

PORTMAN CENTER
FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

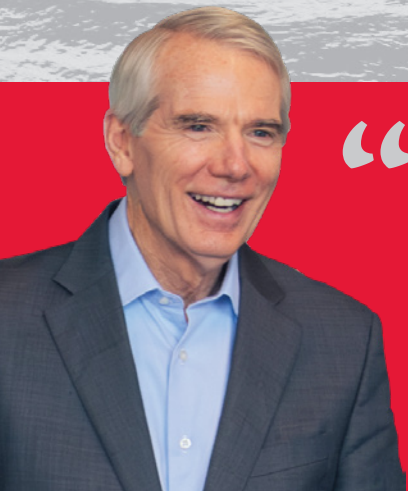
ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025

CHARTING OUR COURSE:

GROWTH AND Impact



University of
CINCINNATI



“ Our work at the Portman Center is timely and important as the political system is increasingly unable to forge consensus and solve problems in a sustainable way. I’m proud of the progress the Portman Center has made over the past year in furthering our mission of promoting common ground. ”

ROB PORTMAN, FORMER US SENATOR FROM OHIO
CHAIR, PORTMAN CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 **MEETING THE MOMENT**
- 02 **CULTIVATE CIVIC LEADERS**
- 06 **CONVENE INFORMED CONVERSATIONS**
- 10 **TIMELINE**
- 12 **CHAMPION POLICY SOLUTIONS**
- 14 **MEET THE TEAM**
- 15 **STUDENT FELLOWS**
- 16 **WHAT'S NEXT**
- 17 **AT-A-GLANCE**

MISSION

To encourage civility, bipartisanship, and finding common ground to achieve policy solutions. This includes the promotion and development of future public servants from across the political spectrum who are committed to civility, open and inclusive dialogue, and bipartisan engagement. The center aims to inspire students, faculty and community partners to grow as citizen-leaders who advance the public good, and through its mission, also intends to influence the national political climate at a time of growing partisanship and incivility.



ABOVE: Clifton Court Hall,
home to the Portman Center

MEETING THE Moment

THE PORTMAN CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS A YEAR IN REVIEW

At the Portman Center, we are working to provide civic hope. Every day our news feeds are filled with stories of political pessimism, provoking frustration, anxiety, and apathy. In January, Pew Research Center reported that 62% of US adults are dissatisfied with the way democracy is working, and the US is not alone as dissatisfaction with democracy is high and increasing in many countries. The Center is working to provide a different message – to elevate the problem solvers, to demonstrate productive civil discourse, and to educate the next generation of civic leaders.

This year’s Annual Report theme is growth and impact, which captures our trajectory. We doubled the number of attendees at our public events, and we expanded our impact on students – growing our fellows program, increasing our number of civil discourse workshops, and building a public affairs co-op and internship program.

We made strides to impact public policy. Our housing policy symposium in April featured leaders who are working to solve the housing crisis in Cincinnati, in Ohio, and around the country. We launched a student public policy

competition, where teams crafted solutions to solve problems affecting both urban and rural communities. We are also bringing together experts to study primaries and election processes, examining ways to enhance government effectiveness.

Senator Portman and I are excited about what we have accomplished and where we are headed. We are grateful for our staff, Board of Advisors, University partners, donors, speakers, and other stakeholders for their investment in the mission of the Center. With their help, we are meeting the moment: inspiring public servants and civic leaders, finding enduring solutions, and demonstrating the way democracy can work.

We hope you enjoy this Annual Report, and we look forward to another great year.

Sincerely,

ANDREW LEWIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PORTMAN CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS



GROWTH AND IMPACT

Watch for these icons throughout the report to highlight key growth points as well as the ripple effect of our impact.



CULTIVATE CIVIC Leaders

ABOVE: Fellows pose outside the Capitol during trip to Washington, DC

PORTMAN CENTER FELLOWS

We are committed to cultivating student civic leaders. This commitment takes shape through the Portman Center Undergraduate Fellowship, our mentored scholarship program for undergraduates with demonstrated potential to make an impact on campus, in Cincinnati, and across the country. Our fellows build civic leadership skills, participate in small group meetings with government officials

and public affairs professionals, develop tools for making a public policy impact, and visit local, state, and federal government offices.

Now entering its third year, our fellowship program is open to undergraduate students from any discipline, and it provides hands-on experiences for outstanding student leaders. In regular meetings, fellows build skills for civility and constructive relationships across differences.



“ I’m grateful to the Portman Center for Policy Solutions for helping advance our mission to foster free inquiry and cultivate educated and engaged citizens. Portman Scholars will undoubtedly make vital contributions to our city, our region and our nation. Our future is brighter with a thriving Center focused on civility and engaged in the challenging work of finding common ground to advance the public good.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI PRESIDENT NEVILLE PINTO



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE: University of Cincinnati President Neville Pinto and Mallika Desai, 2025 recipient of the Presidential Leadership Medal of Excellence

They explore evidence-based policy solutions that serve communities, participate in reading groups, and engage with civic leaders who share insights into possible career paths. Throughout the year, guest speakers join the fellows in small group settings. Cohear co-founder and CEO Nia Baucke led a session on listening and asking the right questions to learn from community members. Dr. Jodi Whitted joined to share her experiences as a social worker, UC professor, and Ohio House member. Foreign Service Officer Victoria Nibarger also met with fellows to share information about her diplomatic career and related experiences with civic action.

AMBASSADORS FOR THE CIVIC MISSION

In January, the Cincinnati Regional Chamber hosted fellows for a Winter Retreat. The day included a leadership workshop facilitated by the Chamber’s Center for Leadership Vice President Sean Comer, a career paths session with emerging Chamber staff members, and a vision and goals setting session. Chamber Vice President for Government Affairs and Advocacy Liz Keating and Kroger Head of Corporate Communications Holly Stutz Smith led a keynote conversation spanning topics including their friendship across the aisle, the roles of corporate and non-government organizations in policymaking, and the benefits of engaging in volunteer opportunities.

Our fellows are exceptional students, each with outstanding leadership experience and potential, excellent academic performance, and a sincere



GROWTH POINT

Growth in fellowship applications from last year

45%

Mallika Desai

ON HER FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Being a Portman Fellow has taught me the importance of intentional civic engagement and that there is a place for me to bring value to civic leadership through my interest in medicine. Coming into the program, I knew I cared about certain policies and that an understanding of policy would allow me to mobilize the insights I have from my nonprofit patient care work and medical sciences research into tangible action. What I didn’t know is how many forms policy can take, that policy lives and breathes everywhere around us.

During the Washington Center Health Policy Immersion that the Portman Center sponsored me to attend, a speaker told me that every system, object, and institution is policy. Whether it’s advocating for a greenspace for patients, better window views to decrease burnout in hospitals, or adding a sign on the street that enhances pedestrian safety, policy is everywhere we look. And it also means that we are all capable and responsible for being civic leaders and enhancing our civic quotient, as the Cincinnati Regional Chamber taught me in our Winter Retreat. It’s things as simple as learning the lingo of your city, walking the streets of your city, and talking to the community that enhance your ability to make an informed difference—leadership should be rooted in the needs of the people you are serving and fueled by their trust. It’s one of the reasons I chose to stay in Cincinnati for medical school, as after spending eight years here, I hope to eventually be able to serve the community not just medically but also continue to make civic impact in what has always been my home community.

Mallika graduated in Spring 2025 with a BS in Medical Sciences, a minor in Political Science, and certificates in Innovation, Medical Humanities, and Biomedical Informatics. In addition to her role as an inaugural Portman Fellow, she is the founder and President of the nonprofit Parkinson’s Together, a NEXT Innovation Scholar, and a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Leadership Medal of Excellence. In Summer 2025, Mallika is interning for State Representative Anita Somani and conducting health equity strategy research at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. She is attending medical school at the University of Cincinnati.



THE RIPLE
EFFECT



ABOVE: Matthew Berning, Program Manager for Career Development

Internship Access Initiative

NEW UC-WIDE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS PURSUING PUBLIC POLICY

Building on UC’s national profile as the birthplace of the co-op, the Portman Center is striving to make UC a leader in public policy internship, co-op, and job placements. In February, the Portman Center hired Matthew Berning (Political Science ’22) as Program Manager for career development. This first-of-its-kind role at UC will prepare our students for careers in public service and connect them with opportunities in the government, public policy, and nonprofit spaces. The Portman Center, in collaboration with the School of Public and International Affairs, will provide financial and professional support to students completing internships and co-ops.

Starting in the 2025–26 academic year, the Portman Center will be launching a full slate of internship and co-op programming, as well as enhanced financial assistance for students completing public policy internships and co-ops. We are building integrated professional development pathways for students, will host career fairs and panel discussions, and will curate professional opportunities to link students with employers.

Through these initiatives, we will help UC students make a visible and tangible impact in Cincinnati, Columbus, Washington, and beyond.

interest in working toward common good solutions. They are among the best advocates of the Portman Center mission.

We mentor our fellows in civics, emphasizing both the foundations and practice of democratic self-government. We give attention to American political ideals, public policy development, and individual leadership.

Throughout the year, fellows represent the Portman Center in government and community policy settings. In October, fellows spent the day meeting Mayor Aftab Pureval, members of Cincinnati City Council and their staff, and government affairs professionals. City Council passed a resolution recognizing the achievements of the 2024 Fellows. In March, ten fellows traveled to Washington, DC, meeting with Congressional



BELOW LEFT: 2025 Fellow graduates celebrate
BELOW RIGHT: Fellows pose with Ohio Senator Steve Wilson during March trip to Statehouse



ABOVE LEFT: Fellows thank State Representative Rachel Baker during trip to Ohio Statehouse



ABOVE RIGHT: Fellows with Rob Portman in the Senate Gallery Studios, Washington, DC
BELOW: Fellows at City Hall

staffers and joining Senator Portman in meetings with Senators Amy Klobuchar, Mitch McConnell, Jon Husted, and Dave McCormick. Seven fellows traveled to the Ohio Statehouse, meeting with state senators and representatives. And locally, fellows participated in a series of workshops co-organized by the Portman Center and Cincinnati Nature Center, welcoming intergenerational community members to learn and apply citizen strategies for creating and enacting policy.

CIVILITY FOR DEMOCRACY

Civil discourse is essential to finding solutions and democratic self-government. The Portman Center emphasizes these skills with tailored programming to equip students with tools to lead with civility, participate in open dialogue, and collaborate across partisan differences to achieve

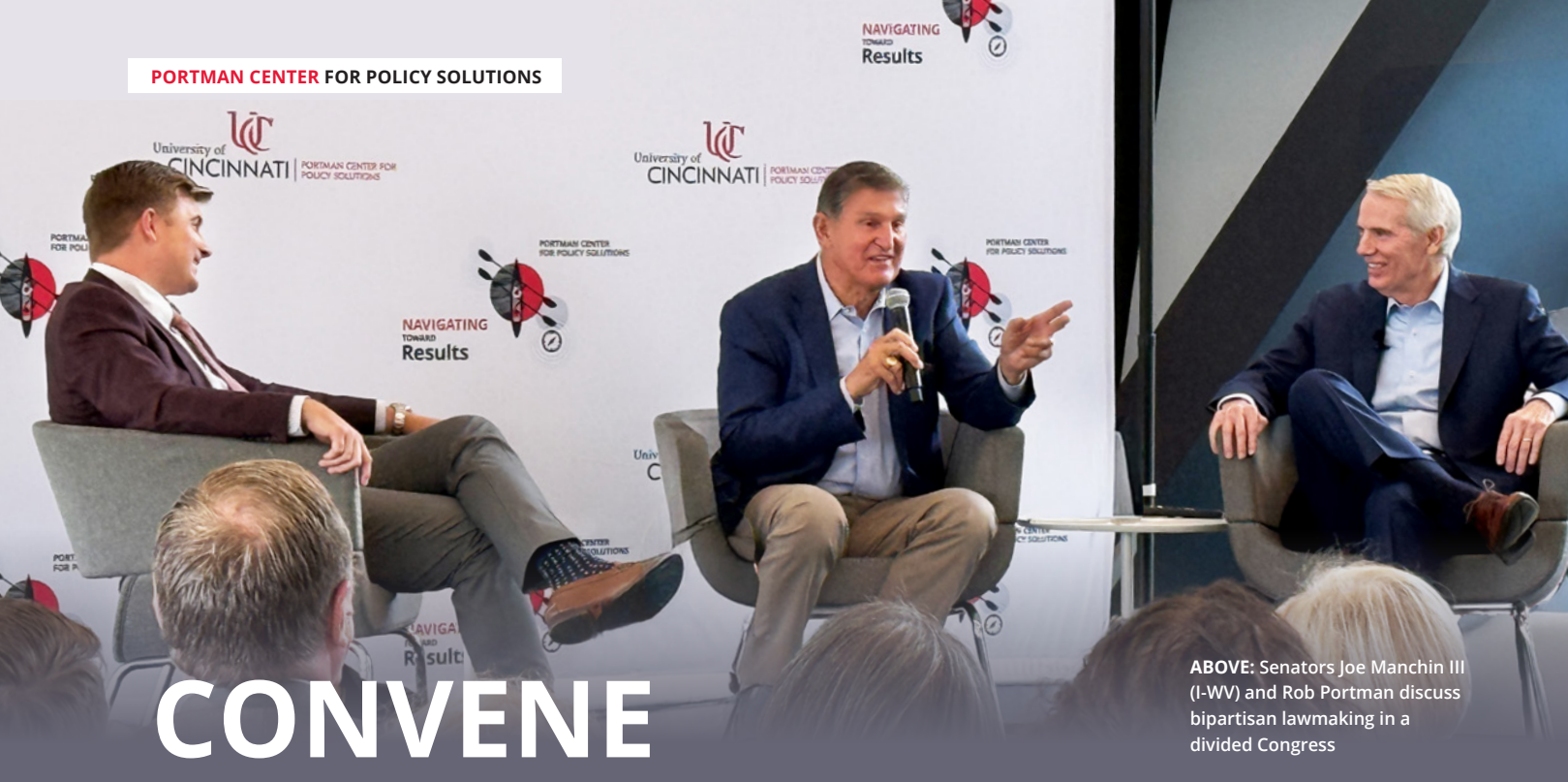
solutions. We collaborate with organizations on campus and in the region to provide this programming to the University community.

During the academic year, we offered a workshop series focused on developing skills for constructive conversation among people who hold different views. We co-sponsored six sessions, in collaboration with the Cincinnati Ethics Center, Warren Bennis Leadership Institute, University Honors, UC Libraries, and Braver Angels. During a presidential election year, especially in the midst of deepening polarization, it was critical to provide resources for students to acquire and practice skills for navigating political differences in a constructive way.



“ In the Fellowship, I loved growing close to a group where despite our differences we were able to have really deep and important conversations that changed how I view the world, state, and my community. ”

EMMA SPRIGGS, PRE-LAW POLITICAL SCIENCE, CLASS OF 2025



ABOVE: Senators Joe Manchin III (I-WV) and Rob Portman discuss bipartisan lawmaking in a divided Congress

CONVENE INFORMED Conversations

The Portman Center is a place where people can hear thoughtful perspectives on issues from leaders and experts. In these conversations, disagreement can be explored, mutual goals can be forged, and problem solving can begin. Because 2024 was a presidential election year, which highlighted competing governing visions, the Center wanted to emphasize opportunities to find consensus.

We began our conversation series in the fall, weeks prior to the November 5 Election Day. We hosted a conversation with Hamilton County Board of Elections Director Sherry Poland and Deputy Director Alex Linser, to help people understand the election process and provide confidence in the system. In Ohio, election administration is intentionally bipartisan, with Republicans and

Democrats working together to ensure a fair and accurate process. This event offered UC students and community members the opportunity to hear about the detailed processes, ask questions about the way elections are conducted, and learn about opportunities to get involved. Poland and Linser, who are affiliated with different political parties, dispelled myths around the election process and provided a compelling story of why we can trust election outcomes in Hamilton County and around the country.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE SOLVING PROBLEMS

Though our polarized politics grab most of the headlines, there are elected officials who are working hard to develop policy solutions, often

“ I spent a decade in the US Senate, where I was proud to work alongside Rob Portman to find bipartisan, common-sense solutions for the American people. Unfortunately, finding common ground is less common these days. I enjoyed speaking at the Portman Center, which is doing a good job building upon Rob Portman’s legacy and investing in the next generation of problem-solving leaders. ”

FORMER US SENATOR JOE MANCHIN OF WEST VIRGINIA



in bipartisan ways. We want to elevate those conversations with Democrats, Republicans, and independents – liberals, conservatives, and moderates – on how they build coalitions to solve problems.

In October, we featured a keynote conversation with West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin III and Senator Rob Portman on bipartisan lawmaking in a divided Congress. Manchin and Portman outlined the crucial role of bipartisanship in the passing of significant legislation including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Electoral Count Reform Act. They discussed how coalitions were built, consensus was achieved, and roadblocks were navigated. Both Senators expressed their belief that in our current polarized political sphere, the country needs leaders who prioritize common ground solutions over combative us-versus-them punditry.

LEFT: “Misconceptions and Economic Policies” conversation with Ryan Bourne

RIGHT: Civil Discourse panel with Akhil Reed Amar and Shaakirrah R. Sanders

After the November elections, we wanted to highlight the opportunities for policymaking in the new Congress, featuring two members of the US Congress from opposite political parties. Ohio Representatives Greg Landsman (D) and Mike Carey (R) have been working across the aisle to better serve Ohioans and Americans. In February 2025, they joined the Portman Center for a conversation on finding bipartisan opportunities to pass legislation. Hosted with Senator Rob Portman and moderated by Andrew Lewis, this conversation explored areas that House Democrats and House Republicans can (and have) come together to make policy improvements, and how that process works. The Representatives also presented their differing and nuanced perspectives on current political issues.



GROWTH
POINT

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

X2

More than double from last year, from 450+ participants to 930+

BELOW RIGHT: Senators Manchin and Portman with UC Dean of Arts and Sciences James Mack and Fellows





THE RIPPLE
EFFECT

Public Leadership Awards

COMING IN AUGUST 2025

The Portman Center Public Leadership Awards will recognize civic leaders in bipartisanship, civility, and problem solving. Presented by Cintas, the program includes a fireside-style chat with Senator Portman and the first recipients of the Sarah and Timothy Fogarty Award for Bipartisan Public Service, Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD).

Proceeds from this new annual event will support the Portman Center's programs, providing financial resources for students pursuing public policy internships, co-ops, and experiences in Washington, DC, Columbus, Cincinnati and beyond.

RIGHT: Sherry Poland and Alex Linser, both of Hamilton County Board of Elections, with Andrew Lewis, Executive Director of the Portman Center



“ The Fellowship changed my frame of reference for politics and civility moving forward. Being able to meet and network with people that are living our mission gives me hope that our mission will become a reality.

LUC BALSON, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND FINANCE, CLASS OF 2025



ABOVE: Fellows engage in a discussion with Representatives Mike Carey (R) and Greg Landsman (D)



LEFT: Audience at the "Bipartisanship in the 119th Congress" event

EXAMINING CIVILITY AND LEADERSHIP

At the Portman Center, civility is a core value, and it is especially important to emphasize this value during contentious, polarized politics. Making space for the civil exchange of ideas, even fiercely held ideas, is critical to the pursuit of truth and good policy. As we promote the finding of common ground, we look to the leaders who cultivate respect and dignity for the people they represent and the people with whom they may disagree. At the Center, we intentionally bring in speakers not only to model civility, but to discuss the value it has in our democracy. We are a place where voices from across the political spectrum can be heard.

In November, we hosted a public luncheon with author and former Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush, Jean Becker. Becker's 2024 book, *Character Matters: And Other Life Lessons from George H.W. Bush*, served as the backdrop for a conversation about political leadership. Becker and Senator Portman shared stories of the remarkable life and character of President George H.W. Bush, drawing lessons

for political and civic leadership. Becker shared her close perspective on inspiring moments with President Bush, including his willingness to compromise when necessary, his relationship with political opponents (including President Bill Clinton), and his role in leading the living former presidents to be active in hurricane and disaster relief efforts.

Civility emphasizes respect, humility, and understanding. It demonstrates our underlying unity in our diverse, self-governed nation. This year, we co-organized a conversation on civil discourse in constitutional politics as part of the UC College of Law Civil Discourse Symposium. The program was presented by the Portman Center's Hayden Program in Applied Civil Discourse. Leading constitutional scholars Akhil Reed Amar of Yale and Shaakirrah R. Sanders of Penn State explored civility in the practice of constitutional politics, especially in a political system marked by the separation of powers and political competition. Panelists discussed practical applications of operating with political civility while exercising constitutional responsibilities, even as applied to some of the most challenging constitutional issues such as slavery and civil rights.



“ With a sense of national apathy only growing across the past few years, having a venue to intentionally ask hard questions and discuss uncomfortable topics, like political ideologies, values, and identity is incredibly valuable and stimulating as a student, community member, and voter. ”

SERENE TARABISHI
LAW & SOCIETY AND
ARABIC LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE,
CLASS OF 2026

CHARTING Our Course

08.23.24

Fellows kayak the Little Miami River with executive team and Advisory Board members.



11.14.24

Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush, Jean Becker, discusses her book, *Character Matters: And Other Life Lessons from George H.W. Bush* with Senator Rob Portman.



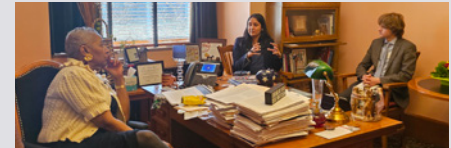
02.20.25

"Bipartisan Opportunities in the 119th Congress" with Representatives Mike Carey and Greg Landsman.



03.11.25

Fellows meet with Ohio senators and representatives to discuss state policymaking.



10.23.24

Fellows meet Mayor Aftab Pureval and City Council; Council issues formal recognition resolution.



01.13.25

Finalist presentations for the Portman Center's annual Student Policy Challenge.



02.28.25

"Civil Discourse in Constitutional Politics" with Professors Akhil Reed Amar and Shaakirrah R. Sanders.



04.10.25

Civility for Democracy series presents A Braver Campus Dialogue practicing respectful civic engagement.



10.28.24

Senators Joe Manchin and Rob Portman discuss bipartisan lawmaking in a divided Congress.



02.03.25

Policy Challenge winners compete at U. of Chicago's Institute of Politics Policy Challenge Super Bowl.



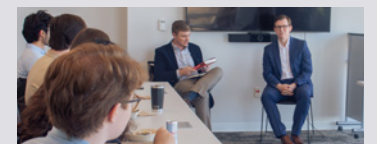
03.25

Fellows travel to Washington, DC for meetings and policy immersion.



04.16.25

Ryan Bourne (Cato Institute) discusses economic misconceptions and public policy tradeoffs.



10.03.24

"Understanding our Bipartisan Election Process" with Sherry Poland and Alex Linser, Hamilton County Board of Elections.



01.10.25

Winter Retreat for Portman Center Fellows hosted by Cincinnati Regional Chamber.



02.26.25

Community workshop with Cincinnati Nature Center at Civic Garden Center.



03.31.25

Portman Center Annual Symposium on achievable, bipartisan solutions to the housing crisis.



CHAMPION POLICY Solutions



“

Being a part of the Portman Center has provided first-hand experience to my political science degree. I have not only been able to apply what I have learned from my degree to real-world problems, but I have been able to take my real-world experiences and re-apply them to my degree.

LOUIS WEISS
POLITICAL SCIENCE,
CLASS OF 2025

”

Seeking policy solutions is part of the Portman Center's ethos, and we strive to integrate this process into our programming. To do this, we provide opportunities for UC students to be involved in the policy process, and we elevate leaders who are at the forefront of solving problems. Two events highlight our policy solutions work in 2024–25: our annual symposium and our policy competition.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: HOUSING

Each spring, the Center develops robust programming on a specific policy issue. The housing crisis has been a major focus at the regional, state, and federal levels, with many elected officials and policy experts ringing alarm bells about the nation's deepening shortage of housing stock, lack of affordable units, and outdated zoning laws. In March, we convened our second annual Portman Center Policy Symposium, centered on affordable solutions for the housing crisis.

At the symposium, UC capstone students presented their policy solutions, and we hosted three panel discussions focusing on achievable, bipartisan solutions at the federal, state, and local levels. The federal panel featured a conversation between Rick Lazio, Chair of Enterprise Community Partners – a large, national affordable housing nonprofit, Reggie Harris, recent HUD Deputy

Assistant Secretary, and Senator Rob Portman, serving as the moderator. Panelists focused on the scope of the housing problem and ways that the federal government can help initiate bipartisan reform and support local and state governments.

The state panel featured three members of the Ohio legislature who are working on the housing issue: State Senator Michele Reynolds and State Representatives Dani Isaacsohn and Adam Mathews. Reynolds focused much of her discussion on the findings of the 2024 Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing, which she chaired. Isaacsohn and Mathews focused their discussion on their bipartisan efforts to introduce a new housing fund at the state level, to incentivize local governments to institute pro-housing policies.

For the local panel, current Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval was in conversation with Former Mayor John Cranley about housing, economic development, and zoning reform in the city. Liz Keating, VP for Government Affairs at the Cincinnati Regional Chamber, served as moderator. Pureval and Cranley discussed Cincinnati's path to growth, the recently passed Connected Communities plan, and thoughts on how to combat resistance to housing development in local communities.

ABOVE: Symposium student policy presentation
RIGHT: Housing Symposium with Ohio Representative Adam Mathews (R), Ohio Senator Michele Reynolds (R), and Ohio Representative Dani Isaacsohn (D)



“ The Housing Symposium provided a catalyst for common-sense, collaborative solutions to make the American Dream more accessible. The symposium was beneficial in driving good discussions and building partnerships and momentum for our bipartisan, pro-housing legislation being included in the state operating budget. OHIO REPRESENTATIVES ADAM MATHEWS (R) AND DANI ISAACSOHN (D) ”



ABOVE LEFT: Urban-Rural Policy Challenge finalists pose with guest judges Greg Hartmann (Partner, KMK Law), Liz Keating (Vice President of Government Affairs and Advocacy, Cincinnati Regional Chamber), and Karen Ryan (Executive Director of Government Relations, University of Cincinnati)
ABOVE RIGHT: Liz Keating moderates conversation with Former Mayor John Cranley and Mayor Aftab Pureval



The housing symposium provided a platform for legislators and experts to discuss their current work and plans for the future. To further aide future discussion in the housing policy space, four Portman Fellows worked with the Center staff to create a summary report archived on our website, highlighting policy needs and opportunities.

STUDENT POLICY PROPOSALS

To equip students to engage in policy making, we provide opportunities through workshops and professional connections, so that they can shift from bystanders who have good ideas to people who are building evidence-backed, financially viable solutions. In Spring Semester, the Center's Executive Director taught a capstone course focusing on housing, where student teams developed policy proposals, culminating

in a presentation to policy leaders during the housing symposium.

This year, we also launched our first annual student policy challenge, welcoming undergraduate teams to create policy proposals that benefit both urban and rural communities. Proposals addressed topics including childcare, health care, and the opioid crisis. Five teams were selected to compete in our finalist presentation. Guest judges Greg Hartmann (KMK Law), Liz Keating (Cincinnati Regional Chamber), and Karen Ryan (University of Cincinnati) gave all teams advice for moving their ideas forward after the competition. The winning team continued on to represent UC in a Policy Super Bowl at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics.



GROWTH
POINT



COMING SOON!

The Portman Center is working with social scientists from around the country to investigate reforms to the primary system and election processes, which might improve government effectiveness and reduce polarization. We will release the findings in 2026.

MEET THE Team

ANDREW LEWIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PORTMAN
CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



The Portman Center is led by an Executive Director, and it is housed in the School of Public and International Affairs within the College of Arts and Sciences. The Center has oversight from an external Board of Advisors, made up of individuals from various industries and from across the political spectrum.

BOARD



TREVOR BROWN
Dean of the John Glenn
College of Public Affairs,
The Ohio State
University



DENISE DRIEHAUS
Commissioner,
Hamilton County



MICHAEL FISHER
Managing Director,
Winding Way Advisors
and Investors



MEL GRAVELY
Chairman of the Board,
Triversity Construction
Company



RICHARD HARKNETT
Director of the School of
Public and International
Affairs (SPIA), University
of Cincinnati



DAVID JAHNKE
Attorney at Law,
Katz Teller



VALERIE LEMMIE
Director of Exploratory
Research, Kettering
Foundation



DAVID NIVEN
Professor at the School of
Public and International
Affairs (SPIA), University
of Cincinnati



ROB PORTMAN
Founder/Board Chair,
Portman Center for
Policy Solutions



SALLY PORTMAN
Policy Marketing
Manager, Google



LORI ROSS
VP for Legal Affairs
and General Counsel,
University of Cincinnati



EMILY BAUMAN
Program Director



MATTHEW BERNING
Program Manager for
Career Development



AUDREY HEYROSA
Co-op Student,
Communications &
Motion Graphics Design



MEGAN VON LEHMDEN
Co-op Student,
Communications &
Motion Graphics Design

STAFF

UNDERGRADUATE Fellows

2024/2025 FELLOWS



LUC BALSON
2025 graduating student
Political Science
and Finance with a
certificate in War, Peace,
and Security



PRISCILLA CABALLERO
2025 graduating student
Criminal Justice and
Psychology with a
certificate in Law and
Paralegal Studies



ALEXANDER CALDWELL
Second-year student
Political Science with a
minor in German



LEEN CIBA
Third-year student
History with a minor in
Arabic and certificates in
Middle Eastern Studies
and Business French



MORGAN DALTON
2025 graduating student
Political Science with a
certificate in War, Peace,
and Security



MALLIKA DESAI
2025 graduating student
Medical Sciences with a
certificate in Innovation
and Medical Humanities



INGRID FRETZ
Third-year student
Political Science with a
minor in History



NATALIE GEORGE
Second-year student
Business Economics and
Business Law & Ethics



CAMERON HAWKINS
First-year student
Political Science



CHRISTINA HORN
Third-year student
Political Science with a
minor in Spanish and a
certificate in Social Justice



JACOB LESICK
2025 graduating student
Political Science with
a minor in Economics
and a certificate in War,
Peace, and Security



**TOKHIRJON
OTAKHONOV**
Second-year student
Law & Society



JAY PATEL
Third-year student
Medical Sciences and
Liberal Arts



EMMA SPRIGGS
2025 graduating student
Pre-Law Political Science
with a minor in Sports
Administration and
certificates in Legal
Studies and Social Justice



SERENE TARABISHI
Third-year student
Law & Society and
Arabic Language and
Culture with a minor in
French and a certificate
in Middle Eastern
Studies



LOUIS WEISS
2025 graduating student
Political Science with a
minor in Anthropology
and a certificate in
Legal Studies



LELA WALKER
Third-year student
Political Science and
Journalism



GROWTH
POINT

ENDOWED & NAMED FELLOWSHIPS

We are launching a new opportunity to support emerging student leaders. Endowed & Named Fellowships provide scholarships and professional development funds to outstanding Portman Center Undergraduate Fellows. If you are interested in supporting a named fellowship, please contact Executive Director Andrew Lewis.

WHAT'S Next



WE ARE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP OUR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2025–2026. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE UPCOMING EVENTS. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR MORE UPDATES.

artsci.uc.edu/portman-center



Getting the opportunity to learn and engage with the unique local-level government at the City of Cincinnati provided me with a newfound appreciation for municipal government.

JACOB LESICK,
POLITICAL SCIENCE,
CLASS OF 2025

FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

August 26, 2025 **PORTMAN CENTER
PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

March 2026
TRIP TO DC

October 2025
TRIP TO CITY HALL

March 30, 2026
POLICY SYMPOSIUM

November 17, 2025
STUDENT POLICY CHALLENGE FINALS

GET **Involved**



ATTEND AN EVENT



**SIGN UP FOR MAILINGS
AND UPDATES**



**HIRE A PORTMAN
CENTER INTERN**



DONATE

MORE



PORTMAN CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

Clifton Court Hall
5th Floor
School of Public and International Affairs
University of Cincinnati
2800 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0375

E PortmanCenter@uc.edu
W artsci.uc.edu/portman-center

AT A Glance



932+

**PORTMAN CENTER
EVENT ATTENDEES**



161

**APPLICATIONS FOR 21
25/26 STUDENT FELLOWS**



13

**UNDERGRAD
FELLOW ALUMNI**



6

**PADDLES SIGNED BY
VISITING SPEAKERS**



63

**NUMBER OF
DONOR HOUSEHOLDS**



22

**GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS MET**



\$20K

**INTERNSHIP
STIPENDS AWARDED**



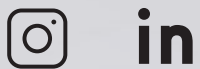
11

**STUDENT POLICY
PROPOSALS**



110

**MILES
KAYAKED**



PORTMAN CENTER FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

Clifton Court Hall
5th Floor
School of Public and International Affairs
University of Cincinnati
2800 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0375

E PortmanCenter@uc.edu

W artsci.uc.edu/portman-center