

**AUGUST 17, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: SARAH WOLLER
(513) 621-6300 x141**

Ohio Gubernatorial Candidates to Meet with Ohio Regional Councils

**Candidates Blackwell and Strickland to be Featured at August 21st
Event in Columbus**

Cincinnati, Ohio -- The two candidates for Governor of the State of Ohio have accepted an invitation to participate in an issues forum hosted by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) on Monday, August 21 at the Westin Great Southern Hotel, 310 South High Street, Columbus. Kenneth Blackwell and Ted Strickland will detail their platforms and answer questions from attendees in separate 60-minute sessions at OARC's first-ever gubernatorial event.

"This is a great opportunity for our region to play an active role in shaping our future," said Mark Policinski, Executive Director of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). "To interact with the candidates and get answers to our questions will be a fantastic opportunity." OKI is one of 21 regional agencies forming OARC and will be sending a strong contingency to participate in the event.

The press is asked to RSVP to Laura Koprowski at (614) 233-4126 or lkoprows@morpc.org if they plan to attend. A question and answer session with OARC representatives will take place following the event at approximately 2:45 p.m.

-more-

Gubernatorial Event

Page 2

The day unfolds as follows: Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., the welcome speech and opening remarks start at 10:30 a.m., and a panel discussion about balancing Ohio's economy with improving air quality takes place at 10:40 a.m.

Candidate Strickland takes the stage at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. Candidate Blackwell specifies his platform, closing remarks follow at 2:30 p.m. and the event adjourns shortly after at 2:40 p.m.

OARC serves 1,525 local governments representing over 10.5 million residents of those communities around Ohio. OARC's mission is to coordinate voices at a state and federal level; to strengthen the role and authority of regional councils; and to collaborate, coordinate and solve problems in the areas of transportation, environment and land use planning within the framework of state policy. OARC has been in existence since 1977.

Additional event information can be found by visiting: www.regionalcouncils.org. For more information about OKI, visit: www.oki.org.

OKI is a council of local governments, business organizations and community groups committed to developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs to improve the quality of life and the economic development potential of the Tri-State.

#