



Steve Tugend

Director + Chair, Government Affairs Practice

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Tugend chairs the firm's government affairs legal practice where he zealously lobbies at the federal, state and local level for his clients. During his tenure at the firm, he has successfully lobbied for decreased regulation on manufacturers, has fought to preserve the ability of Transportation Improvement Districts to efficiently advance economic development projects and has brought clients' priorities to Washington, D.C., securing legislative support.

Government Affairs

Tugend is a 24-year veteran of legal, legislative and political matters. He previously served for six years as vice president of government relations for the Columbus Chamber where he was the voice of the business community in public policy matters. He has been an advocate for his community by taking a team of community leaders to Washington, D.C., to advocate the expansion of a military base, which ultimately grew by more than 2,000 jobs. Tugend also served as a part of a campaign team that secured voter approval for a transit tax levy. He has also been an advocate for businesses by breaking down barriers to doing business with government and stopping legislation that would have made the state a less friendly place to do business.

On the political front, Tugend is no novice. He managed a candidate's statewide race, founded a corporate political action committee and has afforded political advice to a wide variety of candidates. He has also served on the transition team for a member of Congress.

Gaming Law

Tugend counsels gaming industry equipment managers and has been involved in multiple gaming ballot issues in Ohio.

Recent Work Highlights

- + Uniting a New Organization Around Common Policy Objectives
- + Formulating a Legislative Action Plan for MORPC
- + Fast-Track Interchange for Clermont County TID
- + The Power of a Comma

Professional Affiliations

- + Columbus Bar Association, member
- + Ohio State Bar Association, member
- + Columbus International Visitor's Council, (2005-2008)
- + Leadership Columbus, Class of 2010
- + Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Policy Roundtable (2006-present), Transportation Advisory Council (2004-2011)

Charitable + Civic Involvement

- + Columbus 2020 Central Ohio Defense Jobs Taskforce, external coordinator
- + Columbus 2020 Civic Infrastructure Committee, member (2010-present)
- + COTA Levy Advisory Committee, member (2013-2014)
- + United Way of Central Ohio, Public Policy Committee, member (2005-present)

Publications + Presentations

- + "Effective Use of Ohio Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs)," 2017 Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference, presented October 11, 2017
- + "State Capital Budget Process," Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Grants and Funding Program, presented June 14, 2017
- + "Public Policy Changes Impacting Our Cities," MORPC 2017 City Forum, presented February 9, 2017
- + "Community Support for Ohio's Military Installations – Community Leaders," panelist at The Ohio Defense Forum, October 6, 2016
- + "Anatomy of the Ohio Legislative Process," Kegler Brown Seminar, presented August 6, 2014
- + "The Biennial Budget – HB59," presented to Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 2013

Bar Admissions

- + Ohio

Education

- + The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., 1991)
- + Wittenberg University (B.A., 1988)

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