

# Ohio Common Ground (OCG)

## Online Member Community Standards

### Building a Stronger Voice for Ohio Voters

Most political communities are built around agreement.

Ohio Common Ground is built around cooperation.

Our members include Republicans, Democrats, Independents, unaffiliated voters, and Ohioans who may disagree on many issues. We do not expect members to think alike. We do expect members to engage respectfully, honestly, and constructively.

The purpose of this community is not to win arguments. The purpose is to help Ohioans identify common ground, organize around shared concerns, and build enough collective influence that elected officials must listen.

Participation in this community is a privilege, not a right. By participating, members agree to follow these standards.

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## 1. Mission First

Ohio Common Ground exists to strengthen the voice and influence of Ohio citizens through lawful civic engagement.

Members should support the mission of building a stronger citizen voice rather than advancing personal agendas, political parties, candidates, or ideological factions.

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## 2. Respectful Disagreement Is Expected

Members are not expected to agree.

Healthy disagreement often produces better ideas and stronger solutions.

Members may challenge ideas, policies, proposals, and assumptions. Members may not attack, insult, harass, ridicule, threaten, or demean other participants.

Debate issues. Respect people.

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### **3. Evidence Matters**

Members are encouraged to support claims with facts, sources, data, personal experience, or reasoned arguments.

Opinions are welcome.

Knowingly spreading false information, repeatedly posting unsupported claims after correction, or intentionally misleading others may result in moderation.

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### **4. No Ideological Litmus Tests**

OCG welcomes citizens from across the political spectrum.

No member may demand ideological conformity from others.

Participation is not conditioned upon party affiliation, political philosophy, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age, or background.

Assume good faith unless there is clear evidence otherwise.

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### **5. No Party or Candidate Campaigning**

Ohio Common Ground is not a political party and is not a candidate campaign organization.

Members may discuss:

- Public officials
- Candidates
- Elections
- Legislation
- Public policy

- Government performance

However, this community may not be used primarily to:

- Campaign for candidates
  - Recruit for political parties
  - Coordinate campaign activities
  - Fundraise for campaigns
  - Conduct opposition research
  - Advance partisan organizations
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## **6. Stay Focused on Ohio and OCG Priorities**

This community exists to discuss:

- Ohio issues
- Civic engagement
- Government performance
- Public policy
- Community concerns
- OCG initiatives
- Shared voter priorities

Moderators may redirect or remove discussions that are substantially unrelated to the mission.

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## **7. No Harassment, Intimidation, or Abuse**

The following are prohibited:

- Personal attacks
- Harassment
- Threats
- Bullying
- Intimidation
- Hate-based attacks
- Repeated targeting of other members

Disagreement is acceptable.

Abusive behavior is not.

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## 8. Protect Privacy

Members may not post or distribute private information about others without permission.

This includes:

- Home addresses
- Personal phone numbers
- Private email addresses
- Financial information
- Family information
- Employment information
- Private correspondence

Doxxing or attempts to expose private information will result in immediate removal.

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## 9. No Spam or Self-Promotion

The community may not be used primarily for:

- Commercial promotion
- Sales activities
- Affiliate marketing
- Audience building
- Personal branding
- Repetitive solicitation

Relevant resources may be shared when they directly contribute to ongoing discussions.

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## 10. Follow the Law

Members must comply with all applicable laws and platform rules.

The following are prohibited:

- Threats of violence
  - Illegal activity
  - Fraud
  - Incitement
  - Election law violations
  - Encouragement of unlawful conduct
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## 11. Moderator Authority

Moderators are responsible for maintaining a productive environment.

Moderators may:

- Remove content
- Issue warnings
- Restrict participation
- Suspend accounts
- Remove members

when necessary to protect the community and mission.

Moderation decisions should be based on conduct and behavior, not political viewpoints.

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## 12. OCG Community Values

Members are encouraged to demonstrate:

### **Respect**

Treat others with dignity, even when disagreeing.

### **Curiosity**

Ask questions and seek understanding.

## **Accountability**

Take responsibility for your words and actions.

## **Evidence**

Value facts, sources, and honest inquiry.

## **Independence**

Think for yourself.

## **Civic Responsibility**

Focus on improving Ohio through constructive engagement.

## **Cooperation**

Work with others where common ground exists.

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# **13. Anti-Capture Principle**

Ohio Common Ground exists to serve Ohio voters, not political parties, candidates, donors, special interests, or ideological movements.

Members should help protect the independence of the organization by resisting efforts to redirect OCG toward partisan, factional, or personality-driven objectives.

The mission comes first.

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# **14. Reporting Concerns**

Members who observe violations of these standards are encouraged to report concerns to moderators or designated community administrators.

Reports will be reviewed fairly and confidentially whenever possible.

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# Community Commitment

By participating in the OCG Member Community, members affirm their commitment to:

- Respectful dialogue
  - Honest engagement
  - Evidence-based discussion
  - Lawful civic action
  - Organizational independence
  - Constructive problem-solving
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## The OCG Standard

**Be respectful.**

**Be truthful.**

**Be constructive.**

**Focus on solutions.**

**Put the mission above party, ideology, and personality.**

**Help build a stronger voice for Ohio voters.**

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