

Accountability

Make sure that the official who is charged with representing your community truly supports and introduces legislation that is in the best interest of you and your community.

Here are ways to review the work being done on your behalf:

- Learn who your representatives are on the city, state and federal level.
- Research legislation and important initiatives that your elected officials are in support of and against. Make your stance known to your elected officials.
- Attend Town Halls and other community forums.
- Elect, re-elect or choose another representative based on performance.

Contact Your State Legislators:

Ohio House of Representatives
www.ohiohouse.gov
Ohio Senate
www.ohiosenate.gov

Legislative Information: 800-282-0253

About OCHLA

The purpose of our commission is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing population of Ohio. The commission serves as a liaison between government and the Latino community in Ohio and advocates the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the Hispanic Ohioans.

Contact Information

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Civic Engagement and Empowerment



**Ohio Commission on
Hispanic/Latino
Affairs**



Civic Engagement and Empowerment

Vote

Let your voice be heard! Your vote is your voice. Voting is one of the most important rights and responsibilities we possess as citizens. By exercising your right to vote, you ensure that your elected officials represent the best interests of you and your community.

Here are important points to remember when casting your vote:

- Make sure your registration is current
- Cast your ballot regardless of obstacles
- Vote in every election – there is no such thing as an unimportant election
- Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to vote
- If you have transportation, provide rides for those who are unable to drive to the polls

To vote in Ohio elections, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day
- Be an Ohio resident for at least 30 days
- NOT be imprisoned for a felony conviction or declared incompetent to vote by a probate court
- NOT be permanently disqualified for violating an election law



Engage

Be sure to speak out on issues that you believe are vital to sustaining a high quality of life in your community. Be a part of setting the agenda to prioritize issues that impact your community.

By lending your voice to these important matters, you can effect change and bring about important solutions.

Here are important ways to champion for change in your community:

- Speak up and engage on issues you believe in and are important to you
- Attend City Council and Statehouse Legislative hearings
- Write/call your elected officials with your concerns
- Help register people to vote

Participate

Democracy requires citizen participation. One of the most powerful ways citizens can influence their community is through civic participation. Many communities have organizations or avenues that encourage participation. Get involved!

Here are ways you can participate:

- Pay attention to decisions being made
- Engage in local governance – civic associations and area commissions
- Join the PTA, neighborhood watch or local chapters of national advocacy groups
- Engage your local political parties
- Support issues and candidates you believe in with your time and your money
- Join organizations that support the issues important to you
- Read the news -- stay current on events happening around the state and nation
- Volunteer at events in your community
- Volunteer at the polls on Election Day

