• Formed in 2007, the Ohio Organizing Collaborative is a statewide organization that unites community organizing groups, labor unions, faith organizations, and policy institutes across the state.
• The OOC currently consists of 19 member organizations working in every major metropolitan area across the state.
• We are a 501c3 non-profit organization with a vision to build a transformative base of power to bring about racial, social and economic equality in Ohio.
Criminal Justice System in Ohio

COSTS:

• 50,000+ people are in the Ohio prison systems
• Ohio prisons are designed to hold 38,600 people (currently at around 130% capacity)
• Ohio has the 4th highest prison population in the US
• Ohio spends $1.8 billion a year to operate prison systems (FY 18)
• Average cost per inmate: almost $30k a year for an adult closer to $150k for juveniles
Crime

• Violent crime rate is at a 30 year low
• Yet still over last decade the prison population increased over 12%

Because..... Drug offenders are crowding our prison and not with violent offenders

• 1 in 4 of all people newly admitted to prison in Ohio are there for a drug offense
• 1 in 8 are there specifically for drug possession
Drug offenses continue to constitute the highest percentage of commitments.

Total commitments by offense type 6
FY 2015

- Drug Offenses, 27.0%
- Crimes Against Persons, 24.7%
- Property Offenses, 12.6%
- Offenses Against Public, 7.4%
- Burglary Offenses, 11.2%
- Sex Offenses, 7.5%
- Other, 9.6%

Data provided by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Commitments Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2015. Commitment data was taken from FY 2005 and FY 2015 reports that can be accessed here: [http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Reports/reports12.asp](http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Reports/reports12.asp).
Racial Disparity/Gender Lens

• African Americans in Ohio are 4 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana than whites \((even \ though \ they \ use \ marijuana \ at \ the \ same \ rates)\)

• African Americans are nearly half of the prison population but only 13.9% of the population

• Women incarcerated has increased by 11% since 2012

• Ohio has the 4\textsuperscript{th} largest female prison population in U.S.

• Women are twice as likely than men to be sent to prison for drug possession as their most serious conviction offense
FIGURE 1
Share of all mothers who are breadwinners or co-breadwinners, 1967 to 2015

WOMEN’S INCARCERATION RATE
UNITED STATES 1910-2014

(Number of women incarcerated per 100,000 women, 1910-2014)

Compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative. For detailed sourcing see http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/women/
Vulnerable Communities of Columbus
Franklin County

Source: Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity
Number of People Admitted to Prison per 1000 Adult Residents (2008): The admissions rate per 1000 adults allows you to compare the intensity of prison admissions across places with different numbers of people.
Opioid Crisis Victim

Crack Head
Human Trafficking Victim

Crack Whore
Lone wolf
Gunman

Terrorist
Troubled Young Man
The War on Drugs: “These mothers don't care about their babies and they don't care about themselves... some young mothers do not believe that crack is bad for their babies.”

- The Washington Post

The Opioid Epidemic: “Separation may impair her attachment to her baby, increase the guilt she feels about the impact her addiction has on her baby and diminish her perception of her own mothering capacity — all of which can increase her risk of relapse,” she said.

- The New York Times
The Opioid Epidemic: “I think there are those individuals that definitely either come in [to the sex trade] already addicted, or through the nature of becoming engaged in the sex trade become addicted,” said Meredith Dank,

- WOSU.org

The War on Drugs: “It was instantly addictive, it created ‘superpredators,’ you became a sexual deviant, especially if you were a woman, it destroyed maternal instincts,” he said.

- The Atlantic
The War on Drugs: "The closer we get to the crack dealers on the street," said Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Curtis Hazell, who heads the major narcotics unit, "the more likely they are to have a past history of violence."

- *The New York Times*

The Opioid Epidemic: "It's a bit of puzzle: The homicide spikes we are seeing don't seem to have much to do with the opioid epidemic," Harold Pollack, co-director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, told me of the disconnect.

- *Vice News*
The War on Drugs: "It is not extraordinary for a woman, bored and uncomfortable, to take crack purposely to induce labor."

- The Washington Post

The Opioid Epidemic: "They are not individuals who are seeking out to be drug addicts or are seeking out a high. They are individuals who are getting trapped in a cycle of addiction."

- CNBC
LETS TALK ABOUT ENDING MASS INCARCERATION IN OHIO
Ballot Initiative Details

**Cut-off the Addiction-to-Prison Pipeline:**

Changing fourth and fifth-degree non-violent drug possession charges to misdemeanors and retroactively reclassifying past offenses.

**Cut-off the Probation-to-Prison Pipeline:**

Prohibiting prison sentences for probation violations that are not new crimes. Judges will have discretion to implement community-based sanctions and incentives.
Ballot Initiative Details

**Reward Rehabilitation in Prison:**

Expanding the ability for incarcerated people to earn up to 25% off of their sentence through participation in quality rehabilitative programming.

**Transformative Investments in Community Health:**

Redirecting funds saved into drug treatment, mental health, and trauma recovery services.
OHIOANS SUPPORT CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Thinking of non-violent drug offenders, which is closer to your view?

Non-violent drug offenders should be sent to treatment. Our prisons are already overcrowded and we should move people to treatment so they can continue to be parents and breadwinners for their families.

People who use drugs are breaking the law and need to be sent to prison. Being lenient on these drug users will just make the problem worse and make our communities less safe.

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<th>Obama Switcher</th>
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Q22: Thinking of non-violent drug offenders, which is closer to your view?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BALLOT INITIATIVES WORK
California 2014 & Oklahoma 2016

- In 2014 Californians for Safety and Justice passed Proposition 47 by 59%.
  - Approximately 4,666 people have been resentenced and released from state prison through Proposition 47 so far. This reduction in California’s prison population helped the state achieve the population level ordered by the federal court – one year ahead of schedule.
- In 2016 Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform passed two criminal justice reform initiatives by 58% and 56% respectively.
  - In January 18, 2018 - felony filings were down 26%
Civic Engagement

- Franklin County needs 30,000 signatures
- Civic Participation: Voter registration, education, and mobilization
- Formerly incarcerated people CAN VOTE
- Incarcerated people who haven't been convicted of a felony HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE
Timeline:

December 2017 – 
Language was approved by Ohio Ballot Board

January 2018 – July 2018
Collect Signatures
Get endorsements for language

July 3, 2018 –
Turn in 500,000 signatures for validation of ballot initiative

November 2018 –
Statewide vote on constitutional amendment
Learn More Do More: Next Steps

1. Sign the petition! We’ve got them here.

1. Take a petition! Ballot issues are 501c(3) friendly for churches, non-profits, agencies etc.

2. Sign up to volunteer – table or canvass with us, start a justice team in your community, organization or congregation.

3. Prepare for success! Support people in prison, as they come home & help ensure that resources reach the people who need them most. (Horizon, YWCA and more!)

4. May 8\textsuperscript{th} Day of Action – Sign up to work the polls on Primary Election Day!