



Defining Older Adult Civic Engagement – a work in progress

Older adults participating in diverse activities of personal and public concern that are both individually life enriching and beneficial to the community.

Older Adult Civic Engagement

- An opportunity to fit every person's need: from volunteering individually (a faith based organization, a single charitable event, a service providing community agency) to paid part or full time work to ongoing organizational involvement in advocacy or running for office. It can take place in the home, neighborhood, city, county, nation or world.

Civic Engagement: Promotes Successful Aging

One size does not fit all, but some common ingredients seem to make the process easier

Three ingredients of successful aging

- Flexibility - adapting to life's inevitable changes
- maintaining dynamic relationships
- living with a sense of purpose

Benefits of Civic Engagement are Diverse

Vary from person to person and activity to activity. A few common benefits include:

- Satisfaction from productivity
- Being part of a team/making new friends
- Staying physically active
- Staying mentally active
- Income from employment
- In some case, living longer!

Older Adult Civic Engagement

Brings lifetimes of experience to meet the community challenges of today while contributing to the personal experience of successful aging.



Ohio's Own Senior Civic Engagement Initiative

**Ted Strickland, Governor
Barbara E. Riley, Director, Ohio
Department of Aging**

Older Adults are Ohio's fastest growing natural resource

- From 2005 to 2015, the population of Ohioans who are age 55 and older will increase by more than 552,000. A large portion of the growth in the working-age population will be generated by these older Ohioans.
- "Older adults will play a major role in Ohio's economic success for the next several years," Strickland said.

Ohio Senior Civic Engagement Council

- Created by Executive Order of the Governor May 20, 2008
- ...to enhance employment, educational, and volunteer opportunities for older Ohioans
- "As Ohio's population of older adults grows, we must give them the resources and opportunities they need to continue leading productive, fulfilling lives," Strickland said.

Role of the Council

Collect and analyze data on the participation of older adults in employment, volunteerism, and lifelong learning

Promote policies and legislation that will favorably impact continued employment and re-employment of older persons

Promote policies and practices to increase the number of older Ohioans participating in volunteer opportunities

Role of the Council, cont.

- Promote policies and practices that encourage older Ohioans to take full advantage of the state educational system.
- Provide information to Ohio's business leaders, economic development leaders, and workforce development system that will enable them to better prepare for and offer service to Ohio's growing number of older adults.

Senior Civic Engagement Council
Barbara E. Riley, Chairperson

Greg Landsman - Director, Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives

Gretchen Lopez - Director, OSHIIP program Ohio Department of Insurance

Duana Patton - Executive Director Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Don Hoffman - President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

Ann Holaday - Director, College of Life Long Learning Sinclair Community College

Andrew Doehrel - President and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Harvey L. Sterns, Ph.D. - Director Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology

Tina Dunphy - Director, Ohio Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service

Joe Rugola - President Ohio AFL-CIO

Morton Smith - Older Adult Learning Advocate

Bill Sundermeyer - Associate State Director Advocacy, AARP

Suzanne Burke - CEO Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio

Stephanie FallCreek - President/CEO Fairhill Partners

Sally Davies - RSVP Director

Senior Civic Engagement Council, cont.

Kitty Burcsu - Executive Director Ohio Community Service Council
Paul Schrader - Area Manager North Central Cluster Corporation for National and Community Service
Meg Teaford, PhD - Professor OSU School of Allied Medical Professions
Lisa Patt-McDaniel - Director, Workforce and Talent Division, Ohio Department of Development
Cathy Hill - Administrator, Academic Programs Board of Regents
Tom Dillard - Director of Family Services, Columbus/Franklin County Community Action Agency
Sandy Calvert - Aging and Community Needs Advocate
Susan Crotty - Deputy Dir. ODJFS Office of Workforce Development
Walt Kaiser - Ombudsman Volunteer
Delores Lynch - Executive Director, Senior Outreach Services Inc.
Samuel Gresham - Executive Director, Commission on African American Males
Pam Rosado - Outreach Coordinator, Policy Matters Ohio
Tracy Maxwell Heard - Representative 26th District
Capri Cafaro - Senate Minority Leader

The Council will issue recommendations this fall based on work of its three committees

- Employment
- Lifelong Learning
- Volunteers

Employment

- Minimizing barriers to participation
 - Striving for work/life balance
 - 31% of mature workers became responsible for a dependent parent
 - 23% had an adult child move back home
 - 16 were providing child care or day care for grandchild
- Full-time, part-time, some of the time
- Entrepreneurship in the second fifty years
- Multi-generational family businesses

Lifelong Learning

- More people connecting to existing opportunities
- Creating new opportunities to meet new needs and interests
- Learning in diverse settings
 - Educational institutions
 - Faith Based Settings
 - Community Organization Settings
 - Online and At-Home

Volunteers

- Proper attention to planning and supervision
 - Volunteers can supervise too!
 - Creating new opportunities
 - Connecting with existing opportunities
 - Anything is possible
 - Eliminating barriers to service
- Keeping track of the value and sharing the good news

What Can You Do To Be Part of the Civic Engagement Movement?

- Most nonprofit organizations engage older volunteers and employees. Keep It Up – Do More!
- Learn more about the latest thinking and experience....visit some website resources
- Get creative – engaging older persons in fulfilling service requires fitting the opportunity to the person AND the person to the opportunity

**The Future of Civic Engagement is
Multi-generational**



**Engaging Experience and
Transforming Communities....
Across the Lifespan**



Access to additional free resources

- http://www.agingsociety.org/agingsociety/Civic%20Engagement/about_civic_engagement.htm#resources
- <http://www.asaging.org/asav2/civceng/index.cfm>
- <http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=142>
- <http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=142>
- www.cns.gov
