



Public Policy Agenda 2019 - 2020

Aviation in Ohio Means...Jobs. Economic Growth. Global Connectivity.

Ohio's diverse and robust system of commercial service, cargo, and general aviation airports connect citizens, companies, and communities to destinations around the world while providing significant economic impacts to the Ohio economy. Yet, despite the aviation industry's significant economic impact and Ohio's status as the "Birthplace of Aviation", the lack of investment in aviation has significant spillover effects to the state's workforce and economic development attraction efforts.

Airports in Ohio:

- 104 Airports in System Plan
- 123,000 Jobs
- \$4.2 B in Payroll
- \$13.3 B in Economic Output
- Global Gateways

As the voice of airports in Ohio, the **Ohio Aviation Association** works to develop policies and affect legislation by educating and advocating for policy change in the executive and legislative branches on behalf of our airport members. Below are our policy priorities for **2019-2020** that are designed to reclaim Ohio's reputation as the leader of the aviation industry.

Issue: The competition for new international and domestic air service, which provides significant economic impacts to the State, has increased significantly due to investment of neighboring states in partnerships with air carriers while FAA regulations restrict the ability of airports to fund air service development partnerships.

Solution: Enhance Ohio's connectivity to the global economy and workforce by investing in support programs to attract new international and domestic air service. This can be accomplished by:

- Creating a \$15 million Air Service Development Fund to provide minimum revenue guarantees and marketing assistance to air carriers to support new international and domestic air service.





Issue: Year after year, Ohio's general aviation airports have significant unmet funding needs.

Solution: Create a sustainable funding stream to provide needed infrastructure improvements at Ohio's network of airports. This can be accomplished by:

- Reinvesting a greater percentage of aviation-related tax revenue in the general fund back into the Ohio Airport Grant Program (total general aviation-related state tax revenue was estimated at \$29.6 million in the 2014 ODOT Ohio Airports Economic Impact Study).
- Modifying existing eligibility requirements for the Ohio Airport Grant Program.



Issue: Ohio's commercial service airports have limited funding for terminal development and current needs are in excess of \$1.5 billion.

Solution: Bring Ohio's commercial service airports into the 21st Century by investing in ongoing and planned terminal and airfield projects. This can be accomplished by:

- Developing a one-time capital infusion to each of Ohio's commercial service airports to assist in vital terminal improvements.
- Modifying existing eligibility requirements for the Ohio Airport Grant Program.

Issue: Over the next 20 years, Boeing estimates a global shortage of 790,000 pilots and 754,000 aircraft mechanics.

Solution: Position Ohio's education system to lead the way to address significant workforce shortages in the aviation industry. This can be accomplished by:

- Developing a revolving loan fund (\$15-20 million) to provide access to low-interest loans to support training for students entering aviation related careers at Ohio universities and community colleges.
- Developing a one-time capital infusion to each of Ohio's collegiate aviation programs and technical colleges to allow the state's training programs to accommodate increased demand for training in aviation career.

