

# WHY COLUMBUS

The choice of the next great American city to host the 2016 Republican National Convention centers on several key issues: financial ability, facilities/housing and easy, convenient transportation. But woven through all the details is the simple fact that this incredible event carries meaning far beyond the sum of its parts. For the RNC Site Selection Committee and eventually the Committee on Arrangements, this is about hosting amazing meetings and celebrations for delegates and the media, while strategically moving to elect the next President of the United States.

Only Columbus, in the swinging heart of battleground Ohio, offers the answers to all of these questions.

The Columbus 2016 Host Committee proudly invites the Republican National Convention to meet in Columbus in 2016.

Columbus is a diverse and growing example of the new Midwest, steeped in history but leading the region toward a brighter future, with high-tech research and development, more than 30 colleges and universities, leading companies in finance, fashion, services and energy. This city, recently celebrating its 200th birthday, is in a period of unprecedented public-private collaboration, and that is exactly what it will take to host a successful convention for the Republican Party's delegates and candidates before the eyes of the world in 2016.

## **Strategic Partners**

More than a decade of economic and civic growth brought Columbus' business and government sectors close together, with leaders from the top corporations, City Hall and Franklin County aligned toward tangible results. This is the heart of our Host Committee, a proven team focused on bringing the right tools to the table to solve problems and cut through challenges.

For our region, a national political convention is the largest single undertaking in a generation, and that means the RNC will enjoy the full commitment and attention of our top leaders. This allows us to strategically plan for the future and raise the investment needed to accomplish a successful Convention.

In addition, our greatest partner-asset is our residents. A core of 1,200 trained CTA tourism ambassadors is at the heart of the thousands of volunteers ready to step up and help welcome visitors from around the world.

## **Easy Accessibility**

Few cities can move people around as safely and easily as Columbus, with six major freeways running from our outerbelt into the heart of the city. From the walkable neighborhoods surrounding our Convention and Arena districts, to the Outerbelt hotel districts, no delegate will be more than 30 minutes from the Greater Columbus

Convention Center and Nationwide Arena— and thousands can be much closer. Our airport is also conveniently located just 10 minutes outside of downtown.

Adjacent to our Convention Center and Arena are two connected arts and entertainment districts. This means that just two blocks from the nomination site, your delegates can find more than 100 restaurants, bars and event facilities.

### **The Right Facilities**

Columbus offers two realistic options for an event the size of the Republican National Convention, all in modern facilities ready to serve your needs. Columbus' Convention Center offers more than 1 million square feet of usable space, just over one block from Nationwide Arena's 19,500 seats (basketball setting).

In addition to convention space, we also have the meeting rooms needed for delegations and the media. The streets around Nationwide Arena also offer perfect locations for pick-up and drop-off of delegates, locations for media staging and more space for outdoor events.

### **A strategic testing ground for everything**

There is a reason that national candidates come to Columbus, and that was shown in 2012, when the top candidates visited 77 times. That included visits by both President Obama and Governor Romney on the day before the election, the only time aside from the debates when both candidates were on the ground in the same city, and substantively mobile, during the campaign. In many ways, it is the same reason that many of the nation's top companies test their products in Columbus. This is a city of broad tastes, styles, diversity and ideas. A microcosm of the United States itself, the swing city of the swing state is reflective of the nation in so many ways, and loves its role as a decisive intersection on the road to the White House.

## **ONE PAGE: National Political 2016 Conventions – DNC/RNC**

### **the event**

The City of Columbus, Experience Columbus, Columbus Partnership and Columbus 2016 host committee are looking at bids to host the National Conventions for the Republican and Democratic National Committees. The events could be held in June or July or even August of 2016. The Conventions are huge, attracting the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, national political leaders, tens of thousands of delegates, guests, community leaders and media from around the world.

### **the impact**

National Conventions generate an estimated \$150 to \$200 million in total economic impact. The events would attract 45,000, including 15,000 from the media, to downtown's Convention District over multiple nights, with events broadcast on international television.

### **the competition**

There will be stiff competition to host a national convention, possibly including: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Phoenix, St. Louis, Las Vegas, Chicago, Milwaukee, Dallas and others.

### **the process**

A formal bid will be submitted to the DNC and RNC according to their RFP Processes. Both committees will select finalist cities for site visits being held in 2014. The DNC and RNC will most likely announce the selected cities in late 2014.

### **the past**

In 2008, Columbus explored a bid, but left the process. In the past five years, hundreds of new rooms were built, with more coming by 2016, and our rooms, unlike many cities are conveniently located within a 25 minute drive of downtown, this makes the city more competitive. We also have awesome, walkable neighborhoods with restaurants, bars, parks and event spaces within blocks of the Convention Center.

### **the local Host Committee**

The bid will be directed by a Local Host Committee that includes representatives of The City of Columbus, The Columbus Partnership and local businesses, Franklin County, and the Republican and Democratic Parties.

### **the financial commitment**

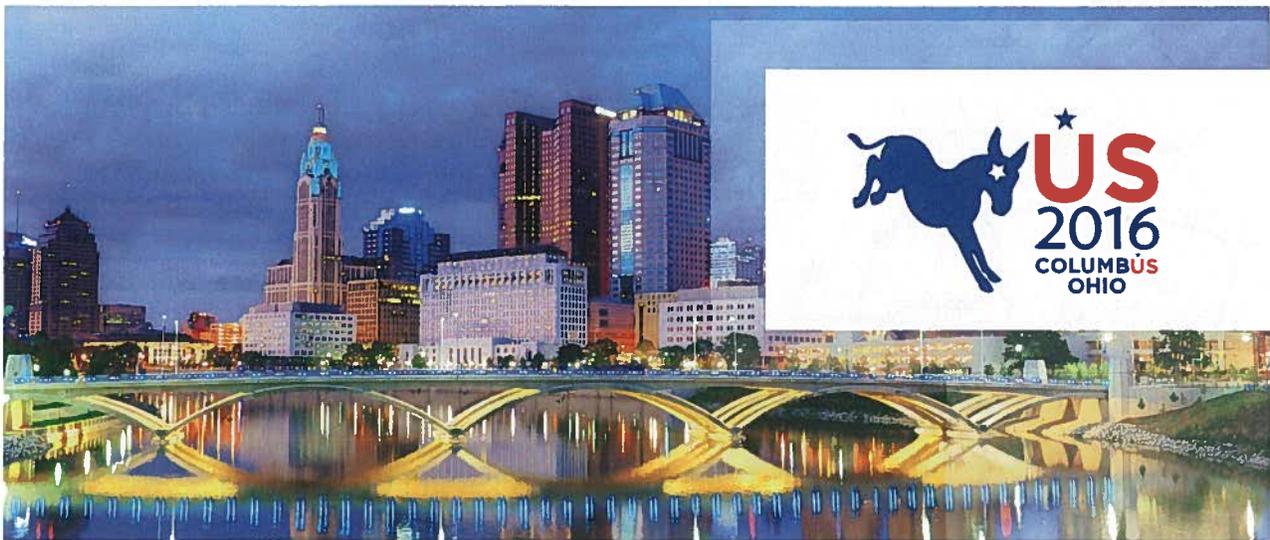
The Host Committee must secure an estimated \$55 million in funding to host a national convention. The funds raised will be used by the national convention committee. The Host Committee will work to raise funds first locally, then regionally, then nationally.

### **the legacy**

A National Political Conventions is among of world's premier events. Bringing one to Columbus will not only generate significant visitor spending, but also engage the community in creating international brand awareness and leave a lasting legacy that will benefit the region for years to come.

### **the bottom line**

Hosting a National Convention is about much more than the political process of selecting Presidential candidates. The event will generate millions of dollars in visitor spending and be a catalyst of change in our community – taking Columbus to “the next level” of premier destinations.



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### Strategic Partners

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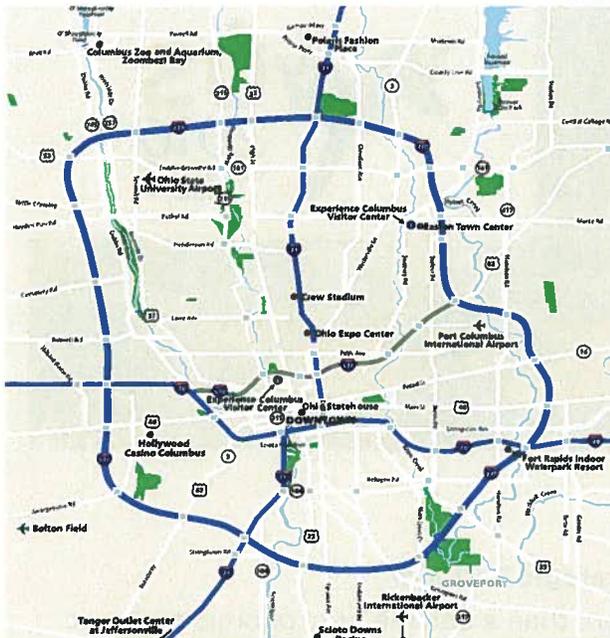
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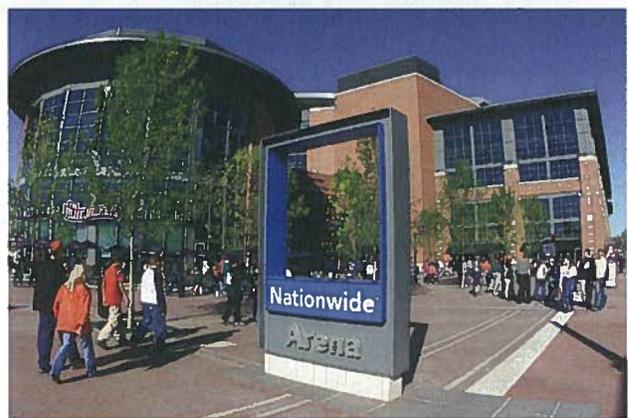
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### On Diversity and Equality

Columbus is diverse and recognized for our open spirit of inclusiveness, protecting equal rights for our LGBTQ, Latino, Somali, African American and many other communities. We are also winning national attention as a great place for young professionals, creative industries and women- and minority-owned businesses.

### On Organized Labor

Columbus has a long and successfully history of partnering with organized labor. This collaborative effort has led to — and continues to lead to — the election of candidates who stand up for working class families.

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