



ORGANIZING FOR OHIO'S FUTURE

Building a multiracial,
people-powered Ohio.
For all of us

2022 End-Of-Year
Report

TAX CRE

HISTORY AND MISSION

Formed in 2007, the Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC) is a grassroots organization uniting community groups, student associations, and faith organizations with policy institutes and labor unions across Ohio. It is our mission to organize membership bases of everyday Ohioans for racial, social, and economic justice in our state.

ALL IN FOR OHIO
AN OHIO FOR ALL OF US.

CEO
— THE CARING ECONOMY ORGANIZING PROJECT —

AMOS PROJECT



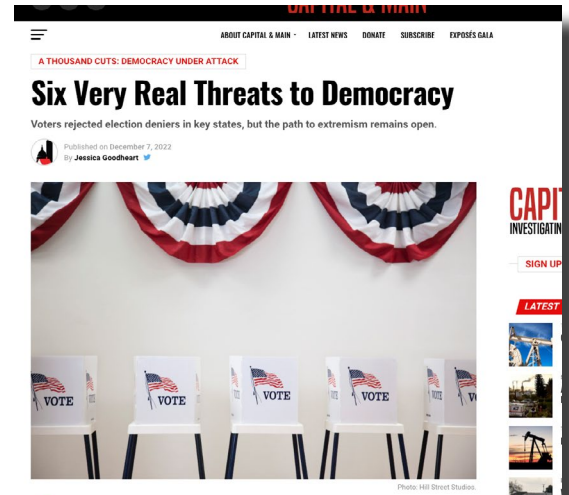
ALL IN FOR OHIOKIDS



OUR VISION

Our vision is to build a multiracial governing coalition in Ohio for racial, social, and economic justice in our communities.

IN THE MEDIA



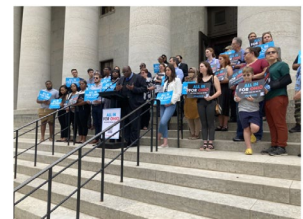
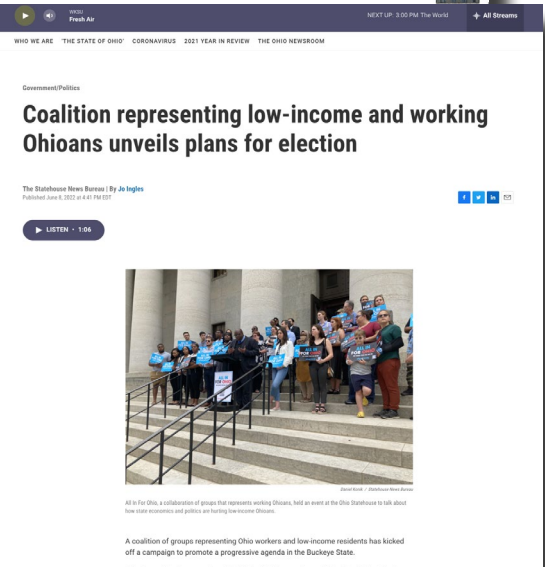
Caption From website: "Opponents of plan to make it harder to pass some constitutional amendments talk to reporters at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, November 29, 2022"



Opponents of plan to make it harder to pass some constitutional amendments talk to reporters at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, November 29, 2022

More than 100 faith, union, community, conservative, and progressive organizations are opposing a resolution that would make it harder for citizens to pass constitutional amendments in Ohio.

The groups have sent a joint letter to House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima), asking them to thwart the resolution. The plan, proposed by Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Athens), would require a citizen-led constitutional amendment to receive a 60% supermajority in order to be enacted.



All in for Ohio, a collaboration of groups that represents working Ohioans, held an event at the Ohio Statehouse to talk about how state economics and politics are hurting low-income Ohioans.

A coalition of groups representing Ohio workers and low-income residents has kicked off a campaign to promote a progressive agenda in the Buckeye State.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



2022 IN REVIEW

Friend,

It's been a long and fulfilling year at the OOC! We're proud of our grassroots leaders for doing **the daily work of building power and showing up despite immense challenges.**

Our leaders have fought and won historic student debt relief for more than 1 million Ohioans. They have also won much-needed resources for our child care workers, secured

police accountability for Black and brown Ohioans, passed common-sense gun reform to all keep our kids safe, and fought for voting protections in our home state.

Over the last decade, the Ohio GOP has purged roughly 2 million voters from the rolls, disproportionately impacting Black Ohioans. Ohio has some of the most gerrymandered maps and the most restrictive voter registration deadline in the whole country.

These tough political conditions have resulted in Ohio having a 10% lower voter turnout than neighboring states and a massive, untapped voter base.

Despite these challenges, we've been piloting innovative organizing strategies that are activating missing voters and transforming Ohioans. We're tapping our personal networks, leveraging the power of digital influencers, and ensuring that we're reaching thousands of disenfranchised and minority Ohioans who have never felt included in the political process.

Throughout it all, we've built power for the long-term. We've organized to support vulnerable Ohioans, protect working people, fund our schools, and protect the integrity of our state Constitution. We've trained and developed hundreds of grassroots leaders to fight for a pro-democracy agenda in our state. We've registered thousands of new voters and changed the narrative around what kind of Ohio we want to live in.

We're organizing for the future of Ohio. We have a multiracial coalition waiting to be organized.

People of color, women, and young people are the central part of the path to victory in Ohio, and we are so proud to be a part of the OOC doing the daily work of building democracy that works for all of us.

Together, we're transforming our lives and our communities in Ohio. We won't stop fighting.

Thank you,

Prentiss Haney and Molly Shack
OOC Co-Executive Directors

OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS



EXPANDING THE ELECTORATE

From Cleveland to Akron, Cincinnati to Columbus, Ohioans deserve to have their votes counted and their voices heard at the ballot box. Over the last decade, the OOC has run large-scale voter registration programs targeting Black, young, and low-income Ohioans. **Since 2012, we've registered more than 420,000 voters statewide.**

As Ohio's largest independent voter engagement organization, we also registered a record number of Black and young voters during the midterms. **This year, we registered more than 45,700 voters in Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati - more than any other organization in the state.**

The OOC voter registration program has always focused on turning out a multiracial and multigenerational base of Ohioans. **We believe people of color and young people will lead the path to victory in Ohio.**



Through a steady drumbeat of voter education and registration events this fall, we focused on expanding the electorate, despite continuous attempts to disenfranchise and suppress the votes of Black and young Ohioans. We held **a total of 20 GOTV events** focusing on Black and youth voter turnout in the cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Cleveland.

In addition, we launched a judicial grassroots education program that trained leaders on the importance of state courts. We also piloted a climate canvassing campaign in Reynoldsburg, a predominantly Black community east of Columbus, and focused on local issues of flooding and lack of infrastructure to help get out the vote.



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Turning Out Black, Brown, and Young Voters



18,580
DOORS KNOCKED
BY VOLUNTEERS



1,498
DOOR
CONVERSATIONS



116,693
PHONE
CONVERSATIONS



77,116
RELATIONAL
ATTEMPTS



528,250
MAILERS SENT



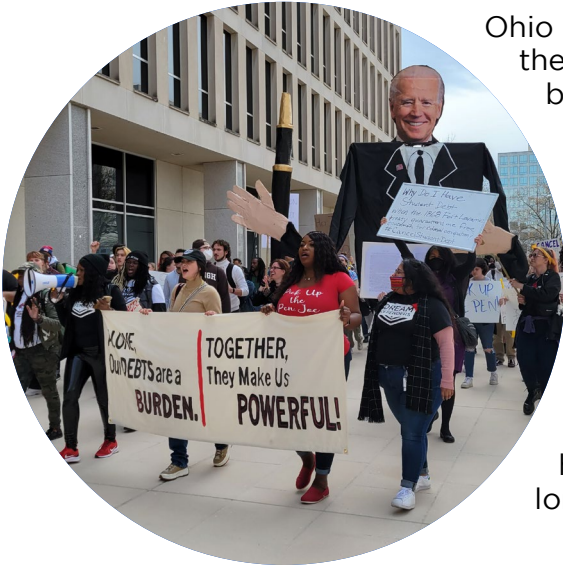
3,360
VOTER PLEDGES



22,959
VOTES TRIPLED

OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

STUDENT DEBT CANCELLATION FOR 1+ MILLION OHIOANS



Ohio Student Association (OSA) has long been at the forefront of the fight for free higher education. Since 2012, OSA leaders have been pushing for tuition equity and student debt cancellation. This summer, OSA leaders organized a national mobilization pushing President Biden to cancel over \$1 trillion in education debt.

Shortly after, Biden announced another extension of the student loan pause through August. OSA's decade-long organizing finally came to fruition when he moved to cancel up to \$20,000 for low- to middle-income borrowers. More than 1.5 million Ohioans – who collectively owe \$62+ billion in student loan debt – will now enjoy historic relief thanks to OSA and the student movement's long-term organizing around this issue.



ENSURING REAL POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN NORTHEAST OHIO



A NEW POWERFUL COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION IN CLEVELAND

Following our member-leaders' huge win last year passing Issue 24, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb approved the city's new Community Police Commission earlier this month. Made up of 13 Clevelanders spanning age, background, and experience, this powerful new commission will serve as the overarching authority with the Civilian Police Review Board to investigate police misconduct and hand down final decisions - rather than share recommendations. The commission is the first of its kind in the country, operating as a permanent and independent oversight body with the authority and resources to make tough decisions on police training, policies, and discipline in Cleveland.



Photo courtesy Akron Beacon Journal

THE FIRST LOCAL CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD IN AKRON

In Akron, we supported a broad-based coalition to pass Issue 10 to create a local civilian police review board in Akron after police murdered Jayland Walker in June. During the midterms, our C4 arm Stand Up For Ohio ran the largest independent field program in the city of Akron, knocking 39,478 doors and completing 7,691 voter conversations. This is the third police oversight initiative the people have won in Ohio, with Columbus and Cleveland having instituted civilian-led police oversight boards in the last several years.

OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

FUNDING OHIO'S CARE WORKERS & PROTECTING LOW-INCOME MOMS



The CEO Project has yielded real wins for child care workers and the families they serve!

Thanks to our members' advocacy, Franklin and Hamilton Counties have committed millions in funding for child care workers. In Franklin County, local officials have set aside over \$20 million to help families afford child care, providers to reach or maintain quality care standards, and early childhood educators to be able to afford housing, among other items.

This summer, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval also committed \$1 million towards local child care facilities in the city budget, ensuring relief for cash-strapped child care workers who are mostly women of color. The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners contributed an additional \$1.8 million towards a local child care workforce development program to expand capacity in the Cincinnati area.

A new federal grant disbursed as part of the CARES Act also gave an additional \$10,000 to all family child care providers in Ohio, and an additional \$50,000 to child care centers.

Finally, CEO leaders shared their stories with legislators about the need to make doula services available to all mothers regardless of skin color or income. We are organizing to pass HB 142 – a bill that will provide low-income moms with the ability to afford a doula through Medicaid – when the 2023 state budget starts in the spring.

OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

WINNING BIPARTISAN GUN REFORM & KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE

When a Texas gunman senselessly murdered 19 kids and two teachers in Uvalde earlier this year, Cincinnati faith leaders with the AMOS Project demanded Senator Rob Portman support commonsense gun reform.

AMOS leaders gathered more than 300 signatures urging him to support the legislation. Dozens of Cincinnati faith leaders rallied outside of Portman's office, home, and neighborhood school, demanding he take action to keep our kids safe.

The pressure our leaders put on Senator Portman ultimately led him to be one of 12 Republican senators to support a historic bipartisan deal on gun legislation. The new bill proposes tightening and expanding background checks and providing significantly more money to states to improve school safety and mental health initiatives.



OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

PUSHING FOR FAIRLY & FULLY-FUNDED SCHOOLS



After our school funding coalition [All In For Ohio Kids](#) helped pass the Fair School Funding Plan last year, additional state resources created new opportunities to organize locally for the schools our kids deserve. When the Columbus Education Association (CEA) filed its notice to strike for better school conditions and improved compensation, OOC organized parents in solidarity with the teachers.



Parent leaders lifted their voices in the news, supporting using resources to improve Columbus schools and collecting over 2,000 pledges not to cross the virtual picket line. After a three-day strike (the first since 1975), CEA secured major wins for our students in the new contract. This included smaller class sizes, installing or fixing heating and cooling in schools, and guaranteeing art, music, and P.E. teachers in elementary school buildings.



OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM TO VOTE & FIGHTING FOR FAIR MAPS

On the 57th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, 300 of our leaders rallied outside of the Ohio Statehouse to fight for our freedom to vote and keep up the fight for fair district maps. OOC Board Member Pastor Michael Harrison authored an op-ed in Columbus Dispatch, where he reminded Ohioans of the legacy of the Voting Rights Act and the power of people coming together in our democracy.

Our redistricting coalition Equal Districts also held Ohio's Governor, Secretary of State and Auditor accountable for missing court-ordered redistricting deadlines multiple times. We showed lawmakers that regular Ohioans will keep fighting to hold them accountable for their failure to deliver fair maps - and we will do so through the ballot box and on the streets.

During lame-duck session, we organized alongside a broad coalition of voting rights, labor, and civil rights groups against HJR6, a harmful bill that proposes increasing the current threshold for a citizen-led ballot initiative to 60% (vs. the usual 50%). We defeated this initiative in lame duck but are prepared to fight this initiative if the legislature refers it to the ballot in the next general assembly.



Photo courtesy Ideastream / NPR

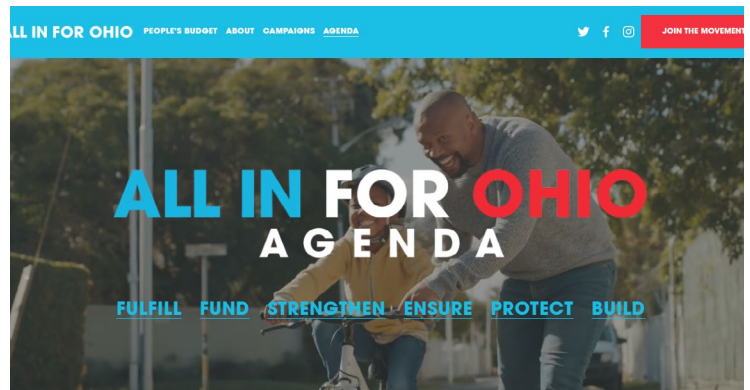


OUR WINS & OUR FIGHTS

REWRITING OHIO'S STORY & CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

This year, we publicly launched a comprehensive agenda called the [All In For Ohio Agenda](#) – envisioning a state where each and every single Ohioan can thrive despite their skin color or income. The first-of-its-kind Agenda charts our long-term course for a thriving Ohio through progressive policy and power-building.

The All In For Ohio Agenda consists of six key pillars for a new Ohio: fairly- and fully-funded public education, tax justice, voting rights and democracy reform, economic dignity, public safety, and climate and health justice. We developed this blueprint from our organizing work and our members' priorities over the next several years in partnership with Policy Matters Ohio.



OOC FELLOW HIGHLIGHT



ASLI ALI

“As American citizens and voters, we must use our power to protect the most marginalized members of our community. We deserve to live in an Ohio where all our communities are valued, protected, and thriving.”

A Somali immigrant and NYU graduate student living in Columbus, Asli joined OSA this summer as a Direct Action for Democracy Fellow. Over the summer, she organized and supported various direct actions for OSA with an impressive cohort of student activists. Asli also played a key role in planning the OOC’s Freedom to Vote rally in August, where over 300 member-leaders rallied outside the Statehouse to fight for our freedom to vote.

We were excited to extend Asli’s fellowship into the fall, where she supported our ongoing redistricting efforts and worked with OOC’s digital communications team. Earlier this summer, Asli also participated in ISAIAH’s weeklong training in Minnesota. This transformational organizing training focused on helping leaders learn how to build power and recognize their capacity to create social, political, and economic change.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OOC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

BUILDING FREEDOM OHIO (BFO)

Building Power For People Directly Impacted By Mass Incarceration

Leadership Development & Power-Building

BFO is a statewide member-led organization composed of individuals directly impacted by the criminal legal system and mass incarceration. BFO lives up to its daily mission of developing the leadership capacity of people with lived experiences with the criminal justice system. In May, BFO held a two-day assembly and training seminar to mobilize and organize more than 100 directly-impacted Ohioans to lobby legislators to end the death penalty, reform the bail system in Ohio and eliminate the pain of collateral sanctions on their families. The two-day assembly and training also served as a catalyst for an issue campaign on collateral sanctions that BFO will be rolling out in the coming years.

During Lobby Day, BFO leaders shared their powerful stories with legislators like Lt. Governor Jon Husted (R) and Senator Cecil Thomas (D) about how collateral sanctions hurt all our families - no matter our race or political party. Our leaders reiterated their commitment to holding our lawmakers accountable for making sure all Ohioans can live fully dignified lives. BFO's Lobby Day was also covered in statewide media outlets [Ohio Public Radio](#) and [Spectrum News 1](#).



BFO LEADER HIGHLIGHT

LINDA HOWARD - CLEVELAND



“I thought I could help the world, all the girls in the projects. I would keep bringing strangers home. Even if they didn’t live in the projects - I’d be like, ‘our house is safer.’”

BFO member Linda Howard is the founder of Kiddspantry and The Young Mothers of Cleveland, both local grassroots organizations that provide low-income women with basic resources like food and kid supplies. Linda is also a member of BFO’s welcoming committee, where she welcomes and orients new members towards BFO’s culture and purpose. She was one of the activists that lobbied Lt. Husted for the removal of collateral sanctions, which hinder people with felony convictions from moving on with their lives.

Asked about Linda’s unique contribution to BFO, BFO organizing director Fred Ward mentioned her commitment to providing direct services for BFO members. He noted the following:

“Linda’s like, ‘I’m talking to people about building power, and they need it and they see it. But also they need someplace to stay. They need some clothes. Linda sees that both things are needed. And because she realizes to be authentic in the space of people’s lives, you have to do both things. You need some power, you also need accessibility, and you need some resources.’”



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OOC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

OHIO STUDENT ASSOCIATION (OSA)

Building The Next Generation Of Leaders



Leadership Development & Power-Building

OSA is a statewide grassroots organization led by young Ohioans and anchored by student-led chapters on college campuses across the state. This summer, OSA launched the Direct Action for Democracy Fellowship, where future student leaders were given a unique opportunity to learn about organizing, communications strategy, and political action. In June, OSA helped organize a rally opposing Ohio's "Don't Say Gay" Bill (HB616), which would prohibit the teaching of diverse history. The summer fellowship concluded with a powerful OOC rally at the Ohio Statehouse to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and maintain the clarion call for fair district maps in Ohio. OSA leaders played a pivotal role in organizing the rally and creating stunning, thought-provoking visual art that communicated young people's unique demands for fair maps. The OSA Democracy Fellowship proved to be a valuable opportunity for young Ohioans to build new skills, organize direct actions, and hold insightful conversations around power-building and engaging in our democracy.



OSA LEADER HIGHLIGHT



HOLLY PADEN

“The bottom line is that the future of our state Supreme Court matters far too much for Ohioans to sit out this election. Courts decide critical funding for our schools, the safety of our neighborhoods, and the quality of our water and air. They are the final defenders of our constitutional rights and freedoms.”

Holly Paden, an OSU graduate student, wrote an op-ed for the [Ohio Capital Journal](#) for the midterms that urged young voters to vote to protect democracy, abortion access, LGBTQIA+ rights, and other issues impacting young Ohioans. Holly also emphasized the importance of voting in state judicial elections and fighting to protect Ohioans’ fundamental freedom to vote.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OOC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

THE CEO PROJECT FUNDING OUR FAMILIES' CARE



Leadership Development & Power-Building

This year, The CEO Project organized hundreds of parents, childcare providers, and early childhood educators to use their collective power to take action on Ohio's care economy. In early May, childcare providers and parents met with key legislators in Columbus to protect the Step Up To Quality child care rating system, fight for fair wages, and ensure accessible and affordable childcare for all Ohio families. In addition, CEO leaders shared their stories with legislators about the need to make doula services available to all mothers – regardless of skin color or income.

The CEO Project has hosted multiple events and trainings to engage child care providers in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. In May, CEO leaders across Ohio and the country participated in a national “Day Without Child Care” to show that care work is essential work and worth investing in. CEO organizers have also been hosting community conversations in Cleveland and Columbus to start building a power base in those cities. Finally, CEO leaders came together during the midterms to get out the vote among child care providers and learn how to organize their networks for political action.



CEO LEADER HIGHLIGHT



TERRI SIMS

“Elected leaders must see the benefits in caring for those who care for our kids. They must see the benefits of investing in those who invest in us. They must value the largely Black, brown, and immigrant women who ensure our kids get the early childcare and support they need.”

Terri Sims is the founder of the New Direction Learning Center, which she has owned and operated in Dayton for 26 years. In November, Terri Sims wrote a powerful op-ed for the [Dayton Daily News](#) discussing the lack of livable wages for early childhood educators like herself, and emphasizing how this economic reality prohibits many passionate teachers from continuing their work in the industry. She also noted that Black and brown women, immigrants, and low-income Ohioans are more likely to work in Ohio’s underfunded care economy. She urged elected officials to improve economic conditions for early childhood educators and workers – not just for the betterment of our families, but also to help ensure the expansion of Ohio’s overall economy.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OOC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

THE AMOS PROJECT

Building Power At The Intersection Of Faith And Freedom

Leadership Development

This year, The AMOS Project continued its mission of building a fair Ohio through faith in action. AMOS organizers trained hundreds of clergy and faith leaders on the fundamentals of organizing and civic engagement. In the spring, Black Ohio pastors joined a national mobilization in D.C. and met with Senator Sherrod Brown to push for the protection of our voting rights. Columbus leaders rallied for fair maps, prayed for peace at the Ohio Black Expo, and launched dozens of justice teams in congregations across Ohio. AMOS organizers also held leadership trainings in Columbus and Cincinnati, developing faith leaders to organize, share stories, and build power in their congregations and in their neighborhoods.

Finally, during the midterms, AMOS organized various civic engagement events to get out the vote. Our organizers held Souls to the Polls rallies, Faith & Freedom voter empowerment forums, and state Supreme Court candidate forums to educate their communities on critical issues on the ballot.



AMOS LEADER HIGHLIGHT



PASTOR GEORGE RUSSELL III

Brown Chapel AME in Cincinnati

"I'm coming out to vote [in the midterms] because I want people to see that their vote has implications. The way things have been going [in Ohio] lately shows how much our vote matters, because if it didn't matter, they wouldn't be trying so hard to limit our access to the polls and our right to vote."



PASTOR JOSEPH STANLEY JR.

Greater Twelfth Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus

"I don't think you can separate faith from justice. I think it goes hand in hand. I don't think you can have effective ministry in the eyes of Christ and [not] be about social justice [and] civil justice. And not be about the marginalized and those who are ostracized and discriminated against. And [not be about] really pushing for the importance of voting, because if it's not working for us, then it's time to make a change."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OOC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ALL IN FOR OHIO KIDS (AOK!)

Fairly And Fully Funding Our Schools



Leadership Development & Power-Building

Last year, AOK leaders led a statewide coalition to pass the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in Ohio, which provided much-needed resources to public schools to improve conditions for the next two years. This year, AOK leaders have continued to organize and fight for the well-funded schools all our kids deserve. This summer, All In For Ohio Kids supported the Columbus Education Association's (CEA) teacher-led strike by organizing parents to stand in solidarity with teachers. Parent leaders lifted their voices in the news, supporting using resources to improve Columbus schools and collecting over 2,000 pledges not to cross the virtual picket line. After a three-day strike, CEA successfully secured major wins for Ohio public schools, including ensuring smaller class sizes, installing or fixing heating and cooling in schools, and guaranteeing art, music, and P.E. teachers in elementary school buildings.

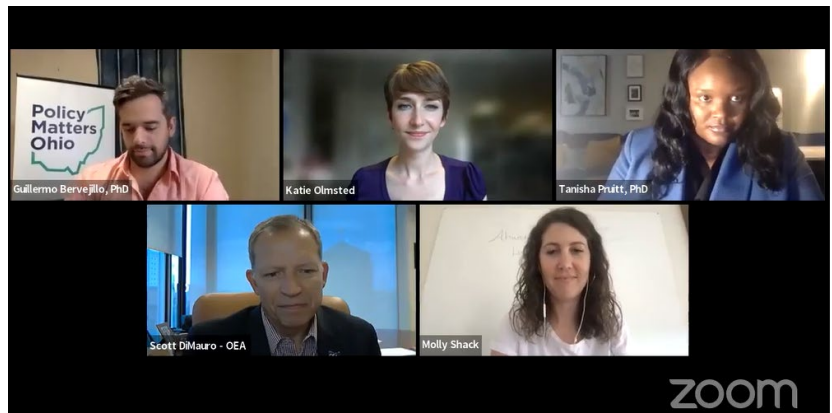
Since the midterms, AOK leaders have been organizing to improve bus accessibility and transport for public school students. They've held meetings with concerned parents and officials to raise awareness of the bus crisis in Franklin County, predominantly impacting Black and brown students. Next year, AOK is gearing up for another fight to permanently fund the Fair School Funding Plan in the 2023 state budget - ensuring all our kids can receive the resources they need to thrive regardless of race or income.

AOK LEADER HIGHLIGHT

DENA SICO

“Parents, caregivers and community members alike want fully funded, and fairly funded education for all kids— no matter their age, what they look like, or what part of the city they come from. Policymakers at the state and federal level must want this too.”

Dena Sico is co-chair of the parent organizing committee for the All In For Ohio Kids campaign. As a parent leader, Dena Sico wrote an op-ed in the [Columbus Dispatch](#) this summer that celebrated the huge win for Columbus school teachers and reinforced the need to keep fighting for fully and fairly funding Ohio schools. Dena is committed to using her power and her voice to fight for Ohio students, families, and educators.





HOW YOU CAN REACH US

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PHONE: 330-743-1196

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, & INSTAGRAM
[@OHorganizing](#).

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
www.ohorganizing.org

*Thanks for your support!
We look forward to building more power with you.*