# IMPACTOHIC POST ELECTION CONFERENCE







the success group

**OHIO CAPITOL POLICY CONSULTANTS** 

Thursday, November 10, 2016 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Greater Columbus Convention Center 400 North High Street Columbus, Ohio

#### Made Possible By:

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#### In Conjunction With:

Ohio Democratic Party

**Ohio Republican Party** 



the **success** group

OHIO CAPITOL POLICY CONSULTANTS

Visit us at: www.impactohio.org **The Success Group** is one of Ohio's most influential public affairs and lobbying firms. For more than three decades, our integrity, political savvy, high standards and deep knowledge of the workings of government have helped our clients achieve their goals. Our enterprise and forward thinking have enabled us to thrive in today's uncertain environment of term limits.

Who we are and how we do things cannot be separated. Our longevity is built as much on our carefully guarded reputation as on our proven ability to achieve client objectives.

Most importantly, we earn our clients' trust and confidence. That's why we have been privileged to represent more than 250 businesses, trade associations and non-profit agencies. Our reputation is in their hands.

#### Dan McCarthy

Within The Success Group, Dan manages the firm's day-to-day business operations. While he has an extensive background in health care issues, Dan also serves a broad array of clients in transportation, telecommunications and other fields. He began developing his well-tested political instincts and deep understanding of Ohio's legislative bodies as a legislative aide specializing in budget issues in the Ohio House. He also managed a number of successful political campaigns for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly before joining The Success Group.

#### **Rick Ayish**

With 40 years of government experience, Rick has earned a reputation as a knowledgeable governmental affairs and political strategist with extensive experience in health care, insurance, transportation and environmental/energy policy in Ohio. In 1989 he founded Ohio Capitol Policy Consultants and merged with The Success Group in 2000. Prior to that, Rick served in senior governmental affairs positions with four Ohio Blue Cross and Blue Shield corporations and the Ohio State Medical Association. In addition, he worked as a Legislative Service Commission Fellow in the Ohio General Assembly and as an intern in the Office of the City Manager in Toledo. Rick is currently serving as Vice President of the National Association of State Lobbyists, a national network of state government affairs professionals.

#### **Mike Toman**

Known for keen attention to detail and expertise in such varied fields as criminal justice, human services, and organizational budgeting processes, Mike spent five years as a senior policy analyst with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. Prior to that, he worked with the Ohio Legislative Budget Office and the Ohio Supreme Court. Mike served as President of the Ohio Lobbying Association (OLA) and was a member of the OLA Board of Trustees for seven years. At The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, he designed and taught a government relations course and served on the College Alumni Society Board. Currently, Mike serves on the Board of Trustees for The Advocacy Group (TAG), a select international network of lobbying firms.

#### **McKenzie Davis**

McKenzie's early interest in politics and government were fueled by his work in the White House Communications Office and as a staffer on numerous political campaigns. He returned to Columbus to earn his juris doctorate at Capital University Law School. While attending law school, McKenzie interned at The Success Group and two prominent Columbus law firms. He also served as an Ohio Supreme Court Extern for Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton during law school. Prior to re-joining The Success Group, McKenzie served as the Director of Government Affairs for the Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes. Currently, McKenzie serves on the Board of Professional Conduct for the Supreme Court of Ohio.

#### Jennifer Flatter

Jennifer serves as Executive Director for Impact Ohio and has more than a decade of experience in government affairs. While earning her bachelor's degree at Capital University, she interned with The Success Group. Prior to re-joining the firm, she managed legislative affairs for the Ohio Department of Commerce, where she served as lead staff on Ohio's Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and focused on housing, real estate, financial institution, and federal policy issues. Previously, she served as a legislative aide in the Ohio Senate and on the Ohio Council on Women and Girls. Jennifer holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Ohio University and currently is an officer for Ohio Women in Government.

#### Mark Finneran

Mark joined The Success Group as an intern after working in the Ohio Statehouse and in several capacities for Congressional and statewide campaigns. His work at The Success Group focuses on monitoring committee hearings and legislative affairs important to our clients, acting as a liaison with various offices in the Statehouse, and conducting extensive legislative research. Mark is completing a degree in Political Science from The Ohio State University.



### 2016 Post Election Conference

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### CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15 a.m 8:45 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:45 a.m 9:00 a.m.	Conference Welcome Dan McCarthy, The Success Group
9:00 a.m 9:15 a.m.	Perspective from the Ohio Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni, Minority Leader, Ohio Senate
9:15 a.m9:30 a.m.	Perspective from the Ohio House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, Minority Leader, Ohio House of Representatives
9:30 a.m10:30 a.m.	<ul> <li>Campaign 2016: Political Insight Straight from the Pros Moderator: Dan McCarthy, The Success Group Panelists:</li> <li>Matthew Borges, Chairman, Ohio Republican Party</li> <li>Matt Carle, Executive Director, New Day for America and President, Cornerstone Consulting</li> <li>David Pepper, Chairman, Ohio Democratic Party</li> <li>Aaron Pickrell, Senior Advisor, Hillary for Ohio and Principal, Remington Road Group</li> </ul>
10:45 a.m Noon	Breakout Sessions (Choose One)
	<ul> <li>Setting the Post Election Medicaid, Health, and Human Services Policy Agenda</li> <li>Moderator: Mike Toman, The Success Group Panelists: <ul> <li>Senator Dave Burke, Chair, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee</li> <li>John McCarthy, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid</li> <li>Greg Moody, Director, Office of Health Transformation</li> <li>Representative Mark Romanchuk, Member, Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services</li> <li>Representative Emilia Sykes, Ranking Member, Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The Future of Ohio's Small Communities: Hope and Hopelessnes</li> <li>Moderator: Rick Ayish, The Success Group</li> <li>Panelists: <ul> <li>John Begala</li> <li>Trevor Brown, Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs</li> <li>Larry Long, CEO, The Ohio Projects Group</li> <li>Scott Schertzer, Mayor, City of Marion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul> <li>The Budget: Funding Priorities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 Moderator: McKenzie Davis, The Success Group Panelists:         <ul> <li>Representative Jack Cera, Member, House Finance and Appropriations Committee</li> <li>Senator Randy Gardner, Member, Senate Finance Committee</li> <li>Timothy Keen, Director, Office of Budget and Management</li> <li>Senator Michael Skindell, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee</li> <li>Representative Ryan Smith, Chair, House Finance and Appropriations Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	The Future of Higher Education as a Driving Force of Ohio's Economy Moderator: Dan McCarthy, The Success Group Panelists:
	<ul> <li>Michael V. Drake, President, The Ohio State University</li> <li>Marvin Krislov, President, Oberlin College</li> <li>Bruce Johnson, President and CEO of the Inter-University Council</li> <li>Steven Johnson, President, Sinclair College</li> </ul>
Noon- 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Recognition of Sponsors Dan McCarthy, The Success Group
1:00 p.m 1:30 p.m.	Networking and Refreshments
1:30 p.m 1:35 p.m.	Reconvening Comments Jennifer Flatter, The Success Group
1:35 p.m 2:00 p.m.	Perspective from the Ohio Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger, Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
2:00 p.m 2:25 p.m.	Perspective from the Ohio Senate President Keith Faber, President, Ohio Senate
2:30 p.m 3:30 p.m.	<ul> <li>The Inside Edition: Ohio's 2016 Election</li> <li>Moderator: Jenny Camper, Lesic &amp; Camper Communications</li> <li>Panelists: <ul> <li>Julie Carr Smyth, Statehouse Correspondent, The Associated Press</li> <li>Michael Douglas, Editorial Page Editor, Akron Beacon Journal</li> <li>Darrel Rowland, Public Affairs Editor, The Columbus Dispatch</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

• Chrissie Thompson, Capital Bureau Chief, Cincinnati Enquirer

#### John Begala

John Begala is an executive, strategist, and community leader with a wide range of experience in both the public and nonprofit sectors. Mr. Begala served as Executive Director of Cleveland, Ohio's Center for Community Solutions from 1998 through 2004, and again from 2008 through 2014. Prior to then, he served as a senior executive for several health care institutions, was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, served on the City Council of Kent, Ohio, and has been an adjunct professor at several Ohio universities. His publications on public policy include, most recently, "Big City Problems in Ohio's Small Towns."

### Matthew Borges, Chairman, Ohio Republican Party

Chairman Matthew Borges brings 26 years of political experience to the Ohio Republican Party. His background as a seasoned operative for campaigns at the national, state and local levels has helped usher in an era of unprecedented success for Republicans in Ohio. At this time, Republicans hold all five statewide offices, maintain a 6-1 majority on the Ohio Supreme Court, hold 12 of the 16 congressional districts, and Sen. Rob Portman's U.S. Senate seat. Borges is a graduate of The Ohio State University. He resides in Bexley with his wife Kate and their three children.

### Dr. Trevor Brown, Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs

As Dean of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Dr. Trevor Brown is an expert in public management, organizational theory, contracting and contract management, and strategic management and performance measurement. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing recognized him as the Scholar of the Year in 2013. Dr. Brown received his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Science from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University.

#### **State Senator Dave Burke**

Senator Burke is a graduate of Ohio Northern University and Capital University. In 1997, he and his wife Donna opened Dave's Pharmacy located in Marysville, Ohio. Dave's Pharmacy is still successful to this day. Senator Burke currently serves the 26<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District and is the Chairman of the Senate Medicaid Committee, as well as the Chairman of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. Senator Burke has devoted his time and knowledge to improving health-care treatment and cost in the areas of Medicaid, prevention of drug abuse, and improving access to behavioral health. Senator Burke has been married to his wife Donna for over 20 years and has two wonderful children.

#### Jenny Camper, President, Lesic & Camper Communications

With more than 25 years of experience in statewide media relations, government, campaigns, and strategic communications, Camper's Columbus office works with corporations, non-profits, national and state associations, issues campaigns, and government agencies. The firm's client list includes many notables such as: the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Energy Transfer Partners, Wal-Mart, and Pfizer, just to name a few. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Camper completed her coursework for an advanced degree at Ohio University.

### Matt Carle, Executive Director, New Day for America and President, Cornerstone Consulting

Matt Carle has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of government affairs and political management. Carle previously served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor to Governor John Kasich. Most recently, Carle managed Governor Kasich's reelection in 2014 and served as the Executive Director for New Day for America, which was the Super PAC organized to support Kasich's presidential campaign. His resume has been called, "a who's-who of Ohio GOP politics over the last two decades" and includes work for the Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Auditor, Ohio Supreme Court, and multiple U.S. Senate races.

### Julie Carr Smyth, Statehouse Correspondent, The Associated Press

Julie Carr Smyth has covered the Ohio Statehouse since 2000, first as a legislative and investigative reporter for The Plain Dealer of Cleveland and, since 2006, as Statehouse Correspondent for The Associated Press. Her previous work includes stints at The Orlando Sentinel and The (Albany, NY) Times Union. Carr Smyth makes frequent public appearances before college classes, professional groups, and on television and radio. A Columbus native, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Journalism from The Ohio State University, where she was a 1991 Kiplinger Fellow.

#### State Representative Jack Cera

Representative Jack Cera represents House District 96, which encompasses all of Jefferson and Monroe Counties, and part of Belmont County. He first served in the legislature from 1983-1996. He returned to the legislature in 2012 and currently serves as the Assistant Minority Whip. A Brown University graduate, he is married with two daughters. Representative Cera serves as a strong voice for his district, supporting Ohio's working families and the elderly. He advocates for economic development, restoring funding to local governments, and providing affordable education and health care to all Ohioans.

#### Michael Douglas, Editorial Page Editor, Akron Beacon Journal

Michael Douglas joined the Akron Beacon Journal in 1983 as an editorial writer. He worked for a time as a reporter for the newspaper. He returned to the editorial board in 1991, becoming the Chief Editorial Writer in May of that year. In 1999, Douglas assumed his current position of Editorial Page Editor, in which he is responsible for the opinions expressed by the newspaper, letters to the editor, and the commentary that appears on the op/ed page. He and his wife, Sue, live in Akron. They have one daughter.

#### Dr. Michael V. Drake, President, The Ohio State University

Dr. Michael Drake's service in higher education spans nearly four decades and includes senior leadership roles at universities and organizations dedicated to advancing education. He became the 15<sup>th</sup> president of The Ohio State University in 2014. Dr. Drake is an alumnus of Stanford University (B.A.) and UC San Francisco (M.D.), and holds three honorary degrees. He is an elected member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Before coming to The Ohio State University, Dr. Drake served as Chancellor of the University of California, Irvine.

#### Senate President Keith Faber

Senate President Keith Faber has dedicated the past 15 years to serving Ohioans in the Statehouse. He represents the 12<sup>th</sup> State Senate District, encompassing all of Allen, Champaign, Mercer, and Shelby counties, as well as portions of Auglaize, Darke, and Logan counties. Senator Faber is currently serving in his second term as President. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served three terms in the Ohio House of Representatives. President Faber and his wife Andrea reside in Celina with their two children, and their family attends Immaculate Conception Parish.

#### **State Senator Randy Gardner**

Senator Randy Gardner is serving northern Ohio in the Ohio Senate, having served previously in the Senate and in the House of Representatives since 1985. A well-respected leader in state government, Senator Gardner has previously served in many leadership posts in the General Assembly including Senate Majority Leader, Senate President Pro Tempore, House Majority Leader, and House Speaker Pro Tempore. Senator Gardner received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Bowling Green State University. In addition to his career in public service, he has worked as a realtor and a high school history and government teacher.

#### Bruce Johnson, President and CEO, Inter-University Council of Ohio

Bruce Johnson has served as the President and CEO of the Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC) since 2006. The IUC is an association that provides its member institutions with opportunities to collaborate for the benefit of higher education in Ohio. Before joining the IUC, Johnson served as Lt. Governor of Ohio and State Development Director. Johnson was previously a member of the Ohio Senate where he served as President Pro Tempore, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He earned his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and his Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School.

#### Dr. Steven Johnson, President, Sinclair College

Dr. Steven Johnson began serving as President of Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio, in 2003. Dr. Johnson has been named regional leader of the year, was named by the Dayton Business Journal as among the top leaders of the decade for the Dayton region, and as one of the "12 Most Influential People" of 2012. He has also been honored as Humanitarian of the Year by the National Conference for Community and Justice. Dr. Johnson is the past board chair of the League for Innovation in the Community College. He is a past co-chair of the annual campaign for the United Way of Greater Dayton, and serves on a number of local non-profit boards.

#### Timothy Keen, Director, Ohio Office of Budget and Management

Tim Keen became Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) in January of 2011, serving as the Governor's chief financial officer for a second time. Director Keen has a long history of public service, beginning his career as a budget analyst with the Ohio Legislative Budget Office. He then went on to build his career in public budgeting, earning titles such as Deputy Director of Policy Development at Office of Budget and Management, Assistant Director of OBM, Director of OBM under the administration of Governor Bob Taft, and Senior Policy Advisor to Auditor of State Mary Taylor.

#### Marvin Krislov, President, Oberlin College

Marvin Krislov became the 14<sup>th</sup> President of Oberlin College in 2007. Under his leadership, Oberlin College and Conservatory entered a new era of environmental action and sustainability. With the launch of The Oberlin Project, an innovative collaboration between the city, college, and public schools to support an environmentally sustainable community, the aim has been to promote economic development and education. President Krislov earned a bachelor's degree at Yale University in 1982, and was named a Rhodes Scholar. He earned master's degrees at Oxford University and Yale, and a Juris Doctorate degree at Yale Law School in 1988.

### Larry L. Long, CEO, The Ohio Projects Group

Larry Long is the CEO of The Ohio Projects Group LLC, a small management consulting firm specializing in local government, legislative representation, issue campaigns, and association management. Long retired as Executive Director of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio in 2013 after serving the organization in a number of capacities for nearly 40 years. Long is a 1968 graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Geography. In addition to his consulting work, he teaches a course on local government at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. Long was recently appointed by Governor John Kasich as chair of the State Audit Committee.

### John McCarthy, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

As State Medicaid Director, John McCarthy oversees the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio's first cabinet-level state Medicaid agency. The department has become a cornerstone of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, which Governor Kasich created in 2011. Prior to overseeing Ohio Department of Medicaid, McCarthy served as Medicaid Director for the District of Columbia. He also spent ten years with EP&P Consulting, where he worked with many states, including Ohio, to help reform their Medicaid programs. He has a master's degree in Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry, both from Indiana University.

#### Greg Moody, Director, Ohio Office of Health Transformation

Governor John Kasich appointed Greg Moody as Director of the Ohio Office of Health Transformation in January 2011, which leads the state's efforts to modernize Medicaid, streamline health and human services programs, and improve overall health system performance. He began his public service career as a budget associate for the U.S. House Budget Committee. The Budget Chairman at the time, Representative John Kasich, asked Moody to study the impact of Medicaid on federal spending—an assignment that set the course for his public policy career. Moody has a master's degree in Philosophy from George Washington University and bachelor's degree in Economics from Miami University.

#### David Pepper, Chairman, Ohio Democratic Party

David Pepper was unanimously elected Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party in 2014 and began his term in January 2015. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Pepper is a fifth-generation Cincinnatian. Pepper was first elected to public office in 2001 when he served on the Cincinnati City Council, and was reelected for a second term in 2003. In 2006, Pepper was elected to the three-member Hamilton County Commission. He served as the Commission President from 2009-2010. Pepper earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Yale University, and later earned his J.D. from Yale Law School. He resides in Cincinnati, with his wife Alana and their son Jack.

### Aaron Pickrell, Senior Advisor, Hillary for Ohio and Principal, Remington Road Group

Pickrell has served as a leader in national, state, and local campaigns over the years. In 2012, Politico included him in their "50 Politicos to Watch", and Campaigns and Elections Magazine named Pickrell as one of the top professionals and leading political influencers in the consulting business in Ohio. Pickrell has spent two decades working in politics and government, most recently as a Senior Advisor of the Hillary for Ohio campaign. Previously, he has had prominent roles in both of President Obama's Ohio election campaigns. He is a graduate of Iowa State University and lives in Bexley, Ohio with his wife, Joanne, and his two daughters.

#### State Representative Mark Romanchuk

State Representative Mark Romanchuk is serving his second term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio House District, which comprises all of Richland County. Representative Romanchuk has nearly 30 years of experience in small business, systems engineering and management, and community development. Prior to his current work with PR Machine Works, he worked at Hughes Aircraft Company as a U.S. diplomat to the former Soviet Union in support of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. He also had been based in Japan as a team leader and technical advisor to the U.S. Navy in support of the F/A–18 aircraft. He currently resides in Ontario, Ohio with his wife, Zoi.

#### House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger

State Representative Cliff Rosenberger is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 91<sup>st</sup> House District, which includes Clinton, Highland, and Pike counties, and parts of Ross County. For the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly his fellow representatives voted him to serve as Speaker of the House. Speaker Rosenberger is an Air Force veteran, formerly assigned to the 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, which he enlisted in shortly after graduating from Clinton Massie High School. The Speaker has a long tradition of civic accomplishments in his hometown of Clarksville, where he resides today.

#### Darrel Rowland, Public Affairs Editor, The Columbus Dispatch

Darrel Rowland has been public affairs editor of The Dispatch since 1999. He and the Dispatch public affairs team have won numerous awards in recent years, including recognition for the best political coverage in Ohio. Previously, Rowland was an urban affairs, general assignment, and special projects reporter at The Dispatch. Earlier he was metro/special projects editor at the Warren Tribune Chronicle and city/special projects editor at the Mansfield News Journal. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University.

#### Mayor Scott Schertzer, City of Marion, Ohio

In November of 2015, Mayor Scott Schertzer was reelected to his third term as Mayor of Marion, Ohio. Before serving as Mayor, Schertzer served the City of Marion as an At-Large City Councilman for nine years. Mayor Schertzer was an educator in Marion County for 13 years. He also worked for Mary Ellen Withrow in the Ohio Treasurer of State's office, as well as Sherrod Brown in the Ohio Secretary of State's office. Mayor Schertzer is a graduate of Ridgedale High School and the University of Toledo, where he received his bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education. Mayor Schertzer and his wife, Ann, have two daughters, Sydney and Olivia.

#### State Senator Joe Schiavoni

Senator Joe Schiavoni represents the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District, which encompasses all of Columbiana and Mahoning Counties. In 2013, Senator Schiavoni's colleagues unanimously elected him the Democratic Leader of the Senate. He had previously served two years as Assistant Senate Democratic Leader. He graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication. Schiavoni then earned his Juris Doctorate at Capital University. Following law school, Schiavoni was admitted to the Ohio Bar. He has since practiced workers' compensation law, protecting injured workers at the law firm Schiavoni, Schiavoni, Bush and Muldowney.

#### State Senator Michael Skindell

Michael J. Skindell of Lakewood was elected to serve Ohio's 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District in November 2010. He comes from the Ohio House of Representatives, where he served four terms as the Representative of Ohio's 13<sup>th</sup> House District. Senator Skindell has long respected the laws of the state of Ohio—both how they are made, and how they are enforced. After graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Business and Political Science from Walsh College, Skindell earned his law degree from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

#### **State Representative Ryan Smith**

Ohio House District 93 sent Representative Ryan Smith to the General Assembly in 2012, where he is currently serving his second term. Previously, Representative Smith worked as a financial advisor for 19 years and is now the Chairman of the House Finance Committee. Representative Smith maintains an active role in his community though civic involvement. In the past, he has served as President of the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce and the Gallia County Community Improvement Corporation. Representative Smith is a former member of the Gallipolis School Board of Education and is active in his local church.

#### **State Representative Fred Strahorn**

House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn returned to the Ohio House in 2013, after serving as State Senator for the fifth district from 2009 to 2011 and Senior Political Advisor to the Ohio Democratic Party from 2011 to 2013. He previously served citizens of the greater Dayton area as State Representative from 2001 to 2008, including two years as House Minority Whip, before term limits prevented him from seeking reelection. Representative Strahorn graduated from The Ohio State University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts in Aviation Management. He is a member of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, and his greatest joy in life is his daughter, Morgan Allison.

#### **State Representative Emilia Sykes**

Born and raised in Akron, State Representative Emilia Strong Sykes was elected to represent her hometown in November 2014. She has worked with healthcare professionals and colleagues to improve public health, increase access to care, and combat Ohio's high infant mortality rate. Sykes attended Kent State University, graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. in Psychology. She later attended the University of Florida, where she earned a Juris Doctorate with a Certificate in Family Law from the Levin College of Law and a Master's of Public Health from the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

#### Chrissie Thompson, Columbus Bureau Chief, Cincinnati Enquirer

Chrissie Thompson is the Columbus Bureau Chief for The Cincinnati Enquirer and the USA Today Network. This election cycle, she covered Governor John Kasich's presidential bid and the presidential race in Ohio, while directing coverage of state government and the U.S. Senate race. She moved to Ohio in 2013 after five years covering the auto industry in Detroit—first for Automotive News, a leading trade journal, and then for the Detroit Free Press. Thompson holds degrees from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana and the University of Michigan. She lives in Delaware with her husband, who is a professor at Ohio Wesleyan University.



In recognition of our panelists and speakers, The Success Group has made a charitable donation in lieu of personal tokens of appreciation. This year's donation is to Ohio YMCA Youth & Government.

Ohio YMCA Youth & Government is a three-day learning conference in which students participate directly in a simulation of the democratic process. YG offers students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of issues, develop critical thinking skills, and articulate their beliefs while engaging constructively with those who hold like and opposing views.

YMCA Youth & Government includes all three branches of government, as well as the Press Corp. In the legislative program, student legislators elect their leadership and write bills throughout the school year, culminating by debating these bills at the Ohio Statehouse in committee and on the floor.

The executive branch of YG includes a race each year for Youth Governor. Candidates create platforms and advocate their qualifications during the gubernatorial debate and campaigning.

In the judicial program, student justices preside over a Youth Supreme Court. Student attorneys prepare briefs for the Court, as well as present oral arguments.

Since media can be considered the fourth branch of government, YG includes a student Press Corp. Student journalists research and write articles, blog, and conduct taped interviews of participants.



Coverage of Impact Ohio Post Election Conference will be available online and broadcast statewide on local PBS channels courtesy of the Ohio Channel.

The Ohio Channel combines Statehouse coverage with locally produced PBS programs to give a statewide perspective on issues that affect the lives of all Ohioans.

You can watch The Ohio Channel on your local PBS station and on your desktop or mobile device. For past and present Impact Ohio videos, visit **ohiochannel.org/impactohio**.



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