



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Ohio Citizen Action closed out our 50th anniversary year knowing that the victories of 2025 set the foundation for even bigger fights ahead. Together, we proved what's possible when Ohioans organize.

- Successfully organized with Ohio farmers and landowners to deliver sustainable solar energy wins in Fairfield County and Knox County despite well-funded opposition, demonstrating the power of grassroots relationship-building.
- Achieved a major legislative victory when Ohio lawmakers passed HB15, repealing the notorious House Bill 6 OVEC coal bailouts that had subsidized obsolete coal plants and cost ratepayers nearly \$400,000 per day.
- Made history in Richland County by helping to collect over 3,320 signatures in just 30 days to put a solar ban repeal on the ballot—the first referendum of its kind in the country—protecting farmers' property rights and keeping the door open for clean energy jobs.
- Significant breakthrough for community energy that will let Ohioans share in the benefits of locally produced power when HB 303 passed the House in November.



You make all of this possible—through your generosity and your steadfast dedication to the Ohio we're building together. Your partnership doesn't just fund campaigns; it fuels organizing conversations, supports rural outreach, trains canvassers, and builds coalitions that turn the impossible into the inevitable. You are an integral part of every signature gathered, every farmer who stood up at a hearing, every vote cast for clean energy and democracy.

In 2026, we're going back to the Ohio Senate to pass the community energy bill and turn HB 303 into law—giving Ohioans the power to share in locally produced clean energy and keep energy dollars in our communities. In May, Richland County voters will decide on whether to overturn the ban on solar and wind development. We'll be organizing door-to-door and farmer-to-farmer to protect property rights and economic opportunity. And in November, we'll be working to elect pro-democracy candidates up and down the ballot who will defend voting rights, hold utilities accountable, and put Ohioans first.

The path forward is clear. The stakes are high. *And with partners like you, we know we can win.*

Your investment in Ohio Citizen Action has never mattered more. Thank you for standing with us for 51 years of people power, and for the fights still to come.

With deep gratitude and determination,

Rachael Belz
CEO, Ohio Citizen Actio



4000 Executive Park Drive Suite 105, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
5755 Granger Road Suite 439, Independence, Ohio 44131
4400 North High Street Suite 306, Columbus, Ohio 43214
action@ohiocitizen.org • www.ohiocitizen.org • 216-861-5200

YOU POWER EVERYTHING WE DO

For 50 years, what has made Ohio Citizen Action unique among groups working for change in Ohio is our ability to reach Ohioans where they are: at the door and on the phone for real, one-on-one conversations and also across digital platforms. In a time of rising utility costs, threats to our democracy, and a clean energy future hanging in the balance, we inform and engage people to work together in the public interest. Here's how we showed up together in 2025, by the numbers:



FIELD CANVASS

8,543
POLITICAL ACTIONS

33,047
CONVERSATIONS

147,131
DOORS KNOCKED



PHONE CANVASS

2,140
POLITICAL ACTIONS

4,649
CONVERSATIONS

303,494
CALLS PLACED



DIGITAL ORGANIZING

44,756
SUBSCRIBERS
& FOLLOWERS

314,636
ENGAGEMENTS

2.8 MILLION
IMPRESSIONS

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE WIN

CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY IN KNOX COUNTY



6,249 DOORS KNOCKED

62 HANDWRITTEN LETTERS

66 YARD SIGNS

3 VOLUNTEER CANVASS DAYS

426 OHIO POWER SITING BOARD COMMENTS

4 PUBLIC HEARINGS

3 COMMUNITY EVENTS



CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY



2,955 DOORS KNOCKED

675 CONVERSATIONS

91 LETTERS

16 YARD SIGNS

VOTER COURTSHIP PILOT PROJECT



504 CONVERSATIONS
25% MOVEMENT FROM UNLIKELY TO VOTE TO LIKELY



HOUSE BILL 15 OVEC COAL REPEAL



34,968 DOORS KNOCKED

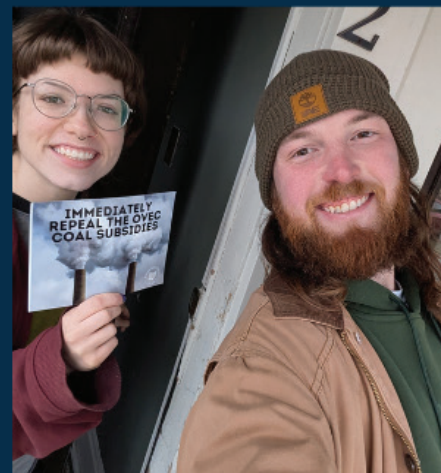
7,824 FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATIONS

2,195 CALLS AND 192 LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS' OFFICES

113 VIDEO TESTIMONIALS FROM OHIOANS

1,350 EMAILS DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

222 PATCH-THROUGH CALLS CONNECTING VOTERS DIRECTLY WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES



HOUSE BILL 303 COMMUNITY ENERGY



5,154 CONVERSATIONS
1,227 POLITICAL ACTIONS

CLEAN ENERGY ON THE BALLOT IN RICHLAND CO



3,027 CONVERSATIONS
1,227 PETITION SIGNATURES

RICHLAND COUNTY

When Richland County Commissioners banned solar and wind without meaningful community input, residents formed the Richland County Citizens for Property Rights and Job Development. They had just 30 days to collect 3,320 signatures under the restrictive requirements of SB 52, a law designed to make this nearly impossible. Ohio Citizen Action, working alongside over 100 local volunteers, connected with voters across the county to collect more than 4,300 signatures to qualify for the ballot—with just 60 signatures to spare!



On May 5th, Richland County will hold the country's first-ever referendum to repeal a renewable energy ban. **This is unprecedented and it's happening because local residents refused to accept being shut out of the decision-making process.**

When we win in May, we'll prove that grassroots organizing can overcome even the most restrictive anti-clean energy laws in the country. **Thank you for your continued support of this historic campaign.**

VOTER COURTSHIP

In 2025, your support helped us launch an exciting campaign called the **Voter Courtship Project** to understand why registered voters sit out elections. Over the span of five months last year, our canvassers spoke with registered voters who sat out the 2024 election. Our team used “deep canvassing”—a technique built on non-judgmental listening and genuine human connection, to understand the real reasons Ohioans are not voting.

We discovered that voters, of course, aren't apathetic or lazy—they're exhausted. They want to vote but feel disconnected from candidates who don't seem to understand their daily struggles. Across all of our deep canvassing conversations, **we moved 25% to 36% of voters from “unlikely to vote” to “planning to vote in 2026.”** That's a remarkable shift! It shows that people don't need to be convinced that voting matters; they need to be reminded that they matter and their vote connects directly to the issues keeping them up at night. In this election year, these conversations can impact Ohio's future. Every door we knock could be one that brings a disengaged voter back. **Thank you for supporting this vital work to increase voter turnout in 2026 and beyond.**



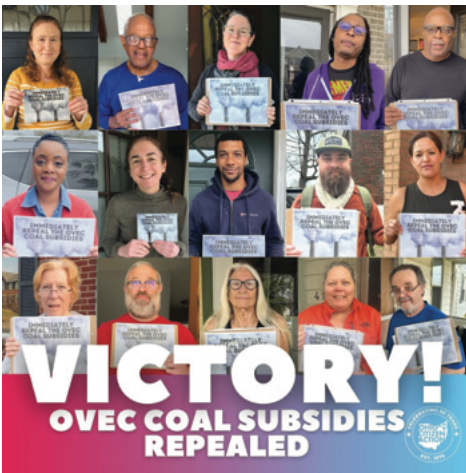
HISTORIC WINS FOR OHIO'S ENERGY FUTURE

For decades, Ohio Citizen Action has been warning Ohioans about FirstEnergy's corruption. We've fought their unjust rate hikes, opposed their nuclear bailouts, and called out their dark money schemes. And we were right. In November, the Public Utilities Commission fined FirstEnergy \$250.7 million for the House Bill 6 bribery scandal—one of the biggest utility penalties in U.S. history. More than \$186 million will go back to consumers.

After years of persistent advocacy, in August we helped repeal the OVEC coal subsidies as part of House Bill 15, a landmark overhaul of Ohio's energy system. For years, Ohio ratepayers were forced to subsidize obsolete, polluting coal plants they never asked for. This year, thanks to our members, that chapter has come to a close.



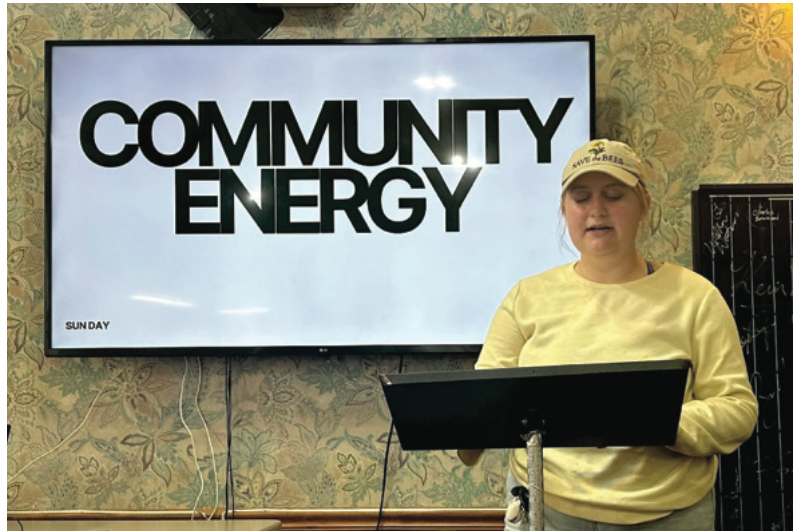
Signed into law in May, House Bill 15 also delivers long-overdue reforms to Ohio's energy policy. The legislation promotes investment in advanced transmission technologies to expand our existing grid's capacity, and it improves reliability by requiring utilities to heat map energy usage and track outages at the local level. HB15 also offers low-interest loans for solar energy and efficiency upgrades in schools, transitioning Ohio away from Electric Security Plans—which utilities have exploited to charge customers excessive riders and fees.



COMMUNITY ENERGY

House Bill 303 would establish Ohio's first community energy pilot program, a common sense solution to our rising energy costs and growing reliability challenges. Ohio is facing ever-increasing energy demands. Community energy programs under HB 303 present a fast, efficient, and cost-effective tool to help meet that demand.

Community energy provides Ohioans a diverse mix of locally-generated power options. Ohioans can subscribe to these community projects and receive credits on their monthly electricity bills. With bills climbing, blackouts looming, and thousands of projects stuck in bureaucratic limbo, we can't afford to wait any longer.



In November, the House passed HB 303 by a vote of 77-8 taking the first step towards strengthening Ohio's energy independence. Your support funded the outreach that contributed to HB 303 passing the house in 2025. **With your help we'll keep working to connect Ohio voters to decision makers to make sure that HB 303 is passed into law in 2026.**

OHIO CITIZEN ACTION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF GRASSROOTS VICTORIES

With some pomp and circumstance, we celebrated 50 years of powerful action, extraordinary wins powered by ordinary Ohioans, and a growing grassroots legacy that delivers a stronger, safer, and healthier future for Ohio—while fighting back against the worst government abuse and corporate greed. For half a century, our grassroots canvassers have led the way, going door-to-door and speaking with our neighbors about issues they care about. We've been winning significant local and state-wide campaigns and building long-lasting coalitions that continue to protect our democracy, our health, and our climate in Ohio.

On September 20th at the Grand Event Center in Columbus, we celebrated 50 years of people power. The night was filled with incredible stories about past victories and a reinvigorated enthusiasm for the work ahead.

We heard stories from all of Ohio Citizen Action's past and current executive directors. Ira Arlook (OCA executive director 1975-1993) spoke about how the organization began and early fights for worker's rights. Sandy Buchanan (OCA executive director 1993-2013) spoke about our groundbreaking work fighting for toxic chemical right-to-know laws and our innovative Good Neighbor campaigns. Rachael Belz (OCA executive director/CEO, 2013-present) talked about our return to electoral politics, candidate endorsements, and broadening our reach by working in coalition with other groups across Ohio.

Keynote speakers for the evening were former Senator Sherrod Brown and Connie Schultz, who were also awarded Ohio Citizen Action's highest honor, the Howard M. Metzenbaum Award. Senator Metzenbaum, who served as U.S. Senator from 1973-1975 and 1977-1995, was a fierce advocate for workers and consumers, a close ally of Ohio Citizen Action, and embodied the organization's core values. The late Senator's daughter, Shelley Metzenbaum, attended the event and presented the award bearing her father's name to Sherrod Brown and Connie Schultz, making the occasion even more memorable.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

NEW HIRES

Linda Ozello - Volunteer Coordinator

Linda Ozello joined Ohio Citizen Action in November 2025 as a Volunteer Coordinator for Rural Projects where she will help expand clean energy outreach through solar engagement projects that empower communities.

Linda's passion for organizing is rooted in her own experiences navigating the healthcare system after developing chronic health conditions at a young age. Linda has built a career at the intersection of people and policy. Before joining OCA, she worked in human resources and her organizing background spans local, state, and federal levels—from volunteering for presidential campaigns to working with the Ohio Democratic Party on behalf of former Senator Sherrod Brown.



Shannon Harper - Cleveland Regional Field Director

Shannon Harper joined Ohio Citizen Action with a background in civic engagement, education, and political organizing. Her experience includes work as a Field Representative for the US Census Bureau, a family law paralegal, a substitute teacher, and an eleven-year career as a licensed Realtor, which strengthened her communication, negotiation, and community engagement skills. Shannon holds a bachelor's degree in History from Kent State University and a Master of Arts in History from Liberty University.

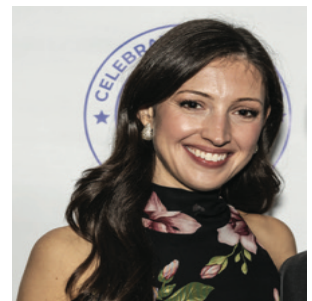


Welcome, Linda and Shannon!

PROMOTIONS

Tatiana Rodzos - Director of Campaigns

In November, Tatiana Rodzos was promoted from Campaign Strategist to Director of Campaigns. Tatiana continues to work directly with our Field and Phone Canvasses on outreach and mobilization strategy, as well as coordinating with partners to achieve our clean energy and pro-democracy campaign goals. Tatiana has excelled in every role she's taken on at Ohio Citizen Action, and we're so happy to see her position evolve to best utilize her vast skillset and meet the changing needs of our growing organization.



Bella Bogin - Director of Programs

Under Bella Bogin's leadership as Rural Campaigns Manager, our Utility Scale Solar work, largely done in small, rural communities, has absolutely flourished, racking up multiple victories with new solar projects approved in several Ohio communities and helping to set the stage for the upcoming Richland County referendum, which is an opportunity to set nation-wide precedence.

We're excited to announce that Bella has been promoted to Director of Programs where she will shift some of her focus toward higher level program strategy, cross team coordination, and staff support, while still staying closely connected to on the ground organizing and campaign execution.



Congratulations, Tatiana and Bella!

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of Allan Dreyer, a founding force in our organization's work. Allan brought his passion for community organizing to Cleveland decades ago and never stopped fighting for the right causes. His three decades of public service, leadership with the Earth Day Coalition, and commitment to good government made Cleveland a better place for all. We are grateful for Allan's legacy and inspired to continue the work he cared so deeply about.



We're deeply saddened by the loss of Bruce Comly French, a former board member whose legal expertise was invaluable during our Sunoco refinery campaign, fighting to protect East Toledo residents from air pollution. A devoted Quaker, law professor, and champion of justice, Bruce lived by principles of justice, service, and compassion.

With profound respect we remember Barbara Wood, whose leadership during her tenure on Ohio Citizen Action's board exemplified her lifelong commitment to social justice. Barbara created a lasting legacy in the fight for equality.

Ohio Citizen Action and Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund Staff and Board



OHIO CITIZEN ACTION STAFF

Rachael Belz - Chief Executive Officer, Crystal Brown - Chief Human Resources Officer,
Scott Palider - Chief Political Officer, Eboni Mitchell - Director of Operations, Melody Linscott - OCA Mobilization PAC Director,
Kel McConaughy - Director of Individual Giving, Tatiana Rodzos - Director of Campaigns, Bella Bogin - Director of Programs,
Angela Oster - Digital Communications Director, Chris Young - Data/IT Director, Mark Biszantz - Membership Development Manager,
Sarah Strinka - Administrative Research Manager, Jo Baldwin - Senior Rural Projects Coordinator,
Anthony Bocija - Co-op Community Organizer, Kat Ricketts - Community Comms Coordinator,
Linda Tamajko Ozello - Volunteer Coordinator, James Duty - Senior Operations Administrative Assistant,
Riley Young - Membership Clerk, Katie Linton - Cleveland Operations Administrative Assistant, Josh Bellis - Phone Canvasser Director,
Adam Wilkey - Senior Regional Field Director, Justin Gray-Beeson - Traveling Trainer, Patrick Brett - Columbus Regional Field Director,
Shannon Harper - Cleveland Regional Field Director, Skylar Champion - Senior Field Manager, Craig Dugan - Cleveland Field Manager,
Maureen Rynes - Cleveland Field Manager, Aidan Turley - Columbus Field Manager, DJ Johnson - Cleveland Trainer,
Madison Carpenter - Phone Canvasser, Kevin Coblentz - Phone Canvasser, MaryAnn Hubbard - Cleveland Field Canvasser,
Madison McKinney - Phone Canvasser, Sarah Ricks - Phone Canvasser, Kevin Tolan - Phone Canvasser

OHIO CITIZEN ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carla Walker - President, Ted Barrows - Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Havens, Jennifer Farmer

OHIO CITIZEN ACTION EDUCATION FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rhonda Barnes-Kloth - President, Beth Havens - Secretary/Treasurer, Phil Leppla