



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the Brookings—Greater Ohio Summit on Restoring Ohio's Prosperity. We have an exciting program, an extraordinary group of speakers, and more than 1000 registered participants who together represent a remarkable cross-section of the state's government, education, business, neighborhood and civic leadership. These are the key ingredients for a fruitful day, and we look forward to your participation.

The purpose of this summit is to unveil fresh proposals for restoring prosperity to Ohio and to obtain useful feedback from panelists and attendees. The proposals and related research are spelled out in the draft report: *Restoring Prosperity: The State Role in Revitalizing Ohio's Core Communities*. This report and two background papers – *Our Joint Future: Rural-Urban Interdependence in 21st Century Ohio* by Mark Partridge and Jill Clark of The Ohio State University and a case study on Akron, Ohio by Larry Ledebur and Jill Taylor – are also available online at www.greaterohio.org.

The feedback mentioned above is vital, as we are depending on it to strengthen the recommendations presented in the final report, which is slated for publication in January. Therefore, we are offering a couple of options for providing comments. You can offer them verbally during summit sessions (which are being audio-taped), or fill out the form in your packet at the end of any session and submit it as you leave. You can also go to www.greaterohio.org and offer your comments on the draft report, specific policy recommendations, or individual summit sessions. Whatever your preferred mode, please be sure to share your thoughts and suggestions.

The proposals being unveiled focus on the role of state government in revitalizing Ohio's core communities. The assets that drive growth and prosperity in today's global economy are innovation, human capital, infrastructure, and quality of place. Ohio's best chance to alter its growth trajectory is to leverage these assets where they are found – in metropolitan regions and the core communities that are their hubs. To do that most effectively, the state also needs to embrace governance reforms that permit and reward collaboration both among local political jurisdictions and among state and local agency "silos."

The summit opens with a presentation that summarizes the research conducted for this project and lays out our policy recommendations. That session is followed by one in which distinguished state leaders respond to the points and proposals presented in the first session. We then break for lunch – a lunch that features a keynote address by Governor Ted Strickland. After lunch, you may choose from among six breakout panels. At 3:15 p.m., we reconvene for a plenary session on implementing the needed changes in state policy and a closing session on "next steps." In the folder, you will find a detailed summit agenda, as well as the draft policy paper setting forth the policy critique and recommendations and additional background documents.

We look forward to learning from you today as together we strive to find the best ways to restore prosperity to Ohio.

Bruce Katz, VP & Director
Metropolitan Policy Program
The Brookings Institution

Lavea Brachman, Co-director
Greater Ohio Policy Center
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings