

## Biographical Information

**Joe Price, Executive Director, Ohio Energy Group/Partner, Larr Policy Group**  
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Joe Price, Partner of Larr Policy Consulting, is a seasoned government affairs and business professional with more than 15 years of experience in state & federal policymaking and political campaigns. Joe has a diverse range of knowledge on issues including energy, environment, transportation, taxes, and an array of other matters pertaining to businesses. Joe specializes in breaking down complex concepts and repackaging those ideas into messages that resonate with decision makers. Having worked in both the public and private sector, Joe's unique background allows him to effectively seek change – and most importantly – produce results.

Prior to joining Larr Policy Consulting, LLC, Joe was responsible for managing government affairs at TimkenSteel Corporation, one of Ohio's leading manufacturers and one of the largest consumers of electricity and natural gas in the nation. Joe's government affairs background, combined with his business acumen, allowed him to successfully lead the implementation of a strategic procurement plan for energy while effectively advocating for state and federal policies that helped manufacturing thrive in Ohio.

Respected by his peers, Joe also served in the top leadership roles of some of the most influential statewide business organizations. Prior roles include President of the Ohio Energy Group (OEG), Chair of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce's Energy & Environment Committee, and Chair of the Ohio Steel Council's Government Affairs and Energy & Environment Committees.

Prior to joining TimkenSteel, Joe served as the chief policy advisor for Ohio Congressman Bob Gibbs in Washington, D.C. In that role, he implemented a comprehensive legislative strategy for the Congressman's position on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, including his Chairmanship of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Joe was directly involved in drafting, planning, and successfully passing six bills to amend U.S. EPA regulatory programs under the Clean Water Act through the Committee, as well as the "Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014" (WRRDA).

Earlier in his career, Joe managed state and federal grassroots advocacy for a multi-national financial services company, launching campaigns in more than thirty states. Additionally, he served as the Grassroots Coordinator for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, where he created the Chamber Action Alliance (CAA), the first-ever outreach program to engage local chambers of commerce in state policy initiatives. Joe also has political campaign experience, having served as regional political director for a nationally-targeted congressional race in Ohio, where he oversaw voter outreach programs for a six-county region.

Joe began his career as an aide in the Ohio House of Representatives, serving in the offices of Ohio State Representative Bill Seitz and Speaker Pro Tempore Chuck Blasdel.

A native of Ohio and graduate of The Ohio State University, Joe has called the Buckeye State home for most of his life, along with his wife Sara and his loyal basset hounds Linus and Lenny.

## **Biographical Information**

**Chris Ventura, Midwest Executive Director, Consumer Energy Alliance**  
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Chris Ventura, Executive Director for Consumer Energy Alliance – Midwest is based out of Columbus, Ohio. In this position, Ventura works with state policymakers, trade associations, and community groups to foster a dialogue around policies which ensure affordable, reliable energy from all energy sources for families, farmers, and businesses.

Prior to joining CEA, Ventura served as Senior Project Manager for the Ohio House of Representatives under Speaker William Batchelder. Ventura also served as Legislative Aide and Clerk of the Policy and Legislative Oversight Committee for State Representative Michael Dovilla. Ventura provided strategic counsel on policy issues ranging from electricity generation and manufacturing to cybersecurity and travel and tourism.

He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from The American University with a focus on State / Local Government and Management Consulting and a B.A. in Adolescent Young Adult Social Studies Education from Baldwin Wallace University.

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### **The Honorable Bill Reineke, Ohio Senate**

Senator Bill Reineke serves the people of Senate District 26 which includes Union, Crawford, Marion, Morrow, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot counties. He is currently serving his first term as State Senator. He chairs the Energy and Public Utilities Committee and serves on the Transportation Committee, Workforce and Higher Education, and Small Business and Economic Opportunity committees. His foremost priority is workforce development and job creation, which he pursues as a member on the Governor's Executive Workforce Board.

Senator Reineke previously served three terms in the Ohio House of Representatives. He has worked closely with the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce, Tiffin Seneca Economic Partnership, Tiffin Tomorrow, and Tiffin Rotary Club as a business owner in Tiffin and now representing the district in Columbus.

Senator Reineke attended Morehead State University. He is a business partner in Reineke Family Dealerships, a three-generation family business, that has grown to include 10 dealerships and over 400 full and part time employees. He is a 38-year resident of Tiffin and the proud father of two daughters.

## Biographical Information

### The Honorable Kent Smith, Ohio Senate

Senator Kent Smith currently represents Ohio's 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District. Smith was first elected to serve the people of Ohio in 2014 and was re-elected in 2016, 2018 and 2020 to serve Ohio's 8th House District. He joined the Ohio General Assembly after serving Euclid, Ohio as a Member of the Euclid Board of Education from 2002 – 2013. In his 12 years on the Euclid School Board, Senator Smith never missed a meeting. As a Euclid School Board Member, he was a four-time winner of the "Award of Achievement" which is awarded annually by the Ohio School Boards Association to less than three percent of all School Board Members in Ohio.

Senator Smith graduated from Miami University in 1988 and earned his Master of Science in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University in 2001. His master's degree thesis - which was written in 2001 - was about the emerging threat of Predatory Lending and the Subprime Market. He also co-authored the first Predatory Lending Report by Policy Matters Ohio in 2002. Following his master's degree studies, he sought his PhD at Cleveland State University in Economic Development.

Senator Smith serves as the Ranking Member on the Senate Energy and Public Utilities, Financial Institutions and Technology, and Ways and Means Committees. He also serves on the Senate Judiciary, Transportation, and Rules and Reference Committees.

Throughout his time in the House, he served as the Ranking Member on the House Public Utilities (134th and 133rd GA), Financial Institutions (133rd GA), Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development (132nd GA), and Economic & Workforce Development (131st GA) Committees. He also served on the House Higher Education and Career Readiness, Technology and Innovation, Education, Commerce and Labor, and Rules & Reference Committees.

Prior to joining the Ohio General Assembly, Senator Smith worked for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, which included an assignment with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and at four Northeast Ohio nonprofit organizations.

He is eager to use his unique perspective and professional experience to improve the quality of life for the people of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio Senate District and working families across the state.

## Biographical Information

### **The Honorable Dick Stein, Ohio House of Representatives**

Dick Stein is currently serving his fourth term as state representative. He represents the 54th Ohio House District, which includes most of Lorain County, northern Huron County and eastern Erie County.

For the past 40 years, Representative Stein, a native of Norwalk, has owned and operated Stein Photography, a successful local business that has provided him with a keen understanding of the challenges many small businesses face. Stein is a graduate of Norwalk St. Paul High School and earned professional masters and craftsman degrees from the Professional Photographers of America.

With experience in local community organizations, such as serving on the Huron County Republican Party Central Committee and taking a leadership role in the "If You Believe" area voter education group, Rep. Stein strives to broaden the tax base in order to lower rates for all Ohioans during his time in the legislature. He also aims to work on lowering energy costs for working families and businesses and supporting local governments and area school boards.

Stein and his wife, Patty, are the parents of two adult sons, who are married. The Steins also have 8 grandchildren.

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### **The Honorable Adam C. Miller, Ohio House of Representatives (Invited)**

Representative Adam Miller brings a lifetime of public service to the Statehouse. He is former K-12 public school teacher, coach, administrator and public-school board member. Adam began coaching as a volunteer track high school distance coach in 1986. In addition to his duties as State Representative for Ohio District 17, Miller is a practicing attorney and a Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps member, US Army Reserves. Rep. Miller recently returned from an Active-Duty tour as Rule of Law Director, NATO/US Forces Afghanistan.

For the 135th General Assembly, Representative Miller serves on House Committee on Finance; Ranking Member of Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety; Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee; Homeland Security Committee; Public Utilities Committee and Correctional Institution Inspection Committee.

Adam is a leading education policy expert. A former large school district general counsel, he is a past chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's Education Law Committee and served as deputy director of legal services at the Ohio School Boards Association. In addition to his education expertise, he is a fighter for social justice, economic development, good government, and civil rights.

Adam is Colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps (Reserve) and has served multiple tours overseas. He serves on the National Council of State Legislators Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force working to develop innovative programs in support of our nation's service members, veterans, and their families. His public service also includes being past president of the Hilltop Kiwanis Club and a K-12 board member at First Community Church.

A distance runner and hiker, Miller ran track and cross country at Ohio State. He is a 4th-generation Columbus Hilltop (Westside) native. Adam and his wife Helen (nee Truscott) are proud parents of two grown children and live in Columbus with their dog Buddy.