



**OHIO ORGANIZING
COLLABORATIVE**



SUMMER 2022 UPDATE:

PRACTICING DEMOCRACY

“We who believe in
freedom cannot rest.”

- Ella Baker

WE WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST STUDENT DEBT

Student Debt Cancellation for 1+ Million Ohioans

Ohio Student Association (OSA) has long been at the forefront of the fight against student debt. Since 2012, OSA leaders have been pushing for tuition equity and student debt cancellation.

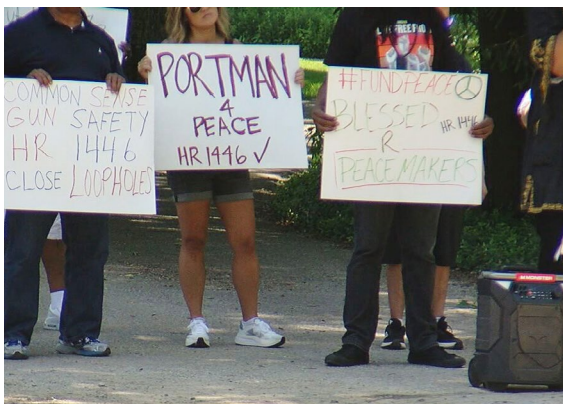
OSA leaders organized a national mobilization pushing President Biden to cancel over \$1 trillion in education debt. Shortly after the national mobilization, he announced another extension of the student loan pause through August.

OSA's decade-long organizing finally came to fruition when Biden 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.



2 WE KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES GUN-FREE

Winning Bipartisan Gun Reform Legislation



When a Texas gunman senselessly killed 19 kids and two teachers in Uvalde in May, Cincinnati faith leaders with the AMOS Project demanded Senator Rob Portman support common-sense, bipartisan gun reform. We 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 we 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.

WE FIGHT FOR FAIRLY & FULLY-FUNDED SCHOOLS



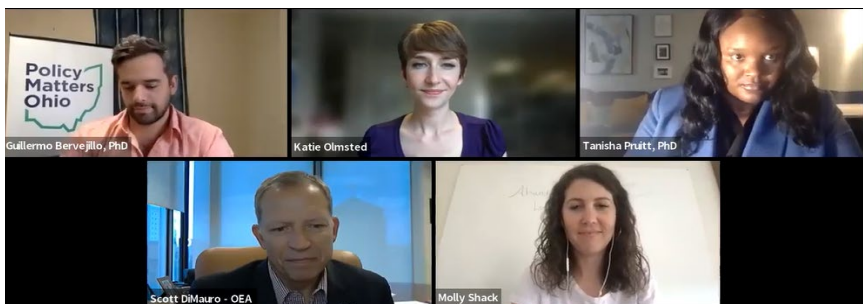
Organizing Our Parents & Standing In Solidarity With Our Teachers

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. After the strike, parent leader Dena Sico authored an op-ed in the Columbus Dispatch celebrating the win for Columbus school teachers while pushing for the longevity of fully and fairly funding schools in Ohio.



WE ENVISION A THRIVING & PROGRESSIVE OHIO

Launching the All In For Ohio Agenda

In June, we publicly launched a progressive agenda for Ohio 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. We developed this blueprint from our organizing work and our members' priorities over the next several years in partnership with Policy Matters Ohio.

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.



5 WE PROTECT OUR FREEDOM TO VOTE

Keeping Up The Fight 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. To promote the rally, Pastor Michael Harrison authored this [op-ed in The Columbus Dispatch](#). 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 has continued holding Ohio's Governor, Secretary of State and Auditor accountable for yet again missing court-ordered redistricting deadlines. 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.



6 WE CARE FOR OUR KIDS

Funding and Training Our Child Care Workers

Our organizing has yielded real wins for child care workers and the families they serve! Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval recently committed \$1 million towards Cincinnati 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 will give an additional \$10,000 to all family child care providers in Ohio, and an additional \$50,000 to child care centers. Trina Averette, a Columbus childcare provider, is one of the leaders who helped secure this latest round of funding by organizing childcare providers to share their stories with legislators and testifying on behalf of all family child care providers in Ohio.



7 WE DEVELOP GRASSROOTS LEADERS

Building Power with Everyday Ohioans

At the OOC, our deepest commitment is towards the development of people to achieve their full potential, and encouraging them to become leaders in the public arena.

After two years of virtual meetings as a result of the pandemic, we have finally been able to host in-person trainings at scale. We sent dozens of organizers to weeklong training in partnership with ISAIHA, our partner in Minnesota. Our faith organizing project AMOS Project trained hundreds of clergy and faith leaders on organizing and civic engagement. Meanwhile, our criminal justice organizing project Building Freedom Ohio trained hundreds of formerly incarcerated people in civic education, advocacy, and organizing. Finally, OSA launched the Direct Action for Democracy Fellowship this summer, providing Ohio student leaders with a unique opportunity to learn about organizing, communications strategy, and political action.



8 WE ACTIVATE OHIO'S MULTIRACIAL VOTERS

Getting Out The Vote

With the midterms only weeks away, we're thrilled to report that the OOC has already registered 30,789 voters in time for these important elections! We are planning to register 50,000 voters in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati this year – mostly young voters and Black voters. We have secured 200 volunteers for our voter registration efforts and are on track to hit our goal by the end of the year.



9 WE MAKE OUR POLITICIANS WORK FOR US

In September, the White House invited our co-executive directors Prentiss Haney and Molly Shack to share their community's stories and emphasize the impact of good policy on Ohio's communities. We're proud of the organizing work that has delivered real material wins for our members and our communities.



10 WE CHANGE THE NARRATIVE



Press Highlights:

- [Christian Science Monitor: Out of bounds? Why Ohio's redistricting fight matters.](#)
- [Columbus Dispatch: 57 years after Voting Rights Act, 'we're still fighting' \(op-ed\)](#)
- [Cleveland.com: For third time, Ohio Supreme Court orders state officials to explain why they shouldn't be found in contempt over redistricting failures](#)
- [Ohio Capital Journal: All in for Ohio Agenda looks to transform education, voting rights, health, safety, and taxes](#)
- [Statehouse News Bureau: Coalition representing low-income and working Ohioans unveils plans for election](#)
- [NBC4 Columbus: Columbus teachers' union files intent to strike](#)
- [Columbus Dispatch: Columbus strike is over, but that doesn't mean kids are getting what they deserve \(op-ed\)](#)
- [Vox: 4 themes to watch in the Ohio and Indiana primaries](#)
- [Cincinnati Local 12: Local group calls lawmakers to take action on gun reform](#)