Wooster Micro Ranks #3 Nationally in Site Selection's Annual Rankings

Out of more than 540 micropolitan areas nationwide, Wooster/Wayne County has earned the #3 ranking from Site Selection Magazine — a powerful reflection of our region's continued growth and success.

Wayne County Quick Facts

Data from TeamNEO

116,618 Population	**56,052** People in workforce	**4,645+** Employers	**14,547** Manufacturing jobs
4.6% Unemployment rate	**$9B** GRP (Gross Regional Product)	**2,084** Farms	**$71,769** Median Household Income
32% Completed Higher Education			

TechCred 2025

60+ Organizations + **1,000+** Trained = **$1.2M**

JobsOhio Support Secured in 2025

$950K

in JobsOhio Grant Dollars, leading to **$2.8M** in total investment.

prc-saltillo | EDGECRETE

Requests for Information (RFIs) from JobsOhio

RFIs are opportunities from JobsOhio where companies are exploring potential locations and request details about available sites and buildings.

In 2025, the WEDC received 66 RFIs. Of those, we were able to submit 15 responses where available sites or buildings met the project criteria.

9 out of **15** Building Requests

6 out of **15** Land Requests

Thank You to Our Investors

We Appreciate Your Support of Wayne County

Platinum

- City of Orrville / Orrville Utilities
- City of Wooster
- Daisy Brand
- Noble Foundation
- Schaeffler Group
- Seaman Corporation
- The J.M. Smucker Co.
- United Titanium
- Wayne County Commissioners

Gold

- Akron Brass Company of Idex Corp.
- American Axle & Manufacturing
- BCI Buckeye Corrugated, Inc. – Wooster Division
- Briggs & Starr Wealth Management
- Farmers National Bank
- First Financial Bank
- Huntington
- Jarrett
- Main Street Bank
- McElroy Packaging
- The Commercial & Savings Bank
- The Ohio State University CFAES Wooster Campus
- Venture Products, Inc.
- Wayne County Community Foundation
- Western Reserve Group
- Wooster Community Hospital

Silver

- Artiflex
- Campbell Construction
- Certified Angus Beef
- Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston
- G&S Bar and Wire LLC
- Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Hummel Group
- Last Arrow Manufacturing
- MCTV
- Meaden & Moore
- Morton Salt
- PRC-Saltillo
- ProVia
- RBB
- Rea Business Advisors
- Sayre Hospitality Group
- Serpentini Chevrolet of Orrville
- The Apple Creek Banking Co.
- The College of Wooster
- The Will-Burt Company
- Total Distribution, Inc.
- Wenger Excavating, Inc.
- Wooster Glass Co.
- Wooster Hydrostatics Inc.

Bronze

- Akron Children's Hospital
- Alpine Heating & Cooling
- Armstrong Cable
- Aultman Orrville Hospital
- Avodah Contractors
- Bloomington Medical Services
- Bogner Construction Company
- Buckeye Oil Producing Company
- Buehler's Fresh Foods
- Built-Rite Box & Crate
- Centerra Co-Op
- City of Rittman
- CK Construction
- Cleveland Clinic
- Dasco Home Medical Equipment
- Dix 1898, Inc.
- Edwared Jones – Kim Cowgill
- Engineering Associates, Inc.
- E-Pak Manufacturing LLC
- Flextur
- Hasenstab Architects
- Ingredient Innovations International (3i Solutions)
- JAE Tech, Inc.
- Justin Haislip State Farm Insurance
- Kitty Poo Club
- Lorain Medina Rural Electric Cooperative
- Lorson Financial, LLC
- McClintock Electric, Inc
- Mennonite Mutual Insurance Company
- Moog
- Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce
- PFI Displays
- PNC
- RDM Equipment Co., Inc
- Ross & Storck, LTD
- SH Distributing
- Sol Harris / Day Architecture
- Speed North America
- The J. Horst Manufacturing Company
- The Village Network
- The Wooster Brush Company
- Wayne County Farm Bureau
- Wayne County Schools Career Center
- Wayne Insurance Group
- Weaver Commercial Contractor
- Weaver Custom Homes
- Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company
- Whisler Plumbing & Heating
- Whitaker-Myers
- Wooster Eye Center

Supporter

- AC Split Bolt
- CIX Direct
- Compak
- Global Body and Equipment
- Goodwill Industries of Wayne & Holmes Counties
- Home Builders Association of Wayne & Holmes Counties
- Lowe & Young, Inc.
- MAGNET
- Main Street Wooster
- Mike Mariola Restaurants
- Murr Printing & Graphics
- Steinhurst Farms
- TILMOR LLC
- Wayne Center for the Arts
- Wayne-Holmes Association of REALTORS
- Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce
- Wooster Development Company

Event Sponsored by:

Team neo | Proud to be part of The Northeast Ohio Region | MCTV | Ohio | OhioMeansJobs. Wayne County | MAGNET | SHG

Wayne Economic Development Council
WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

2025 Annual Report

Impact in Action
Enabling Growth, Creating Opportunity, Strengthening Wayne County

Message from President & Board Chair

As we look ahead to 2026, the Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC) is energized by the momentum building across Wayne County and the opportunities that lie ahead. Our focus remains on strengthening connections, supporting our business community and advancing the issues that matter most to the county's long-term competitiveness. Through partnerships with organizations such as JobsOhio and Team NEO, as well as collaboration with local leaders and stakeholders, we will continue cultivating strong networks that help businesses grow and communities thrive.

Business retention and expansion will remain central to our work as we connect with employers through BizConnects visits and link companies to the resources they need to succeed. At the same time, WEDC will continue supporting strategic development initiatives across the county, from workforce and talent development to future site planning that ensures Wayne County remains competitive for new investment. As we begin 2026, we are grateful for the support of our investors and partners whose collaboration helps drive progress, prosperity and possibility throughout Wayne County.

Maribeth Burns, President, Wayne Economic Development Council

Andrea Russell, Site Leader, Akron Brass Company, Chair, WEDC Board of Directors

By the Numbers

315+ JOBS CREATED

1 Million SQ. FT. NEW SPACE

$166M+ IN TOTAL INVESTMENTS

2025 Wins in Review

The WEDC

- Retains and supports the expansion of existing businesses
- Attracts new investment
- Connects employers to workforce solutions
- Administers local and state incentive programs
- Shares Wayne County's success stories
- Provides networking opportunities through events
- Leverages state programs to support business growth, including grants, workforce training and other resources

Our Mission

Partner, Promote, Prosper

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a business-led, public private partnership that maintains and promotes the strength of Wayne County's cities, villages and agricultural areas. By aligning and engaging key stakeholders, the WEDC fosters balanced and sustained economic growth and prosperity for Wayne County and addresses issues critical to its competitiveness.

Our Vision

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a leading and collaborative go-to organization that contributes to Wayne County's national recognition for achieving high quality growth that benefits both businesses and residents while maintaining a balance between industry, agriculture, commercial and residential development.

Strategic Priorities

Cultivate, Connect & Align Networks
Within & Beyond Wayne County

Support Business Development
With Attention to Retention & Expansion

Drive Critical Issues
To ensure future competitiveness

Wayne Economic Development Council
WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

The WEDC Team

- Maribeth Burns, President
  mburns@waynecountyedc.com
- Phil Schlabach, Director Business Retention, Expansion & Attraction
  pschlabach@waynecountyedc.com
- Traci Carmony, Director of Marketing and Development
  tcarmony@waynecountyedc.com

For more information contact Wayne Economic Development Council

542 E. Liberty Street,
Wooster, OH 44691

330-264-2411

waynecountyedc.com

The WEDC

BizConnects

Wayne Economic Development Council

Business Retention & Expansion

Your Business. Your Story. Let's Connect!

Whether you're growing, relocating, reassessing, or navigating unexpected challenges, we're here to help your business succeed!

Benefits of a BizConnects meeting:

- Identify resources and connections to help your business thrive
- Problem-solve specific challenges with personalized guidance
- Discover tools and programs to improve efficiency and operations
- Get one-on-one support tailored to your business needs

Business Incentives

Wayne County businesses can take advantage of a variety of local and state programs to support growth and investment. Locally, the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA), Enterprise Zone (EZ), and Transportation Improvement District (TID) programs provide targeted support for development and infrastructure projects. Statewide, JobsOhio and the Ohio Department of Development offer additional incentives to help businesses expand, innovate and thrive.

Planning a project? Let's explore the resources and incentives that may be available.

JobsOhio

Ohio Department of Development

Ohio TechCred

Workforce Development

Whether you're hiring, upskilling, or planning for the future, Wayne County offers a wealth of workforce resources. Locally, Ohio Means Jobs Wayne County, the Wayne County Schools Career Center, and our post-secondary institution partners provide training and talent development. Statewide programs, including Ohio TechCred and Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) help businesses build skills and helps prepare the next generation of workers.

Looking for workforce solutions? Let's chat!

Stay Connected!

Briefings for Business (B4B)

B4B events are held quarterly, connecting local business leaders with city, regional, and state experts to discuss relevant business topics, economic trends and growth opportunities. These sessions provide actionable insights and networking to help Wayne County businesses thrive.

Wayne County Connections

Our monthly digital newsletter shares Wayne County success stories through storytelling, highlights local business achievements, and promotes upcoming events and other relevant happenings — keeping the community informed and connected.

Scan the QR code to sign-up for our newsletter.

The WEDC

Board of Directors & Advisory Council

Board of Directors

Lisa Armstrong, Schaeffler Group*
Mayor Rudy Arnold, City of Rittman
Sarah Baker, The Commercial & Savings Bank*
Adam Briggs, Briggs & Starr Wealth Management
Greg Brunn, Western Reserve Group*
Jonathan Hofstetter, Wayne County Commissioner
Richard Lewin, The Will-Burt Company*
Ben Maibach, The Wooster Brush Company*
Clay Matthew, Wooster Hydrostatics, Inc.*
Armand Massary, Artiflex
Andy Michel, The Ohio State University CFAES Wooster Campus
Lynn Moomaw, Wayne County Schools Career Center*
Beth Mulcahy, PRC-Saltillo
Mayor Matt Plybon, City of Orrville
Chris Pycraft, Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston
Mayor Bob Reynolds, City of Wooster
Andrea Russell, Akron Brass Company of Idex Corp.*
Eddie Steiner, The Commercial & Savings Bank*
Kurt Steiner, Steinhurst Farms
Jeff Swartz, Seaman Corporation
Vince Tricomi, PFI Displays

Advisory Council

Ryan Brickwood, Rea Business Advisors
Angela Caldwell, Aultman Orrville Hospital
Doug Fowler, Clark & Fowler Electric
John Fox, ProVia
Dan Franks, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce
Rich Graziano, The Village Network
Lisa Gunnels, Wayne County Job and Family Services
Mike Mariola, Mike Mariola Restaurants
Anne McCall, The College of Wooster
Ray McConnell, TILMOR LLC
Chuck Meenan, Built-Rite Box & Crate
Don Noble, United Titanium
Bill Sheron, Retired, Wooster Community Hospital
Kevin Ungerer, Wayne County Farm Bureau
Matt Yost, Hummel Group
Samira Zimmerly, Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce

** 2026 Executive Committee*

Quality Growth Awards

Corporate Investment

Congratulations to the following companies for their continued growth and investment in Wayne County:

- Centerra Co-Op
- Deco-Crete
- Jarrett
- Luke Engineering & Anodizing Co.
- Mull Iron
- PRC-Saltillo
- Seaman Corporation
- The Village Network

Congratulations to all 2026 award recipients!

Community Investment Award

Congratulations on investing and enhancing the quality of life in Wayne County:

- The Lyric Theater

Chris Schmid Community Impact Award

Congratulations and thank you for the positive impact made on Wayne County through philanthropic and economic development support:

- Richard Seaman

A special thank you to the companies that have continued to support and invest in the WEDC for over 20+ years:

- Akron Brass
- American Axel & Manufacturing
- Bogner Construction Company
- Briggs & Starr Wealth Management
- BCI, Buckeye Corrugated, Inc. – Wooster Division
- Buckeye Oil Producing Company
- Campbell Construction
- City of Orrville
- City of Rittman
- City of Wooster
- Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston
- Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Huntington
- Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Lorain Medina Rural Electric Co-Op
- Meaden & Moore
- Murr Printing & Graphics
- Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce
- The Ohio State University CFAES Wooster Campus
- RBB
- Ross & Storck, Ltd.
- Schaeffler Group
- Seaman Corporation
- Steinhurst Farms
- The Apple Creek Banking Co.
- The J.M. Smucker Co.
- The Will-Burt Company
- The Wooster Brush Company
- Total Distribution, Inc.
- United Titanium
- Wayne County Commissioners
- Wayne County Schools Career Center
- Western Reserve Group
- Whitaker-Myers
- Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce