



2023 OOC MID-YEAR REPORT

PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM TO THRIVE

1 PROTECTING MAJORITY RULE IN OHIO



This August, **the collective power of Ohioans joining together resulted in the defeat of Issue 1**, an undemocratic, unpopular, and unconstitutional amendment that would have allowed minority rule to prevail in Ohio. Ohioans **overwhelmingly voted NO on Issue 1 and protected our freedom to decide our future.**

OOC was **a key part of building the coalition of more than 250 organizations to stop attacks on direct democracy in Ohio.** This attempt to raise the threshold for ballot initiatives to 60% and increase signature requirements proved to be **a thinly-veiled attempt to prevent popular measures heading for the ballot in Ohio** – from raising wages, protecting abortion rights, and strengthening our democracy.

We ran the largest independent field program for the campaign, knocking 170,566 doors including nearly 10,000 doors on Election Day only. Preliminary results show that **in key African American precincts where we knocked doors, turnout was between 70% to 95%** – double the turnout rates for the same precincts in the 2022 midterm election.

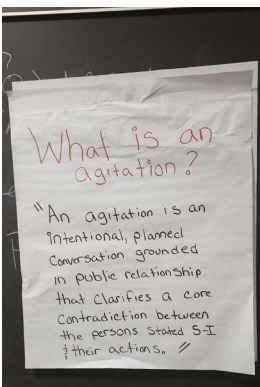
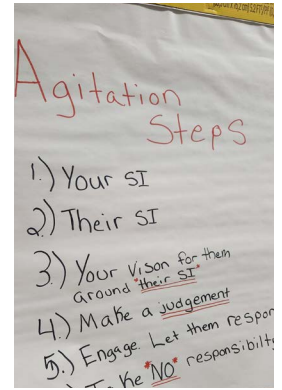
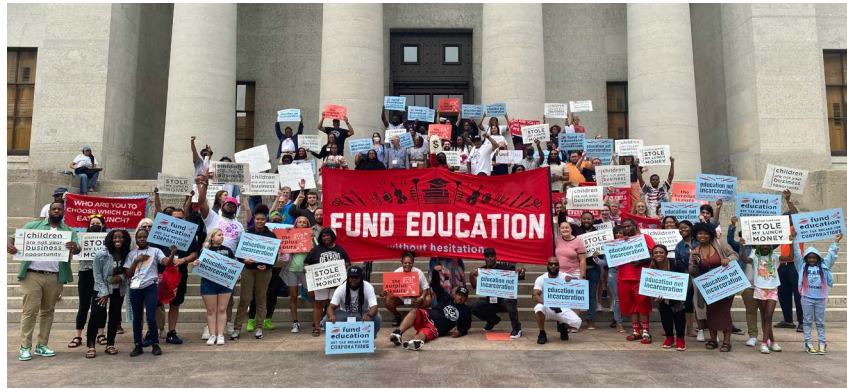
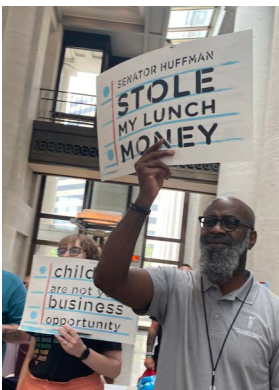
Our collective efforts mobilized hundreds of Ohioans across race, place, gender, and background to fight back against these bills during the legislative process. **OOC served on the Executive Committee for the One Person, One Vote campaign** to harness this popular energy and defeat the ballot initiative in the August special election.

<div> <div> <div>NO ON</div> <div>ISSUE 1</div> <div>TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH</div> <div>ONE PERSON - ONE VOTE</div> </div> <div>SELECT PRECINCT RESULTS</div> </div>				
Precinct	Field IDs	NO votes	YES votes	% NO
COLS 82-E	88	846	350	70.74%
COLS 28-E	296	645	56	92.01%
Cincinnati 14-D	94	662	63	91.31%
Cincinnati 9-B	49	587	69	89.48%
Akron 4-G	165	416	35	92.24%
Akron 4-D	107	459	111	80.53%
Cleveland 4-Q	125	564	29	95.11%
Shaker Heights 00-O	102	575	59	90.69%

2 BUILDING POWERFUL GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

This summer, **OOC held its annual weeklong leadership training for grassroots members** in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. This was the first time since the pandemic that OOC held this formative in-person training for Midwest leaders.

Members learned to **wrestle with their leadership, practice new skills, and build power across the Midwest**. It was a powerful experience **built on public love, agitation, and a deepened commitment to building a multiracial democracy**. We're excited to see where our leaders will take their new skills and insights in the ongoing fight for justice.



3 LOBBYING FOR A PEOPLE'S BUDGET

From childcare providers to students, formerly incarcerated folks to faith leaders, OOC leaders joined together in May to push for a state budget that cares for all of us.

More than 100 grassroots members from across the OOC membership bases gathered in Columbus for a Lobby Day. Leaders taught each other about their priorities within our policy platform, got trained on legislative visits and met with legislators to advocate for fully-funded early childhood education and public schools, funding our communities instead of the prison-industrial complex, and other priorities in the biennium state budget. **More than half of participants visited the Ohio Statehouse for the first time.**



PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM TO LEARN



Ohio students understand that real intellectual diversity means having all kinds of students represented in our classrooms – no matter their race or income – and being able to talk about diverse and challenging topics honestly.

Student leaders fought back when the state Senate passed a major attack on academic freedom, workers' rights, and DEI programs through bills SB83 and HB151. They gave testimony, organized rallies on campuses across the state, and held powerful direct actions at the Statehouse, **standing in the Statehouse Rotunda with their mouths taped shut to represent the silencing of academic freedom in Ohio, and organizing a mock funeral to show the death of Ohio higher education.** Thanks to our student organizing, Ohio legislators removed SB83 from the budget, temporarily halting the attacks against academic freedom in our state.

Student leaders are still fighting back against the attacks on abortion rights, collecting signatures on campuses across Ohio to put an amendment on the ballot to enshrine reproductive freedom in Ohio's constitution.

OSA also recently released the Ohio Black Student Equity Report, a comprehensive report that evaluates the Black student experience in 12 academic institutions across Ohio. The report has significant media interest and provides a foundation for student-driven campaigns on campuses.



FAIRLY & FULLY FUNDING OHIO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All In For Ohio Kids (AOK) Parent Organizing and Student Lobby Day

Ohio has more than enough resources to make sure every child attends a world-class public school. **Earlier this year, our AOK grassroots leaders helped win more than \$500 million in public school funding and advanced Ohio towards a full phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan.** They also ensured the school funding formula would include current data and account for the costs of educating students with disabilities and students learning the English language.

Regrettably, the recent budget also included a harmful expansion of universal private school vouchers for wealthy Ohioans. However, we're confident that **the power we've built as a result of our successive public school funding wins** will help fulfill the promise of a full and permanent implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan for Ohioans.

AOK Digital Organizing Campaign

Our layered digital ad campaign urging more parents to support the Fair School Funding Plan this budget cycle **resulted in nearly 1,000 leads coming from Ohio parents and supporters of fairly and fully funded public schools.** Our organizers also ran a successful text messaging campaign to stay in touch with parents and supporters.

Of note, our video featuring AOK student leaders went viral on Instagram, racking up nearly a million views and over 106k likes. The video was a successful collaboration with Columbus high school students who were getting trained in advocating for the Fair School Funding Plan. We also held a 2-day Race Class Narrative training for Ohio Education Association management to instill the **importance of narrative in union organizing and advocacy.**



AOK ORGANIZING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

- 10 Parent Core Team Members
- 115 parent leaders trained in FSFP
- 226 attended Lunch & Learns
- 40 students at lobby day
- 2,409 new digital action takers in 2023
 - 1930 CCS Parents / Caregivers
 - 97 bussing campaign
 - 268 from website
 - 211 other statewide outreach

6 FUNDING OHIO'S CARE ECONOMY

The CEO Project Lobby Day & National Day Without Childcare



Child care is essential work in Ohio. Thanks to our child care leaders, we passed important budget provisions that will give **doulas Medicaid reimbursement for their work, provide continuous Medicaid coverage for eligible kids from birth to age 3, and expand child care eligibility to low-income families up to 145% of the poverty line.**

During the budget cycle, childcare providers from Youngstown, Cincy, Columbus, and Dayton **joined together in Columbus to share their stories with the head of Jobs and Family Services and legislators** to push for fully funded early childhood education in Ohio.

On the national Day Without Childcare, child care leaders also **closed their centers and urged our legislators to fund child care at local, state, and federal levels.** At our press conference, leaders **released a memo to Intel urging them to fund Ohio's child care infrastructure and support Ohio's workforce** as they build the new multibillion dollar chip plant in central Ohio. The memo **outlines how Intel and the state of Ohio can effectively partner with grassroots organizations** like The CEO Project and OOC to gain a competitive advantage.





Black, white, or brown, Building Freedom Ohio (BFO) is fighting everyday to build an Ohio where all of us can be free and live with dignity, no matter our race or legal status.

In February, **BFO brought together more than 150 leaders from Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Youngstown who are directly impacted by the criminal legal system** to share their stories, build power, and develop skills to organize their communities. The powerful 2-day training was led almost entirely by member-leaders.

Formerly incarcerated Ohioans have the power to create humane and sensible policies that will help them rebuild their lives without the burden of collateral sanctions. This spring, BFO also hosted a Policy Summit which involved leaders from across the state sharing stories and educating policymakers and advocates on the impact of collateral sanctions on their lives. **The goal was to develop new innovative solutions to reduce & eliminate the barriers of collateral sanctions**, and create real pathways for full reintegration into civic life.

BFO is working towards a better future for our directly impacted community in Ohio. They're building the leadership of formerly incarcerated Ohioans and directly impacted individuals so they can better advocate for themselves and their families.



We're organizing people, we're organizing money, and most importantly, we're organizing action."

- Cleveland BFO member Ronald Crosby

REVIVING JUSTICE AS A FAITH TRADITION

The AMOS Project collected hundreds of surveys from Black churches and congregants to refine its 2023-2024 agenda. In Dayton, Amos trained clergy and lay leaders on **the principles of power, social justice and how to build justice ministries at our first Justice Revival.**

AMOS **organizers launched an organizing program on Black maternal and women's health issues** with a women's roundtable event this May. The conversation provided data and discussion on the state of Black women's health in Ohio, and provided concrete ways to take action to improve health outcomes for Black women and families.

Protecting voting rights in Ohio is central to the justice work of Black churches in Ohio, who have been organizing to protect our rights and freedoms at the ballot box by fighting to stop strict voter ID laws and defeating the attack on direct democracy.





Ohio child care providers press Intel to help families thrive

Here & Now's Deepa Fernandes speaks with Ronda Brown-Daniels, who provides around-the-clock care for children in her home for parents that work nontraditional hours, and Tarrezz Thompson, a lead organizer of the child care workers in her region, about solutions.



Tarrezz Thompson and the child she watches. (Courtesy of Tarrezz Thompson)



Black people are being erased from democracy. Here's a way to fight back and win.



Millions of Black and Latino voters are missing or not listed correctly in voter databases. But organizing friends and families allows us to target voters that traditional campaigns and candidates ignore.



Black on campus: How African American college students feel in Ohio

Nearly 1 in 5 of Ohio's Black students don't feel they belong on some college campuses, according to a new report.



Nearly one in five Black college students attending some of Ohio's predominantly white higher education institutions said they don't feel that way, a new survey shows. About half reported feeling as though they do belong, and about a third of respondents indicated they were unsure, per the report.

OHIO CAPITAL JOURNAL

New Ohio Black Student Equity report campus sheds lights on discrimination, campus policing

The Ohio Student Association surveyed 361 students from 12 colleges and universities.

"Some had very negative experiences, or uncomfortable experiences or didn't feel comfortable going to the different areas on campus," Dr. Everett Smith, an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati who conducted research for the report, said during a press conference.



- » [NPR Here and Now | Ohio child care providers press Intel to help families thrive](#)
- » [Statehouse News Bureau | Plan to raise minimum wage to \\$15 an hour is one step closer to a vote in Ohio](#)
- » [Ohio Capital Journal | Final Ohio Education Budget Expands Vouchers, Limits Board of Ed Powers](#)
- » [NewsOne | Don't Be Confused – The Rejection Of Issue 1 In Ohio Was About Much More Than Reproductive Rights](#)
- » [Statehouse News Bureau | Lawsuit filed to stop ballot issue that would make it harder to amend Ohio's constitution](#)
- » [Columbus Dispatch | OSU student: 'We must call out Issue 1 for what it is: voter suppression.'\(Op-ed\)](#)
- » [Ohio Capital Journal | Ohioans need democracy as Issue 1 vote approaches](#)
- » [WLWT5 News | Issue One fails: Ohio voters reject proposal in state's special election](#)
- » [The Grio | Black people are being erased from democracy. Here's a way to fight back and win. \(Op-ed\)](#)
- » [WLWT5 News | Issue One fails: Ohio voters reject proposal in state's special election](#)
- » [Cleveland.com | Abortion, recreational marijuana plans could draw Ohio progressives to the polls Nov. 7](#)
- » [Convergence Magazine | 'We Build Democracy Through Grassroots Organizing'](#)
- » [Dayton Daily News | Ohio budget expands vouchers, plans to spend \\$2B in next two years](#)
- » [Ohio Capital Journal | Final Ohio education budget expands vouchers, limits board of ed powers \(Op-ed\)](#)

10 CHANGING THE NARRATIVE : CONT'D

- » [Ohio Capital Journal | Some college students worry Ohio bill would require slavery to be taught from ‘both sides’ \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [Columbus Dispatch | ‘Death knell for higher ed’: College students revile Senate’s addition of SB 83 to budget \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [Columbus Free Press | Ohio students hold funeral at Statehouse for higher education, rallying against SB83 \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [News 5 Cleveland | Ohio college students stage ‘funeral’ in protest against higher education overhaul bill](#)
- » [Statehouse News Bureau | Funeral for free speech held at Ohio Statehouse by opponents of a bill to change rules on colleges](#)
- » [Columbus Dispatch | Ohio’s inequitable child care system is built on underpaid Black women. \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [NBC4 | Advocates make diverse requests for Ohio budget](#)
- » [Cleveland News 5 | Organization highlights the importance of childcare with National Day Without Childcare](#)
- » [Cleveland Scene | Ohio Takes Part in National Day Without Childcare](#)
- » [Ohio Capital Journal | Ohio takes part in National Day Without Childcare](#)
- » [NBC4 | Locals Rally at Ohio Statehouse for affordable childcare](#)
- » [WFMJ | A local childcare provider traveling to the statehouse to advocate for change](#)
- » [Cleveland.com | What if childcare didn’t exist?](#)
- » [Cincinnati Enquirer | Dewine must allocate more funding for childcare \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [Cleveland.com | President Joe Biden signs executive order aimed at increasing access to child and home care](#)
- » [Dayton Daily News | New public money helping child care crisis; advocates say more is needed](#)
- » [Dayton Daily News | ‘Workforce behind the workforce’ challenged by low pay even as child care becomes less affordable](#)
- » [Columbus Dispatch | I was paid \\$45.46 for 3 months I cared for children. Ohio must do better. \(op-ed\)](#)
- » [Dayton Daily News | Child care crisis’ holds back children, parents, economy](#)
- » [NBC4 | Columbus parents call for re-evaluation of city schools funding formula](#)
- » [Ohio Capital Journal | State needs ‘People’s Budget,’ funding child care, public education, policy group says](#)
- » [Springfield News-Sun & Dayton Daily News | Debate Grows Over How Some Ohio Local Govs Use ARPA Funds](#)
- » [Crain’s Cleveland Business | Police oversight boards have officials, activists, and officers optimistic there is a path to change](#)
- » [NewsOne | For MLK Holiday, Racial And Social Justice Leaders Urge Policymakers To Emulate Civil Rights Icon](#)
- » [Statehouse News Bureau | Public school advocates worry DeWine’s budget will take money away from students](#)
- » [NBC4 | Ohio lawmakers putting final touches on school funding plan in the state budget](#)
- » [Statehouse News Bureau | The fight over the expansion of Ohio’s school voucher program heats up](#)