

Ohio Common Ground

County Chapter Structure and Governance Framework

Attorney Review Draft Update

Article I – County Chapter Purpose

County Chapters are the primary local organizational units of Ohio Common Ground.

County Chapters exist to:

- Recruit and retain members.
- Identify local concerns and priorities.
- Support statewide issue campaigns.
- Facilitate member engagement.
- Develop future organizational leadership.
- Strengthen local civic participation.
- Provide communication between members and State OCG.

County Chapters shall operate in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Constitutional Charter, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and all governing documents of Ohio Common Ground.

Article II – Chapter Classification System

To encourage orderly growth and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy, County Chapters shall be classified according to Voting Member participation.

Section 1 – Provisional Chapter

Requirements:

- Minimum 10 Voting Members
- Interim Chair appointed by State OCG
- Organizational meeting conducted

Rights:

- Recruit members

- Conduct meetings
- Participate in statewide programs

Restrictions:

- No delegate allocation
 - No independent finances unless approved
-

Section 2 – Chartered Chapter

Requirements:

- Minimum 25 Voting Members
- Election of required officers
- Adoption of chapter operating rules

Rights:

- Full chapter recognition
 - Delegate representation
 - Chapter financial activity
-

Section 3 – Established Chapter

Requirements:

- Minimum 100 Voting Members

Additional privileges:

- Standing committees
 - Expanded leadership structure
 - Enhanced delegate representation
-

Section 4 – Major Chapter

Requirements:

- Minimum 500 Voting Members

Additional privileges:

- Additional leadership positions
- Regional leadership responsibilities

- Statewide pilot program participation
-

Article III – County Leadership Structure

Required Elected Officers

Each Chartered Chapter shall elect:

Chair

Responsibilities:

- Lead chapter operations
- Preside over meetings
- Represent chapter to State OCG
- Execute chapter plans

Vice Chair

Responsibilities:

- Assist Chair
- Coordinate projects
- Act in Chair's absence

Secretary

Responsibilities:

- Records management
- Meeting minutes
- Chapter reports

Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- Financial oversight
- Budget reporting
- Compliance with financial policies

These officers shall collectively constitute the County Executive Committee.

Article IV – County Executive Committee

The County Executive Committee shall consist of:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- Administrative oversight
- Strategic planning
- Appointment of non-elected leaders
- Budget supervision
- Compliance oversight

The County Executive Committee may not:

- Override member voting rights
 - Amend State OCG governing documents
 - Exercise authority reserved to State OCG
-

Article V – Appointed Leadership

The County Executive Committee may establish and appoint:

Membership Director

Responsible for:

- Recruiting members
- Retention programs
- New member onboarding

Communications Director

Responsible for:

- Social media
- Newsletters
- Local media engagement

Events Director

Responsible for:

- Meetings
- Forums
- Community events

Legislative and Issues Coordinator

Responsible for:

- Issue monitoring
- Legislative tracking
- Accountability initiatives

Volunteer Coordinator

Responsible for:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer management
- Project staffing

Additional positions may be established with Executive Committee approval.

Article VI – Appointment Procedures

All appointed leadership positions shall be filled by majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

Candidates must:

- Be Voting Members in good standing
- Maintain membership for at least ninety (90) days
- Sign the Code of Conduct
- Complete required leadership training

Appointed leaders serve at the pleasure of the County Executive Committee.

State approval shall not be required except where specifically provided by OCG governing documents.

Article VII – Removal Procedures

Appointed Leaders

Appointed leaders may be removed by majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

Elected Officers

Elected officers may be removed only through:

- Member recall procedures
 - Governance and Integrity Committee action
 - Procedures established in State OCG governing documents
-

Article VIII – Phase-Based Leadership Growth

Phase I

10–99 Voting Members

Required:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Optional:

- Membership Director
 - Communications Director
 - Events Director
-

Phase II

100–249 Voting Members

Recommended additions:

- Legislative and Issues Coordinator
 - Volunteer Coordinator
-

Phase III

250–499 Voting Members

Standing Committees may be formed:

- Membership Committee
- Communications Committee
- Events Committee

Committee members shall be appointed by committee chairs subject to Executive Committee approval.

Phase IV

500+ Voting Members

Additional optional officers:

- Second Vice Chair
- Deputy Treasurer
- Deputy Secretary

Additional standing committees may be authorized.

Article IX – Anti-Capture Safeguards

The following office combinations are prohibited:

- Chair and Treasurer
- Chair and Secretary
- Secretary and Treasurer

No appointed leader may hold more than two appointed positions simultaneously.

No more than one immediate family member may serve simultaneously on the County Executive Committee.

County officers may not simultaneously serve as:

- State Ombudsman
- Governance and Integrity Committee member
- Paid employee of OCG

County Chapters shall not be used to advance:

- Political party interests
- Candidate campaigns
- Personal political organizations

All chapter activities shall remain consistent with the mission and independence of Ohio Common Ground.

Article X – Leadership Development

State OCG shall establish leadership training programs for county leaders.

Training may include:

- Governance
- Communications
- Membership growth
- Conflict resolution
- Meeting management
- Volunteer leadership
- Organizational ethics

Completion of required training may be a condition of continued service.

Article XI – Succession Planning

Each County Chapter shall maintain a written succession plan for:

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The purpose of succession planning is to ensure organizational continuity and reduce leadership disruption.

Article XII – Annual Chapter Review

Each County Chapter shall submit an annual report including:

- Membership totals
- Financial activity
- Leadership roster
- Activities conducted
- Goals for the upcoming year

State OCG may conduct periodic chapter reviews to ensure compliance with governing documents and organizational standards.

DRAFT