



National Commission on Local Public Health Leadership

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Public health is the cornerstone of individual well-being, community prosperity, and national security. In a time of polarization, health can be a source of unity and strength.

The National Commission on Local Public Health Leadership was established in July 2025 to develop a unified, actionable vision for local public health policy – one that honors diverse perspectives while prioritizing the health and well-being of every American. Convened by the de Beaumont Foundation and the Kasich Company, it is **a united effort to protect health and save lives.**

This initiative aims to address fundamental questions about the role of science in policymaking, foster nonpartisan consensus, and ensure that all voices, regardless of background or ideology, are heard. To that end, Commission members' expertise spans public health, policy, medicine, business, and lawmaking. They include current and former elected officials, public health experts and thought leaders, and cross-sector leaders committed to improving community health and prosperity for all.

In July 2026, the Commission published *Good Health is Good Governance: A Toolkit for Strengthening Partnerships between Elected Officials and Public Health Leaders*. The toolkit includes:

- Quick-start guide to initiating partnerships: Practical, research informed tips to help elected officials and public health leaders begin working together, even without an existing relationship
- Level-setting discussion prompts: Curated questions designed to create a shared vocabulary, surface assumptions, and clarify roles before high-stakes decisions arise
- Recommended action on data: A step-by-step framework for using data to move from shared priorities to measurable progress
- Recommended action on stockpiling and bulk purchasing: Guidance to strengthen readiness for emergencies and routine surges by clarifying how essential supplies are obtained, authorized, stored, and distributed

Calls to Action for Local Leaders

The Commission calls upon local elected and public health leaders to:

- Adopt a public proclamation to formalize a shared commitment to trust-building and partnership
- Hold regular, ongoing working sessions to strengthen collaboration and maintain alignment beyond crises
- Clarify and document roles and decision-making authority to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficient action
- Build and sustain a multi-sector coalition that includes key community systems (e.g., business, education, transportation, public safety, healthcare, social services, faith organizations, and residents)
- Agree on priority issues for action, including improving localized, anonymized data for decision making and strengthening preparedness for access to personal protective equipment, medicines, testing, and other essential supplies



Commission Members

- Governor John Kasich (Chair), Former Governor, State of Ohio
- Mayor John Cranley (Co-Chair), Former Mayor, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Dr. Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA, Former Surgeon General of the United States
- Governor Steven L. Beshear, JD, Former Governor, State of Kentucky
- Congressman Tom Davis, Former Member of Congress, 11th Congressional District of Virginia
- Mr. Daniel E. Dawes, JD, Founding Dean, School of Global Public Health, Meharry Medical College
- Mr. Lenny Eliason, MPA, Commissioner, Athens County, Ohio
- Dr. Patrice Harris, MD, MA, FAPA, Co-Founder, eMed Digital Healthcare
- Dr. Pamela Hymel, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Chief Medical Officer, Disney Parks and Resorts
- Dr. Celeste Philip, MD, MPH, Associate Dean and Professor, Meharry School of Global Health
- Hon. Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, Board of Supervisors, Loudoun County, Virginia

