



Keith Wilkowski's Agenda to Strengthen Toledo's Middle Class

There are more than 25,000 unemployed people in Toledo. As a result, Toledo families are struggling under the weight of unemployment and under employment. I have a plan to Turn Toledo Around and strengthen the middle class and it begins with creating good jobs and helping people prepare to work in the highly skilled jobs in the new energy economy.

My Middle Class Economic Agenda seeks to help working families by:

1) Creating good jobs in a new high performance economy

- I will work to make Toledo and our region a solar capital. Using our purchasing power to support our home grown solar industry and market our region as a leader in solar manufacturing by:
 - Establishing a Toledo Green Enterprise Zone
 - Revising the city's zoning code to address large scale solar arrays, including an expedited approval process for those projects
 - Engaging private sector brown field owners about using those properties for large scale solar projects
 - Assembling a coalition of private sector solar energy companies and public sector agencies to advocate at the state and federal levels for

These steps will strengthen local manufacturing, create middle class jobs, and generate clean electricity for thousands of Ohio homes and businesses.

2) Holding the line on taxes

- I will ensure that Toledo has low, competitive tax rates. We must not raise taxes to solve our current budget problems. Raising taxes will only drive businesses and jobs away and make things worse.
- My administration will create a favorable tax and regulatory environment that encourages business growth and creation.

3) Retrofitting homes to save energy and lower utility bills

A Wilkowski administration will create thousands of green collar construction jobs through a large-scale energy efficiency program to retrofit all homes and businesses in the City of Toledo. If implemented fully and properly, the Wilkowski Energy Efficiency program will:

- Create new jobs and put thousands of Toledoans to work
- Save Toledo homeowners millions of dollars on their utility bills by reducing those bills by 30 to 40 percent Improve Toledo's housing stock by retrofitting residential housing units and making them more energy efficient

4) Working to expand college access with a Toledo Promise program

- A Wilkowski administration will focus on young people and education by creating “the Toledo Promise”, a program that will permit every Toledo and Washington Local Public School student attend college tuition free. Kalamazoo, Michigan has such a privately-funded program and, working with the University of Toledo, we can do the same.
- Much good work has already begun on this front at the University of Toledo and Owens Community College, and we’ll work to expand those programs for all Toledoans.
- We will also target workforce training dollars for young people and those already in the workforce to perform the more highly skilled jobs required in the New Energy Economy.

Unless we have a solid plan to create good jobs, all of the problems facing the middle class– unemployment, home foreclosure problems, lack of educational opportunities - all of those problems will simply continue to get worse as our City declines. I reject that future and I reject that fate. I believe that Toledo has a bright future and I am prepared to provide the leadership and vision to Turn Toledo Around.