

OHIO SENATE

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STATE OF OHIO

# Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Thomas F. Needles, from Whitehall, Franklin County, Ohio, as a Member of the Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission for a new term beginning February 24, 2023 and ending at the close of business January 1, 2031, replacing Thomas F. Needles, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 24nd day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

*Mike DeWine*

Mike DeWine  
Governor



Thomas F. Needles founded Compass Consulting Group, LLC in 1998, following a 15-year career in public service, which included eight years as Senior Advisor to Ohio Governor George Voinovich, Special Assistant to George Bush (41) in the White House, and a congressional press secretary and legislative assistant on Capitol Hill.

Compass is a state-federal government relations firm with offices in Columbus and Washington, D.C, and for over 20 years it has represented corporate clients, trade associations and non-profit entities before the state and federal governments.

Tom has served under five Ohio Governors as Chairman of the Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission. He is also a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Trustees for the University of Akron, as well as the Ohio Motor Vehicle Dealers Board. His private sector activities have included serving on the boards of non-profit organizations, and as a trustee to a family estate.

Tom previously founded a nonprofit organization that awarded more than 400 educational scholarships to low-income Columbus families, and for many years was the pro bono president of a program that helps at-risk and disadvantaged students throughout Ohio. He also operates a home in Columbus for homeless veterans.

An Ohio native, Tom received his B.A. from Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, where he was recognized as an outstanding Alumnus and the recipient of the University's Community Service Award. He earned M.A. degrees from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he was a guest lecturer.

Tom is blessed with four wonderful children.

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 2/24/2023

**Name of Appointee:** Thomas F. Needles

Address: 322 Fairway Circle  
Whitehall, OH 43213  
Franklin County  
(H) –  
(W) –  
(M) – 6145718999  
(E) – tom@compassconsulting.us

**Name of Commission:** Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission  
Ben Christensen, Capital Planning Analyst & Program Manager  
(614) 466-6004  
25 S. Front Street  
Columbus  
(614) 466-6004

**Term Begins:** 1/2/2023

**Term Ends:** 1/1/2031

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate

**Financial Disclosure:** Confidential disclosure required

**Vice:** Thomas F. Needles