



**OHIO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
November 12, 2024**

**Proponent Testimony  
Senate Joint Resolution 4**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Mike Barhorst, Mayor of the City of Sidney, past president of the Mayors Association of Ohio, as well as past president and current board member of the Ohio Municipal League. On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony regarding our support for Senate Joint Resolution 4, which would place before Ohio voters the reauthorization to borrow money for the Ohio Public Works Commission's State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP).

The Ohio Municipal League represents more than 730 cities and villages. The work of Ohio's municipal officials to provide for their businesses and residents is vital to the economic success of the state, and maintaining infrastructure is a significant part of achieving this success.

Since its creation in 1987, the State Capital Improvement Program has been extremely valuable to cities, villages, and other local governments throughout the state. The program has funded more than 4,400 projects since 2017, alone. Its popularity continues to be highlighted each time it goes back to the ballot and is supported by Ohio voters, with 65% of the vote when it was last reauthorized in 2014.

Through your support of SJR4, our municipal members will benefit greatly from the \$2.5 billion that would be available over the next ten years for road, bridge, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and other infrastructure projects.

Passage of the resolution – and its ultimate passage by voters – is sorely needed at a time municipalities are already facing a variety of disruptions and challenges to their revenue streams. This includes overruns due to inflationary pressures that have led to significant increases in project costs.

Furthermore, the collaborative nature of the project application and selection process makes this OPWC program a true gem, as it demonstrates how the state and local governments can partner together for the benefit of residents and businesses. This is proved time and time again as OPWC's 19 regional districts comprised of local

government officials and private-sector professional with experience in infrastructure and economic development meet together to vet and rate projects based on a variety of already established criteria.

We appreciate Senator Craig and Senator Chavez for introducing this resolution and responding to the needs of local governments, including municipalities, from across the state. Therefore, we urge for its swift passage in order to meet the deadline for the May 6, 2025 ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Joint Resolution 4 on behalf of the members of the Ohio Municipal League. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.