



# OHIO COMMON GROUND

## Founding Executive Overview

June 2026

## Building a Stronger Voice for Ohio Voters

### Introduction

Ohio Common Ground (OCG) is a statewide membership organization being established to give Ohio citizens a stronger, more organized, and more effective voice in public life.

The organization is founded on a simple observation:

Ohioans often agree on far more than our politics suggests.

Yet despite broad agreement on many issues, citizens frequently lack the organization, infrastructure, and collective leverage necessary to translate that agreement into meaningful influence over public policy and government.

Meanwhile, political parties, special interests, advocacy organizations, government institutions, and professional political actors are highly organized and well represented.

Most voters are not.

Ohio Common Ground exists to help close that gap.

Our mission is to organize citizens around shared concerns, convert public agreement into measurable influence, and encourage a more responsive, competitive, and accountable system of government.

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## Why Ohio Common Ground Exists

Across Ohio, citizens increasingly express similar frustrations.

Government often appears unresponsive.

Political competition has weakened.

*As of June 14, 2026*



Public debate frequently rewards conflict rather than problem-solving.

Many elections feel disconnected from everyday concerns.

Citizens have few practical ways to influence public policy between elections.

At the same time, many Ohioans no longer feel fully represented by either major political party.

Most identify as independent voters.

Others remain Republicans or Democrats but feel increasingly disconnected from party leadership.

Many simply feel politically homeless.

Ohio Common Ground was created to provide these citizens with something they currently lack:

A durable institution through which they can work together.

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## Our Mission

To organize Ohio citizens around shared concerns, convert public agreement into political influence, and ensure elected officials remain responsive to the people they serve.

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## Our Vision

An Ohio where citizens possess meaningful influence between elections, where elected officials continuously compete for voter support, and where public policy increasingly reflects broadly shared priorities rather than narrow political interests.

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## Our Long-Term Objective

Ohio Common Ground is not being built to win a single election.

It is being built to create a permanent civic institution.



The long-term objective is to organize a large statewide membership capable of influencing public policy, shaping political incentives, encouraging greater competition for voter support, and strengthening the voice of Ohio citizens.

We believe voters become more influential when they act together rather than individually.

We believe organized citizens can become one of the most powerful forces in Ohio public life.

We believe government becomes more responsive when elected officials know citizens are organized, informed, and paying attention.

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## What Ohio Common Ground Is

Ohio Common Ground is:

- A statewide membership organization
- A citizen-led civic institution
- An issue-driven organization
- A voter education organization
- A citizen engagement network
- A research and information platform
- A public accountability organization
- A long-term reform initiative

The organization is designed to identify issues where broad public agreement exists and help citizens act collectively around those issues.

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## What Ohio Common Ground Is Not

Ohio Common Ground is not:

- A political party
- A Republican organization
- A Democratic organization
- A candidate committee



- A personality-driven movement
- A protest organization
- A single-issue advocacy group
- A temporary election project

The organization is intended to outlast election cycles, political personalities, and changing partisan coalitions.

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## The Core Idea

Most organizations are built to represent parties.

Most advocacy groups are built to represent causes.

Most political organizations are built to elect candidates.

Ohio Common Ground is being built to represent citizens.

Our purpose is not to replace political parties.

Our purpose is not to become a third party.

Our purpose is to organize citizens around issues where broad agreement already exists and convert that agreement into meaningful influence.

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## How OCG Works

Ohio Common Ground operates through six continuous functions.

### Research

Identify issues affecting Ohio citizens and gather reliable information from primary sources, documented evidence, public records, and subject matter expertise.

### Discover

Identify areas where substantial agreement exists among Ohio voters.



## Validate

Survey members and citizens to determine priorities and measure support.

## Educate

Publish issue briefings, research reports, scorecards, data, and explanatory materials.

## Organize

Coordinate citizen participation and collective action.

## Measure

Track outcomes and evaluate whether citizen engagement produces results.

The goal is not participation for its own sake.

The goal is measurable influence.

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## Key Areas of Focus

Future priorities will ultimately be determined by members through formal issue selection processes.

Based on current research, issues likely to receive substantial attention include:

### Cost of Living

- Property taxes
- Housing affordability
- Inflation
- Utility costs

### Government Performance

- Efficiency
- Waste reduction
- Regulatory burdens
- Fiscal stewardship



## Public Integrity

- Ethical standards
- Conflicts of interest
- Government accountability

## Election Competition

- Voter participation
- Voter confidence
- Competitive elections
- Election administration

## Future Opportunity

- Economic growth
  - Workforce development
  - State competitiveness
  - Long-term fiscal sustainability
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## Information You Can Verify

A central component of Ohio Common Ground will be its research and information platform.

We do not intend to become another opinion platform.

Instead, we intend to become a trusted source of documented information.

Whenever practical, Ohio Common Ground will publish:

- Original source documents
- Legislative text
- Voting records
- Survey methodologies
- Research methodologies
- Scorecard criteria
- Supporting data
- Source citations



We believe citizens should be able to examine the evidence and reach their own conclusions.

Our role is not to tell Ohioans what to think.

Our role is to help Ohioans understand what is happening.

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## Trust Through Structure

Most organizations ask citizens to trust them.

Ohio Common Ground intends to earn trust through structure.

We do not ask citizens to accept conclusions on faith.

We show our work.

We publish sources.

We publish methodologies.

We publish scorecard criteria before scorecards are issued.

We make organizational rules available for review.

We give members direct voting rights over major organizational decisions.

Trust should not depend on personalities.

Trust should depend on systems.

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## Governance Philosophy

Ohio Common Ground is built around a simple principle:

The organization should belong to its members.

Not donors.

Not political parties.

Not elected officials.



Not founders.

Not staff.

Members.

This principle drives every major governance decision.

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## Organizational Structure

Ohio Common Ground will operate as a nonprofit membership corporation organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Membership will be organized through county chapters throughout Ohio.

County chapters will elect delegates to statewide governance bodies.

Members will participate in:

- Leadership selection
- Issue prioritization
- Governance decisions
- Bylaw amendments
- Organizational direction

The structure is intended to balance statewide coordination with local participation.

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## Membership and Representation

Ohio Common Ground is designed to be member-controlled.

Voting members will elect leadership and participate in key organizational decisions.

Representation will combine:

- Direct member participation
- County chapter representation
- State convention governance



The objective is to create a durable system that reflects both statewide membership and local perspectives.

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## Governance by Design

Ohio Common Ground is being intentionally designed to be difficult to capture.

Not because we distrust people.

Because every successful organization eventually attracts:

- Ambitious individuals
- Political operatives
- Ideological activists
- Donors with priorities
- Organizations seeking influence

The question is not whether pressure will come.

The question is whether the institution can withstand it.

Accordingly, OCG is being built with structural safeguards including:

- One member, one vote
- County-based representation
- Delegate governance
- Board term limits
- Officer term limits
- Member recall rights
- Member initiative rights
- Conflict-of-interest rules
- Published governance documents
- Independent oversight mechanisms
- Restrictions on partisan control
- Financial disclosure standards
- Transparency requirements for organizational decision-making

The goal is simple:



No person should be able to own Ohio Common Ground.

Not a founder.

Not a donor.

Not a political party.

Not a board majority.

Not a special interest.

The organization should belong to its members.

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## County Chapters

County chapters are expected to become the foundation of Ohio Common Ground.

These chapters will:

- Recruit members
- Identify local concerns
- Develop local leadership
- Conduct issue discussions
- Participate in statewide initiatives
- Elect delegates
- Build local civic infrastructure

Strong county organizations will be essential to long-term success.

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## Research, Scorecards, and Accountability

Ohio Common Ground intends to develop a comprehensive accountability system that evaluates public officials using published standards.

Potential tools include:

- Legislative scorecards



- Candidate questionnaires
- Voting record analysis
- Responsiveness measures
- Issue alignment reports
- Public performance evaluations

Scorecards will be based on published criteria.

Methodologies will be available for review.

Correction processes will be available when factual errors are identified.

Citizens should always understand how conclusions were reached.

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## Future Organizational Growth

As Ohio Common Ground matures, affiliated organizations may be established.

Potential future entities include:

### Ohio Common Ground Foundation

Research, education, civic literacy, and public policy analysis.

### Ohio Common Ground Action

Issue advocacy, citizen mobilization, and election-related activities permitted by law.

Any future entities would remain legally separate and independently governed.

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## What Success Looks Like

Success is not measured by media attention.

Success is not measured by social media engagement.

Success is measured by influence.

Five years from now, success would mean:



- Tens of thousands of active members
- Functional county organizations across Ohio
- A respected statewide research platform
- Widely used scorecards and issue analysis
- Demonstrated policy victories
- Increased responsiveness from elected officials
- Greater political competition
- Stronger citizen participation

Most importantly:

Success means Ohio voters possess a stronger collective voice than they do today.

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## Current Stage of Development

Ohio Common Ground is currently in its founding phase.

We are assembling the leadership, governance, legal, communications, technology, and county infrastructure necessary to build a durable statewide institution.

We are actively seeking:

- Founding directors
- Officers
- Governance advisors
- Legal advisors
- Communications advisors
- Technology advisors
- County leaders
- Subject matter experts

We are particularly interested in individuals who value institutional integrity, intellectual honesty, constructive civic engagement, long-term thinking, and a commitment to building something larger than any single election cycle.

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## The Opportunity

Most organizations are built to represent parties, candidates, industries, causes, or ideologies.

Ohio Common Ground is being built to represent citizens.

Its purpose is not to replace political parties.

Its purpose is not to become a third party.

Its purpose is not to advance a particular ideology.

Its purpose is to help Ohio citizens discover common ground, organize around shared priorities, and exercise greater influence over the institutions that affect their lives.

That is the opportunity.

That is the mission.

That is Ohio Common Ground.

Turning Agreement Into Influence.

A Stronger Voice. Built By Voters.