9 cents. (For example) when I work 40 hours, 9 cents an hour goes into the pot ... The more work hours, the more money you have coming in and the more you have going out."

"I think one of the things we sometimes overlook when talking about union membership is the full value that comes with belonging to an organization like Local 18," said Bertolone. "Obviously, wages, healthcare, pensions and working conditions are extremely important, but being a union member is about more than what appears in a paycheck. Programs like our scholarship benefit are an example of that broader commitment. We want our members to build successful careers, but we also want their spouses and children to have opportunities to succeed."

In 2026, the money offered for IUOE Local 18 training and further education totaled \$5.1 million - which included:

- 854 Regular Scholarships of up to \$5,000 that Local 18 members, spouses and dependents can use for college, adult education and vocational classes for non-industry related studies/training. So, if a member or spouse wants to take coursework in business, accounting or other areas, they can utilize these Regular Scholarships
- 172 Industry-Related Scholarships of up to \$8,000 for members, spouses and dependents to use for coursework/training in construction-related areas such as civil engineering, construction management, diesel mechanics, etc.

- 10 Special Dependent Scholarships of up to \$10,000 awarded to members' children/dependents going into the construction industry.

Wilson, who has worked with Local 18 for 41 years, said, "Not everyone uses the money, but we typically pay out anywhere from \$1 million to \$1.5 million of what is awarded every year."

Bertolone hopes more IUOE Local 18 members take "full advantage" of the group's scholarship program - which include OCA members. "This is a tremendous benefit, and unfortunately, there are still members and families who either forget that it exists or simply are not aware of everything that is available to them," he said. "We occasionally hear from members after they, their spouse or their dependent has already completed a qualifying course, college class or certification and then discover that scholarship assistance may have been available to them. We hate seeing anyone miss an opportunity like that ... We encourage our members to stay involved with their union and understand all the benefits they have earned as union members. The Local 18 Scholarship Program is certainly near the top of that list."

These training and scholarship opportunities are available to IUOE Local 18 members employed at OCA member companies, as Baker urges company leaders to help get the word out. "I would ask them to talk to their members that are Operators in the first quarter of every year and let them know that this scholarship is available for Operating Engineer Local 18 members and their dependents."

Requirements for IUOE Local 18 scholarships, among other requisites, are that union members be enrolled and in good standing in the group's medical plan. Wilson said that in addition to the Health and Welfare Plan enrollment requirement, recipients must be high school graduates and

under the age of 25 if it is a dependent that is receiving the scholarship.

The awarding of Special Dependent Scholarships - which have been given since 2013 - include additional application requirements. "If we get an application from a dependent child who is going into a construction-related field, we send them a letter letting them know they have the opportunity to write an essay in order to be considered for a Special Dependent award," said Wilson, who added that essay topics range from who were influential to the applicants; what their relation is with Local 18; career goals their striving for; and more.

According to Baker, the essays are reviewed and selected by the six-member E&S Committee - which includes IUOE Local 18 union and management trustees. "We have had multiple kids that have applied multiple years and gotten the Special scholarships," he added. This year's Special Dependent Scholarship recipients are working toward obtaining degrees in civil engineering, construction management, mechanical engineering and power and hydraulics engineering.

"It takes a partnership between management and skilled labor to make any good construction contractor," said Baker of the philosophy behind the IUOE Local 18's awarding of Special Dependent Scholarships. "We feel that we are investing in our next leaders that are going to run contracting companies for the next 40 years. So, by investing back into both apprenticeship training and these scholarships, we're investing in our next leaders - and that's a good partnership."



ODOT's

Bidding Results for State FY 2027



Editor's note: We are introducing additional information in this edition of *Ohio Contractor* magazine. OCA staff are frequently asked about the trends of ODOT lettings. While means and methods of learning about projects leading up to bid day are readily available, it's also important to see the big picture of how ODOT's program is evolving over the course of the year.

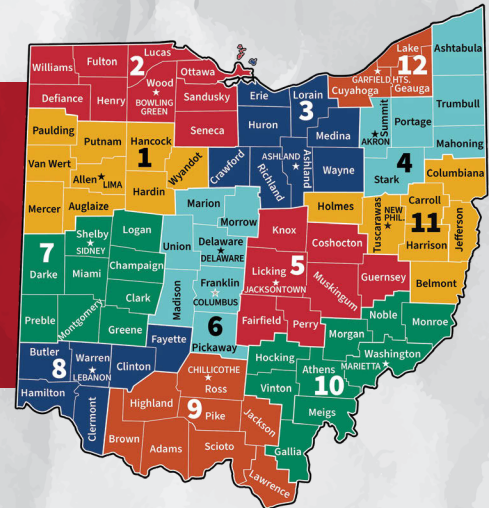
So that OCA members are better informed, we are introducing a collection of graphs that tell you, by ODOT district and in total, how many projects ODOT has sold; the amounts awarded; and how many of those projects were awarded to OCA member and non-member firms in the current state fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

While we would hope every construction company that is awarded ODOT work is an OCA member – and the majority of ODOT's capital program work is being performed by OCA members – some firms elect to reap the benefits of OCA but won't "pay the freight." Hopefully, armed with more information, you can be better informed to become a champion for OCA membership with these companies. While we can't list them, I'll bet you know of more than a few non-member companies that you do business with on a frequent basis. For us at OCA, more voices mean garnering more attention and support from decision-makers. Please consider becoming a champion for the trade association that supports your business and staff development.



WINNING BIDS

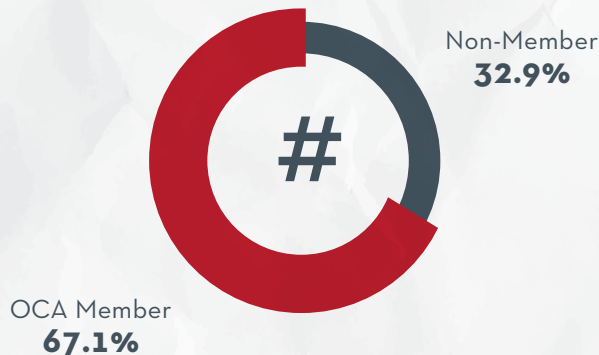
Reported June 1- July 30, 2026



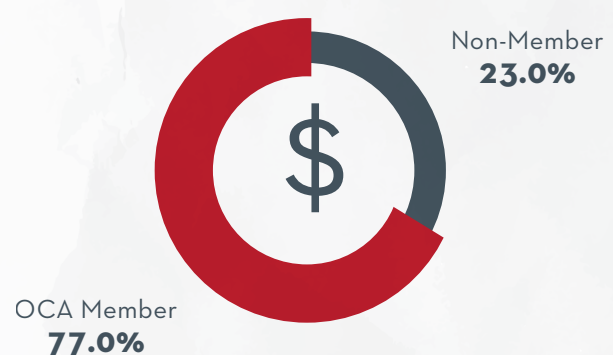
79 PROJECTS // \$173.3 MILLION

SFY 2027 SUMMARY – JUNE 1 - JULY 30, 2026

PROJECTS AWARDED BY CONTRACTOR AFFILIATION



AWARD DOLLARS BY CONTRACTOR AFFILIATION



PROJECTS AWARDED BY ODOT DISTRICT



AWARD DOLLARS BY ODOT DISTRICT





Redesigned OCA WEBSITE PROVIDES ONE-STOP HUB

With New Look, New Features, Site Set to Go Online

JUST AS OHIO IS SEEING IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS LOCAL AND STATE ROADS AND BRIDGES, VISITORS TO OCA'S WEBSITE AT WWW.OHIOCONTRACTORS.ORG WILL SEE NOTICEABLE CHANGES AND ENHANCEMENTS.

With the goal to provide “all of the great benefits of being an OCA member in one hub,” Communications Coordinator Cassidy Bruns Semenczuk, who led the association’s efforts in updating the website, said, “The main focus of this redesign was streamlining information to be easily accessible.” She added that making the site more accessible for users can

be seen through clearer navigation and graphics, streamlining of pages, implementing OCA’s new branding and more.

“As time moves on, websites invariably grow in content and become outdated with respect to new technologies. OCA’s had reached that point,” said OCA President Chris Runyan. “With the addition of Cassidy Bruns as Communications Coordinator to our staff, we were in the position to devote staff time and expertise to developing an updated and streamlined site.”

The updated site, set for release in September, is the first redesign of the association’s website since 2017. The new site features:

- Recently produced videos promoting the heavy/highway industry and careers
- Auto-updating of OCA and national-level industry news, member-exclusive labor and safety resources and collective bargaining agreements
- A revamped Workforce Development Center, featuring online resources, job opportunities, apprenticeship programs, union contacts and more
- A Health & Wellness Center providing information on mental and physical health tailored to the construction industry
- Ability for members and prospective members to submit general questions about OCA
- A Designated Finance Center for online payment of membership fees as well as the ability to contribute to other funds
- And more

"The newly designed website equally engages current members and those looking to learn more about the work OCA does," Bruns Semenczuk said.

OCA's website redesign began last fall when it collaborated with the Associated General Contractors of Ohio's I Build America Ohio website (www.ibuildamerica-ohio.com). Seeing ways it could refresh its own website, OCA began working with Ascension Technology Solutions LLC, a Texas-based provider of website and mobile design, analysis, content management and SEO services. Ascension customized a web template and Bruns Semenczuk, Runyan, OCA Director of Member Events David Rule, OCA Director of Finance Sharon Stanfield and other directors collaborated on the site's contents and features.

"As any living document, or piece of marketing, changes are needed over time - and consistent addition of information can become a bit overwhelming for the user," said Bruns Semenczuk, who joined OCA in January 2025. "With the onboarding of myself as a Communications Coordinator, I was now in a role that had not existed previously. This gave me the time and opportunity to focus on making those updates and changes that members of the staff helped balance previously."

Bruns Semenczuk said she is most excited about the new site's ease of use. "Having OCA's wealth of industry resources as clear and accessible as possible to serve our members and the larger industry helps drive OCA's mission and position as the voice of the industry," she said. "Allowing our staff to be reachable, our news and information to be up to date, payment and contribution processes to be straight-forward makes the experience more pleasant for everyone navigating the site."

"It is exciting to see the new applications that have been built in, and the messaging being refreshed or introduced for the first time," Runyan said of the website. "I hope OCA's members will find it to be a useful tool when interacting with their Association, and first-time visitors will find it informative and inviting."




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WERK-BRAU EVENT RAISES NEARLY \$90K FOR CAUSE



The 4th
Annual
**Werk-Brau
Golf Classic**

raised more than \$88,900 to benefit **Construction Angels** in its efforts to provide assistance to children and spouses of fallen construction workers.

The 2026 event was held August 10 at Pinnacle Golf Club in Grove City.

OCA serves as the state sponsor for Construction Angels, a national organization that provides financial assistance and grief counseling to the children and spouses of workers killed in work-related accidents.

OCA member companies assisting host **Werk-Brau** sponsor this year's Golf Classic were:

Advanced Drainage Systems Inc.;
Alta Equipment Co.; **Columbus**
Equipment Co.; **Hylant;** **George**
J. Igel & Co. Inc.; **Kalida Truck**
Equipment Inc.; **Kokosing**
Construction Co. Inc.; **Mt. Carmel**
Stabilization Group Inc.; **Murphy**
Tractor & Equipment Co. Inc.; **Ohio**

CAT; RECO Equipment Inc.; **Rudd**
Equipment Co.; **The Shelly Co.;** **A**
CRH Co.; **Southeastern Equipment**
Co. Inc.; and **Trucco Construction**
Co. Inc.

Construction Angels also provides scholarship opportunities to qualified applicants and to surviving children of a fallen worker. For more information on Construction Angels' work and scholarship opportunities, visit www.constructionangels.us.

FRANTZ WARD INTRODUCES AI GOVERNANCE PRACTICE

Frantz Ward LLP recently announced the addition of its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Enterprise Governance** practice, which will advise clients on governance and compliance in deploying AI systems and services.



Jim Ickes

Jim Ickes will lead the firm's AI practice, which includes policy deployment and vendor agreements, regulatory compliance and incident response.

"The launch of our firm's AI Enterprise Governance practice group underscores our commitment to anticipate our clients' needs and guide them through emerging challenges and evolving regulations," said Managing Partner **Christopher G. Keim**. "Our team remains at the forefront of this oversight, assisting our clients in maximizing their productivity with AI while minimizing risks."

The firm's AI Enterprise Governance practice builds on its Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group.

Headquartered in Cleveland, Frantz Ward is a full-service law firm with more than 80 attorneys serving a national client base, including Fortune 500 companies, small and medium-sized businesses and individuals from its Cleveland and Columbus offices. For more information, visit www.frantzward.com.

If you are an OCA member and have news about your business or company regarding in-state staff changes or honors, and would like it to appear in Ohio Contractor, send the information by email to editorial@triad-inc.com, or by calling 800-288-7423.



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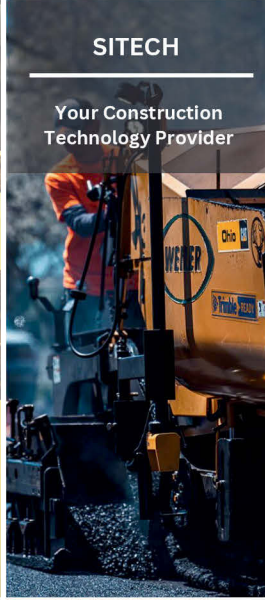



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