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Governor Signs Executive Order Establishing the Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council

Columbus, Ohio – Governor Ted Strickland today signed an executive order establishing the Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council, which will work to enhance volunteer, educational and employment opportunities for older Ohioans.

“As Ohio’s population of older adults grows, we must give them the resources and opportunities they need to continue leading productive, fulfilling lives,” Strickland said.

The U.S. Census Bureau projects that from 2005 to 2015, the entire working-age population of Ohio will grow by 224,000. At the same time, the population of Ohioans who are age 55 and older will increase by more than 552,000. The statistics show that a large portion of the growth in the working-age population will be generated by these older Ohioans.

“Older adults will play a major role in Ohio’s economic success for the next several years,” Strickland said. “The Council will work to keep them active and engaged in their communities and careers, as well as help employers prepare for changing workforce needs.”

The Senior Civic Engagement Council will coordinate with the Ohio Workforce Policy Board regarding senior employment policies and activities, collect data about the engagement of older adults in employment, volunteer and educational activities and its impact on their health and well-being, and promote policies that enhance job opportunities, increase volunteerism and make educational opportunities available to older Ohioans.

Additionally, the Council will help business leaders and the workforce development system prepare for and offer services to Ohio’s growing number of older workers.

The Council will be led by the Director of the Ohio Department of Aging and include representatives from Ohio’s Area Agencies on Aging, the Ohio Board of Regents, the Ohio Workforce Development Office and the Ohio Community Service Council, as well as representatives from the business sector, advocates for aging issues and older Ohioans.

The full text of the executive order is below:



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2008 – 10S

Creating the Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council

1. **Positive Lifestyle Choices are Helping Ohioans Live Longer.** Statistics show that, on average, 12,000 Ohioans turn sixty every month. Through breakthroughs in medicine, knowledge of proper nutrition, and changes in the nature of work responsibilities, today's older Ohioans have the ability to enjoy vibrant, productive, and independent lives. As such, the State has an opportunity to utilize the skills and talents of this segment of our citizenry and to benefit from the contributions that older Ohioans are making in the workplace, in volunteer service to our communities, and in the sharing of wisdom and experiences.
2. **Older Ohioans Are Becoming a Larger Part of the Available Skilled Workforce.** The U.S. Census bureau projects that, from 2005 to 2015, the entire working-age population of Ohio will grow by only 224,000 or 2.5%, which is only one-fourth of the projected population growth rate of the nation over the same time period. On the other hand, the State's population of those 55 and over is projected to grow by more than 552,000. Consequently, a large segment of the growth in the working-age population of Ohio during the decade from 2005 through 2015 will be generated by persons 55 and older. As a result, the State must encourage the recruitment, retention and re-training of older workers. Moreover, employers should consider developing strategies and initiatives to address the workplace needs of older Ohioans, as well as working collaboratively with them to develop a plan of action for training future business leaders.
3. **The State is Committed to Facilitating Volunteer and Educational Opportunities that Enhance the Lives of Older Ohioans.** By virtue of their continued health and vitality, older Ohioans are looking for new and creative ways not only to serve their communities, but to begin or continue their

quests for career skill training and personal enrichment learning. Thus, the State has an opportunity to facilitate opportunities in these areas and, ultimately, enhance the lives of all Ohioans.

4. **Establishment of the Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council.** In order to ensure that Ohioans of advanced years are afforded the opportunity to remain healthy and active through employment, volunteerism and learning opportunities, and to ensure that Ohio's businesses and organizations, communities, and institutions of higher learning are able to benefit from the contributions made by all Ohioans, I hereby order the creation of the Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council (the "Senior Engagement Council").
5. **Role of the Council.** The role of the Senior Engagement Council will be to:
 - a. Coordinate with the Ohio Workforce Policy Advisory Board and/or committees addressing senior employment regarding Ohio's senior employment policies and activities.
 - b. Collect and analyze data on the participation of older adults in employment, volunteerism, and lifelong learning opportunities, particularly as it pertains to such engagements' impact on the health and well-being of older adults.
 - c. Promote policies and legislation that will favorably impact the continued employment or re-employment of older adults.
 - d. Promote policies and practices that increase the number of older Ohioans participating in volunteer opportunities that are of service to their communities.
 - e. Promote policies and practices that encourage older Ohioans to take full advantage of the state educational system.
 - f. Provide information to Ohio's business leaders, economic development leaders, and workforce development system that will enable them to better prepare for and offer service to Ohio's growing number of older adults.
6. **Council Composition.** I will appoint the following persons to the Senior Engagement Council:
 - a. The Director of the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and a representative of Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging;

- b. One member selected by the President of the Ohio Senate and one member selected by the Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate;
 - c. One member selected by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and one member selected by the Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives;
 - d. Representatives of diverse sectors of business and industry in the State;
 - e. A representative from the Ohio Board of Regents;
 - f. A representative from the Ohio Workforce Development Office;
 - g. A representative from the Ohio Department of Development;
 - h. A representative from the Ohio Community Service Council;
 - i. A representative of advocates for aging issues;
 - j. An older Ohio worker;
 - k. An older Ohio volunteer;
 - l. Other representatives as recommended by the Director of ODA.
7. **Governance; Support Staff; Meetings; Compensation.** The Senior Engagement Council may adopt by-laws setting forth rules for its governance and the conduct of its meetings. The Director of ODA will provide leadership and staff for the Council, and will call meetings as needed. The Director of the ODA is authorized to create subcommittees and establish membership criteria as needed. Members of the Council will not be compensated for their participation on the Council. However, consistent with Executive Orders previously issued, members may be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in conducting the business of the Council. Such expenses shall be paid by ODA.
8. I signed this Executive Order on May 20, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire on my last day as Governor unless rescinded before then.

Ted Strickland, Governor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State