



STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.

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**Ohio House of Representatives Government Oversight Committee
Proponent Testimony – House Concurrent Resolution 6
David Painter, Clermont County Commissioner**

Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, my name is David Painter; I serve as a Clermont County Commissioner, as President of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and as a member of America 250-Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about HCR 6.

The American 250-Ohio Commission is leading Ohio's preparation to participate in the nation's 250th anniversary, which will be marked on July 4, 2026. The commission's mission is spelled out in ORC Section 149.309 to "... plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future."

I wanted to take my time today to highlight a few aspects of American history through the lens of Ohio's 88 counties. One of the earliest episodes of American history in Ohio took place in Tuscarawas County, where Fort Laurens stood and was the site of the only Revolutionary War fortification in modern-day Ohio. Virtually every American-made aircraft flown during World War II was equipped with navigation lights developed and manufactured by Grimes Manufacturing, based out of Champaign County. The first professional baseball team was born in Hamilton County and the National Football League was born in Stark County.

We have produced seven presidents, nine Supreme Court justices, seven Secretaries of War/Defense, seven Secretaries of the Treasury, five Attorney Generals, three Secretaries of State, and, of course, our current Vice-President, J.D. Vance.

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight Clermont County's place in American history. Ulysses S. Grant, our nation's 18th President and the architect of the Union's victory in the Civil War, was born in Clermont County. Clermont County was also the site of some of the clashes with John Hunt Morgan and Confederate raiders during the war, the only Confederate incursion into Ohio.

America 250-Ohio, among its many other objectives, is helping Ohioans engage with the county they call home and help foster stronger community bonds by emphasizing our shared history while learning from our differences.



From artifacts of human settlement dating back 15,000 years ago in Medina County to Ohioans from Hancock, Hardin, Jefferson, Scioto, and Wood counties receiving the first Medals of Honor in 1863, and through today, Ohio's counties have been the site of, and have shaped the makers, of American history since humans first set foot in what is now the great Buckeye State.

Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey and members of the committee, thank you for your time today and your support in honoring our great home, the United States of America.