

25 REFORMS TO BUILD A BETTER OHIO



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

“Emerging technologies have a lot to offer Ohio—better pay, better jobs, better healthcare, better transportation, better education, better lifestyles.”

In its report, ***Policy Solutions for More Innovation: A Policy Primer for Emerging Technology in Ohio***, The Buckeye Institute recommends 25 specific regulatory reforms Ohio can adopt to ensure the state is well positioned to take full advantage of the economic benefits and the improvements to quality of life that come with advances in technology.

Transparency and Breaking Down Data Silos

1. Breakdown data silos by creating or adjusting a state-level platform to more effectively display local data.
2. Within the new or adjusted Ohio database, list all taxpayer-funded technology-related projects, expected project durations, and amounts of Ohio taxpayer funding.

Local, State, and Federal Harmonization

3. Use the Ohio Supreme Court’s interpretation of the home rule amendment to enact uniform statewide law on technology policy.

Regulatory Sandboxes

4. Create regulatory sandboxes for financial technology, autonomous and electric vehicles, and emerging drone technology.
5. Create a regulatory sandbox for all industries.

Broadband, Internet Access and the Digital Divide

6. Place guardrails on government-owned and controlled networks to avoid wasting taxpayer money on low-quality broadband that is difficult to upgrade.
7. Pass a “dig once” policy so that high-speed fiber-optic cable can be laid during other construction activity.
8. Re-examine pole attachment procedure laws and regulations that cause excessive delays, increase project costs, and hinder internet access.
9. Fees associated with Ohio’s right-of-way rules should be transparently implemented and reserved for significant violations.
10. Consider the New Albany Company recommendation to deposit right-of-way fees into a fund used to provide more Ohioans with internet access.
11. Use fixed wireless technology equipped to service towers along roads and bridges to provide rural Ohio areas with internet access.

12. Continue testing and funding Starlink or other satellite technology to bridge the digital divide.

Telehealth

13. Allow Ohioans to use telehealth technology to get second opinions and consult with medical experts across state lines.
14. Make recent telehealth reforms permanent.

Autonomous and Electric Vehicles

15. Eliminate anticompetitive regulations that hinder car sales to consumers.
16. Do not subsidize electric vehicle charging stations with public funds.
17. Commission another academic study on electric vehicle charger placement and capacity.
18. Tie charging station funding at state attractions to time spent at those locations to ensure efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Drone Deployment

19. Disentangle “uncontrolled airspace” disputes by enacting an aviation easement law that allows commercial drones to fly over certain properties.
20. Reform or clarify airspace lease laws so aerial drones may fly over local roads.
21. Apply existing laws—such as Peeping Tom laws that protect privacy and prevent spying—to emerging technologies, such as drones, to avoid regulatory overlap and unneeded restraints on innovation.

Digital Service Taxes

22. Avoid levying digital service taxes and instead reform the tax code in accordance with The Buckeye Institute’s principles of tax reform.

Data Privacy

23. Reassess penalties for breaching or leaking government records.
24. To reduce compliance costs and litigation risk, coordinate data privacy legislation with other states to limit private rights of action and instead vest enforcement power in state attorneys general.

State-Based Visas for the Heartland

25. Coordinate with Washington to increase skilled-labor immigration through state-based visas.