



## Ohio Senate Finance Committee

### *Proponent Testimony Senate Joint Resolution 4*

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Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Vern Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Finance committee – thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 4.

On behalf of the City of Cleveland, I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide testimony regarding 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 City of Cleveland recognizes the value of the State Capital Infrastructure Bond Program (SCIP) as a reliable source of funding for capital improvements.** The City prepares applications for funding to the District One Public Works Integrating Committee (DOPWIC) annually to access the SCIP, the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) and the Revolving Loan Program (RLP) in Cuyahoga County. The City appreciates the collaborative spirit of the application and selection process used by DOPWIC to guide investment into projects based on established criteria.

These programs are increasingly competitive as demand for project funds grows year over year. Therefore the City is in favor of the increase in the bond limits proposed by the language in the current reauthorization resolution. In contrast to the limitations of LTIP and RLP, SCIP provides capital funding for a wider range of improvements including roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, wastewater systems, storm water collection systems, and solid waste disposal facilities. Additionally, the benefit of making \$2.5 billion available over the next 10 years sits in stark contrast to the approximately \$61 million LTIP that is constitutionally limited to roads and bridges. In recent years, awards to the City totaled more than \$9M in 2024 and approximately \$8M in 2023 across the programs managed by DOPWIC. **This represents a significant source of funding for the City to address aged infrastructure while facing the challenges of uncertain revenue streams and ever rising project costs.**

Through your support for SJR4, the City of Cleveland will continue to benefit from the program following renewal by voters who historically approve of this extremely valuable fund source. **We urge the swift passage of the resolution in order to meet the deadline for the May 6, 2025 ballot.**