



**OHIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2026

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Ohio Chamber Research Foundation Releases Updated Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation today unveiled its 2026 *Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future*, a comprehensive update of the organization's landmark document, at a release event held at the Ohio Chamber offices in downtown Columbus.

The *Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future* was originally released in 2022. Its goal was to assess Ohio's economic competitiveness as it compared to other states and to propose a framework for growth in the coming years.

Because the competitiveness landscape has shifted significantly in the last four years, the Chamber saw it fit to release a new version of the *Blueprint* with updated analysis and recommendations.

Developed in partnership with Accenture, the updated *Blueprint* examines Ohio's performance across six key levers of competitiveness: Education & Workforce, Infrastructure, Taxes & Costs, Business Friendliness, Innovation & Collaboration, and Sense of Place. The report highlights significant progress since the *Blueprint's* initial release while identifying critical challenges that must still be addressed.

"Ohio has built tremendous momentum over the last several years, but we cannot afford to become complacent," said Steve Stivers, President & CEO of the Ohio Chamber. "Our state has proven it can compete with the best in the nation. This *Blueprint* provides a clear strategy for how we can build on that success, address our remaining challenges and position Ohio for sustained economic growth in an increasingly competitive global economy."

The report notes that Ohio has improved its national standing in several key measures of competitiveness since 2022. When the original *Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future* was first released, Ohio was ranked 15th overall in CNBC's annual "Top States for Business" list.

Many of the proposed solutions from that report were utilized to help create legislation and public programs that advanced the Chamber's vision. Then, in CNBC's most recent ranking released in 2025, Ohio was named the country's 5th-best state for business, its highest placement yet.

The updated document also highlights areas where Ohio continues to face challenges. According to the report, Ohio's long-term success will depend on its ability to address workforce shortages, expand housing availability, strengthen energy and water infrastructure, improve talent development systems and accelerate innovation-driven growth.

At the center of the *2026 Blueprint* is a goal of achieving sustained annual GDP growth of at least 3 percent, a benchmark the report identifies as critical to maintaining Ohio's competitiveness and creating greater economic opportunity for Ohioans.

"The question facing Ohio is no longer whether we have the assets to compete," said Stivers. "We know we do. The question now is whether we can execute with the speed, coordination and focus necessary to capitalize on the opportunities in front of us. This *Blueprint* is designed to help leaders across Ohio align around that mission."

The report's top recommendations include:

- Expanding employer-led workforce development and work-based learning opportunities
- Increasing workforce participation by addressing barriers such as childcare availability
- Accelerating housing development and affordability initiatives
- Strengthening Ohio's energy, water and broadband infrastructure
- Expanding innovation and commercialization efforts in emerging industries
- Improving regulatory certainty and business competitiveness

A copy of the full *2026 Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future* and its Executive Summary is available [here](#).

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