



**OHIO HOUSE TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COMMITTEE
INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 413**

February 17, 2026

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Ohio House Technology & Innovation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written interested party testimony on House Bill 413.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance represents both Republican and Democratic mayors from Ohio's 30 largest cities. We also represent the city of Athens, which participates in our coalition on behalf of the Mayors Partnership for Progress, a regional coalition in Southeast Ohio. Our priorities include protecting the fiscal health of Ohio's cities, preserving home rule and local control, and promoting bipartisanship and collaboration between state and local governments.

As mayors, we understand very well the importance of fiscal responsibility and transparency, and share the goals of HB 413 to ensure that Ohio taxpayers and voters have a clear understanding of how their local governments work, what they pay for, and how to allocate local taxpayer dollars. Our feedback can be consolidated into three recommendations:

- 1. Ensure compatibility with existing systems, and provide state funding to ensure state and local resources are available to collaborate on implementation and ongoing compliance with HB 413.**

Many of our cities already share budgets, expenditures, and other financial transparency data through their own systems and means. To ensure that HB 413 does not become another unfunded mandate that creates more work for already-strapped cities and city employees, we strongly recommend working closely with a variety of local government stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of HB 413, should it be enacted, conforms with existing systems, collects data in the most efficient ways possible, and provides clear and useful information for taxpayers. To the extent that all of those efforts require significant investment of time and resources on both the state and local levels, we also strongly recommend an appropriation accompany the bill to cover the costs of such oversight and compliance.

- 2. Ensure technical assistance and data collection tools are robustly managed at the state level to help local governments of all sizes comply with the bill.**

State technical assistance and collaboration will also be essential to implementation of such a policy. Ohio traditionally defers many data collection responsibilities to local governments, and therefore has a patchwork of different systems, technologies, and methodologies for the collection of a variety of local

government data. Centralized collection and public availability of such data is strongly in the public interest, but also requires robust centralized management of such data to make the data itself useful to the public and the process of collecting and reporting the data manageable for local governments.

- 3. To the extent that the data collection envisioned by HB 413 requires consistent access to IT support, technology, and internet access across Ohio's diverse local regions, work together with committee members and stakeholders across the state to ensure that other policy priorities around broadband access and related topics are integrated into the rulemaking and implementation plans for HB 413.**

The implementation of such a policy becomes complicated and more resource-intensive quickly when different entities that cover similar or intersecting political subdivisions and institutions must report on similar or overlapping data. Moreover, broadband access is inconsistent not just across the state of Ohio, but within many of our largest cities. We strongly recommend that the committee take into account the additional challenges the mandate in HB 413 places on rural and under-resourced parts of the state, and plan accordingly to ensure the database created by HB 413 functions equitably for both the local governments and political subdivisions involved and the communities they serve.

Should the committee decide to advance HB 413, we are available to partner with committee members, the bill sponsors, and other stakeholders on how to ensure the implementation of HB 413 works well for all communities.