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Ohio Business Community Endorses Hawkins, O'Donnell for Ohio Supreme Court

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Five of Ohio's leading business organizations today announced their support for Justice Dan Hawkins and Colleen O'Donnell in the 2026 elections for the Ohio Supreme Court.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB Ohio, Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio Manufacturers' Association announced their endorsements at an event Tuesday at the Ohio Chamber, citing the candidates' judicial experience, commitment to the rule of law and ability to provide the stability and predictability that Ohio's business community needs.

Leaders from each organization spoke about the critical role the Ohio Supreme Court plays in determining how Ohio laws are interpreted and applied, making its decisions consequential for businesses of every size and in every industry. They emphasized that a stable and predictable legal environment gives businesses the confidence to invest, hire, grow and plan for the future.

For Ohio's business community, they shared, that means electing justices who will faithfully interpret the law and exercise judicial restraint rather than creating new policy from the bench.

"Ohio businesses need a Supreme Court that understands the importance of a stable, predictable legal system and the role that plays in our state's economic success. Justice Dan Hawkins and Colleen O'Donnell bring the experience, judgment and commitment to the rule of

law that Ohio needs on its highest court. We are proud to support them.” —**Steve Stivers, President & CEO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce**

“As the last line of defense for many small businesses, our members are pleased to endorse two candidates that will be fair and impartial Justices on the Ohio Supreme Court. Dan Hawkins and Colleen O’Donnell will both prove to be reliable supporters of small businesses on the bench. We are proud to join Ohio’s business community today to endorse Dan Hawkins and Colleen O’Donnell for the Ohio Supreme Court, because they understand the role of the Ohio Supreme Court is to interpret the law, not create it.” —**Jared Weiser, State Director, NFIB Ohio**

“Manufacturing is Ohio’s largest economic sector, and manufacturers make investments measured in decades, not election cycles. The decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court have real consequences for those investments, from contracts and taxes to workers’ compensation and regulation. Justice Dan Hawkins and Colleen O’Donnell understand that courts should provide certainty by applying the law as written, not creating new policy from the bench.” —**Ryan Augsburger, President, Ohio Manufacturers’ Association**

“Just like on my farm, families across Ohio are struggling with the high cost of expenses needed to make their farms successful. Undoubtedly, our legal system, especially if unpredictable and inconsistent, can significantly increase the costs on every Ohioan. Now more than ever, Ohio’s agricultural community needs a consistent Ohio Supreme Court. Ohio Farm Bureau’s Agriculture for Good Government PAC is proud to support Justice Dan Hawkins in his re-election effort, and Colleen O’Donnell in her candidacy for the court. They both have a strong record of working to maintain a stable and predictable judicial system, respecting the co-equal branches of government, and recognizing the impact the courts can have on the livelihood of Ohio farm families.” —**Adele Flynn, Treasurer, Ohio Farm Bureau**

“The Ohio Business Roundtable was founded during a time when activist courts too often blurred the line between interpreting the law and making it from the bench. Ohio’s business leaders understand a strong economy depends on a predictable legal environment and judges who respect the constitutional separation of powers. Justice Hawkins and Judge O’Donnell will apply the law as it is written, not as they wish it were. That is the balanced approach Ohioans can trust to keep our communities fair, competitive and thriving.” —**Pat Tiberi, President & CEO, Ohio Business Roundtable**

Justice Dan Hawkins brings extensive judicial and legal experience to the Supreme Court. Before joining the Court in 2024, he served on the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and previously spent 13 years as a trial prosecutor in the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office. He also served on the Franklin County Municipal Court’s Environmental Division.

Colleen O’Donnell also has extensive experience on the bench and in legal practice. She served nearly a decade as a Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judge, handling civil and criminal cases, and previously practiced law representing manufacturers and business clients. Her career

has also included service with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the federal judiciary.

The general election will be held on November 3, 2026.

About the Ohio Chamber of Commerce

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Its mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

About NFIB

For over 80 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses, and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.

About the Ohio Manufacturers' Association

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

About the Ohio Farm Bureau

Ohio Farm Bureau's mission is working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities. Learn more at ohiofarmbureau.org.

About the Ohio Business Roundtable

The Ohio Business Roundtable (OBRT) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization comprised of over 130 presidents and CEOs of Ohio's top companies, a third of which are headquartered in the state and one third of which are Fortune 1000 companies. Because of the collective expertise and insight of OBRT members, the Roundtable is uniquely capable of bringing solutions to improve Ohio's economic vitality and ensure that Ohio remains the ideal state in which to live, work and succeed.

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