

*State of the State
February 6, 2008*

Economy: Building Ohio Jobs, \$1.7 billion Ohio Jobs Package

To respond to the state's economic challenges, Governor Strickland is proposing *Building Ohio Jobs*, a \$1.7 billion jobs stimulus package to create more than 80,000 jobs and lay the foundation for future economic prosperity.

Through issuing bonds, the plan will invest:

- **\$250 million in the advanced and renewable energy economy**, including solar, wind and clean coal.
- **\$150 million in our state's infrastructure** to help create a seamless network of roads, rails, and ports to support our logistics and distribution industry.
- **\$100 million in bioproducts that use renewable sources** instead of petroleum to create plastics and other products.
- **\$200 million in the biomedical industry**, saving lives by fueling Ohio's leadership in new medical products.
- **\$200 million establishing the Ohio Main Streets Renewal Initiative** to spur redevelopment in downtown neighborhoods in our cities and towns.
- **\$400 million in the Clean Ohio fund**, to advance our efforts to reclaim brownfields and other damaged lands and preserve farm land and open spaces.
- **\$400 million in the Ohio Public Works Commission** to help our local partners with road, bridge, water and sewer projects. These are projects that spur growth in our cities and towns and Ohio as a whole.

Higher Education: Seniors to Sophomores Initiative

Governor Strickland's *Seniors to Sophomores* Initiative directs the Chancellor to give every twelfth grader who meets the academic requirements a choice of spending their senior year in their home high school, or spending it on a University System of Ohio campus. Tuition would be free.

Higher Education: Bachelor's Degree Offered within 30 Miles of Every Ohioan

Chancellor Fingerhut's 10-year strategic plan will guarantee that high-quality associate and bachelor's degrees in core fields will be available on a campus within 30 miles of every Ohioan.

Education: Allowing the Governor to Appoint a newly-created Director of Department of Education

To ensure a direct line of responsibility and accountability in education, Governor Strickland is calling for the establishment of a new position: the Director of the Department of Education. The Director will be appointed by the Governor and serve as a member of his Cabinet. The existing structure of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent would remain in place in advisory and additional roles as determined by the director.

Veterans: Establishing the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs

To honor our commitment to Ohio's veterans, Governor Strickland is calling for the creation of the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs and the consolidation of the state's services to veterans in this new Cabinet-level agency.