

News

2023 Bipartisan Ohio House Leadership Trade Mission to Israel

The Bipartisan Ohio House Leadership Trade Mission to Israel organized by our partners at Ohio Jewish Communities (OJC) was held in August. House Leadership, including Speaker Jason Stephens, Minority Leader Allison Russo, and over a dozen additional representatives and staffers participated, including Rep. Michele Grim, whose district includes Ottawa Hills and parts of west and south Toledo. Daniel Pearlman, VP, Community & Government Relations, attended as well.

The Mission included visits to sites and companies that have strategic importance to Ohio's economy, such as Intel, an agricultural research institute, Israel's national water carrier, and a wastewater treatment plant. As Israel is known as the "Start-Up Nation," meetings with Israel's

Innovation Authority to discuss civilian drones and with start-ups focusing on medical devices and clean water technology were particularly useful.

These missions have real impact in Ohio, for our Jewish community, and for the Ohio-Israel relationship. In December 2016, then Senate President Keith Faber ensured the first-time passage of \$7.3 million to fund the Ohio nonprofit security grants. This year, Sen. Theresa Gavarone, the Finance Committee vice chair who participated in last year's OJC Senate Mission, led on providing \$500,000 to an Arab-Israeli owned medical device startup to expand its services more equitably across the state. Similarly, a two-time participant on OJC missions, Sen. Stephanie Kunze, is leading on Holocaust education funding.



Mission participants at Yad Vashem with Dani Dayan, Chairman and former Consul-General of Israel in New York (Ohio is included in this region). Dani visited Toledo in 2018



Mission participants in Beit She'an, in Israel's northeast.