

2023 ANNUAL REVIEW



MAYORS'
PARTNERSHIP
FOR PROGRESS

WHO WE ARE

The Mayors' Partnership for Progress (MPP) brings together mayors and city managers from cities and villages throughout Appalachian Ohio to share information and resources and tackle common issues faced by municipalities throughout the region.

The mayors began meeting in 1995 from the vision of several regional mayors to provide leaders from small, rural communities a stronger, regional voice. In 1996, they formally incorporated as the Mayors' Partnership for Progress, signing an agreement for technical assistance with Ohio University's George Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service (GVS). The organization later became a nonprofit in 2003.

The Mayors' Partnership meets on a monthly basis. The three core functions are:

1. Sharing of Information, concerns, advice, and resources.
2. Informational forums regarding issues of potential impact and technical assistance.
3. Provides a platform for local leaders to communicate with political stateholders.



MPP POPULATION BY COUNTY

Reaching municipalities across 19 southeast Ohio counties,
totaling a citizen population of nearly 800,000.

ATHENS: 58,979
GALLIA: 29,068
GUERNSEY: 38,098
HIGHLAND: 43,391
HOCKING: 27,858
JACKSON: 32,586
LAWRENCE: 56,653
MEIGS: 21,969
MONROE: 13,234
MORGAN: 13,802
MUSKINGUM: 86,113
NOBLE: 14,335
PIKE: 27,005
PERRY: 35,480
ROSS: 76,606
SCIOTO: 72,194
TUSCARAWAS: 91,937
VINTON: 12,565
WASHINGTON: 58,901

TOTAL: 796,972

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau



MONTHLY SUMMARIES

JANUARY:

MPP members discussed 2023 and the establishment of priorities.

FEBRUARY:

Matt Wiederhold, Executive Director of Heritage Ohio, gave a presentation on preservation and downtown revitalization efforts across the state through Heritage Ohio.

MARCH:

The MPP heard from multiple state leaders for Legislative Advocacy Day. Speakers included Ohio Lieutenant Governor, the Ohio Municipal League, the USDA Rural Development Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Development, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, and JobsOhio.



ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks



Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted

APRIL:

Leaders from OneOhio Recovery Foundation spoke about addiction recovery and treatment in Ohio. The Foundation is a private, non-profit organization created at the direction of Ohio's state and local leaders to distribute 55 percent of the funds our state will receive from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic.



OneOhio Interim Executive Director Kathryn Whittington

MAY:

Elkan Kim and Matt Trainer from Ohio University's Voinovich School IT/GIS Data Analytics gave a presentation about the Appalachian Ohio Asset Mapping Tool. This map gathered many datasets of assets in Appalachian Ohio to assist the communities as they use this data to apply for grants.

JUNE:

JobsOhio presented about programs that support economic development in small and medium sized communities through the JobsOhio Vibrant Community Program.

The MPP also received the technical assistance grant agreement from the state for the Appalachian Community Grant Program.

JULY:

Misty Crosby, Senior Executive in Residence with the Voinovich School, presented information on the GIS MOU partnership. This MOU promotes knowledge-sharing and joint training initiatives among the GVS and the local development districts for a centralized and collaborative data-sharing model for the Appalachian region.

The GVS secured a \$1 million line item in the state budget for technical assistance and access to experts.

AUGUST:

Dorina Byers, Deputy Director of Operations at Auditor of State Keith Faber's Office presented about performance audits.

SEPTEMBER:

Members took a tour of the Somerset Builder's Club and viewed a presentation on broadband and artificial intelligence with Intel and Ohio Transparent Telecom.

A Housing Committee was formed to look at housing issues in the MPP footprint.

OCTOBER:

The Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Local Programs presented about transportation infrastructure for funding local communities.

NOVEMBER:

MPP annual elections occurred, current leadership remained in place.

DECEMBER:

The Gallipolis in Lights Committee presented on their accomplishments and how their organization works.

Jennifer Lyle, Mayor of New Concord, on behalf of the MPP, provided testimony at the Senate Select Committee on Housing hearing in Marietta.



Thank you to the MPP Leadership for Another Successful Year!

President: Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens

Vice President: Jennifer Lyle, Mayor of New Concord

Treasurer: Jim Ullman, Mayor of Beverly

Executive Director: Amista Lipot

Senior Executive in Residence: Misty Crosby

Senior Project Manager, Member Services: Tracy Galway

Undergraduate Research Scholar: Alyssa Manning



mayorspartnership@gmail.com

<https://www.mayorspartnership.org>