

The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE

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Fostering curiosity, discovery and innovation to benefit society.

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Alternative Energy, the Economy and STEM Education Top List of Ohio Public Policy Concerns

Policy shifts away from biotechnology, cancer prevention and education reform
in new survey by The Ohio Academy of Science

For immediate release

Columbus (January 23, 2009) ... Alternative energy, the U.S. economy and STEM education were the three top science- and technology-based policy concerns among 182 topics cited by state and local public officials in a survey released today by The Ohio Academy of Science.

Energy use, production, and related environmental issues, the aging of baby boomers and transportation also were high priorities for public officials.

“Alternative energy includes biofuels, wind and solar. If the pundits are correct, the health of the U.S. economy is linked to both alternative energy and STEM education,” said Lynn Elfner, the Academy’s chief executive officer.

Policy shift noted

Mr. Elfner also noted a shift in concerns from a similar Academy survey conducted in 2000 that reported biotechnology, cancer prevention and education reform as chief concerns then.

“The results of the 2009 survey are important because of leadership transitions at the local, state and national levels and because of Ohio’s scientific, technological and educational challenges and opportunities in an unstable economy,” said Lynn Elfner, the Academy’s CEO.

The mail-response survey, conducted between December 17, 2008 and January 12, 2009, reports that 81 public officials (9.5% survey response) voted 386 times to rank 182 issues important to their constituents or to them. Ranked results will enable the Academy to assist public officials by identifying Ohio’s expertise in a manner similar to the roster of 64 alternative energy experts provided to the previous Ohio General Assembly.

The anonymous survey results cannot be attributed to individuals. Those surveyed include the Governor, his staff and cabinet; members of the new Ohio General Assembly; Ohio’s Congressional Delegation; all county commissioners, coroners, health commissioners and county engineers; State Board of Education and 50 mayors. Each official received a checklist of over 190 issues partially derived from previous surveys and were asked to identify their own issues. Officials selected five or fewer issues.

Full survey results are posted at: <http://www.ohiosci.org/2009SciencePolicySurvey.pdf>

About The Ohio Academy of Science

The Ohio Academy of Science is a membership-based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. The Academy is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, or their applications to benefit society. The Academy conducts an annual meeting and science days, and publishes an international, multidisciplinary, scientific journal.

See <http://www.ohiosci.org> . For further information, contact The Ohio Academy of Science at 614.488.2228 or by email oas@iwaynet.net .

EDITOR’S NOTE: The attached spreadsheet tallies all votes.

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The Ohio Academy of Science

Responses from public officials to Science Policy Survey-Raw Data

January 23, 2009	Votes
Alternative Energy (*related to topic below)	26
Future of US Economy (**related to topic below)	11
STEM Education (**related to topic below)	11
*Wind Energy	9
Aging of Boomers	8
Energy & Environment	8
Energy Use and Production	8
Transportation	8
*Biofuels	7
Waste Disposal	7
***Alignment of Education with Economic Development	6
Home Sewage Treatment	6
*Solar Energy	6
Climate Change	5
Diseases	5
***Education Reforms	5
Farm Land Preservation	5
*Biofuels - research and engineering	4
Combined Sewer Renovation	4
***Critical Thinking	4
Data and Information Security	4
Education	4
Land Use	4
Nuclear Energy Development	4
Tort Reform	4
Alignment of University System of Ohio to Support Economic Development	3
***Bolstering Science Educaion	3
Civic Participation & Leadership	3
Drinking Water Quality	3
*Hybrid Fuel Vehicles	3
Land Use & Urban Sprawl	3
Personal responsibility	3
Public Utility Reform	3
Recycling of Materials	3
Responsibility vs. entitlement	3
School Funding	3
***Science Education K-12	3
Stem Cell Research	3
Student Attitude	3
Water Quality	3
***21st Century Skills for Graduates	2
Bioethics & Cloning	2
Cancer Prevention	2
Computer Technology	2

**Economic Impact	2
***Educating Ohio Students for Success in the Global Economy	2
Education Funding	2
Energy Conservation	2
Energy Conservation Practices	2
***Engineering Education	2
Environment	2
Food Safety	2
Green Building Construction	2
Individual Health & Fitness	2
***Innovative & Creative Thinking, including Entrepreneurial Skills	2
Life-long Wellness Programs	2
Light Rail Transportation	2
Mass Transportation	2
Politics of Education Reform	2
Population growth	2
Public School Education	2
Public Understanding of Science	2
Social Ills	2
***STEM Schools	2
Tax Credit for R & D	2
Teacher Shortage	2
*Advanced Alternative Energy	1
*Alternative Energy (Cost Efficient)	1
Assistance to Ohio manufacturers	1
Attraction of C-level talent to Ohio technology companies	1
Avilability of high risk, early state capital	1
Ballistics within 1 month	1
Banking Laws	1
Bio-Food Growth	1
*Biofuels - Utilization	1
Biological Warfare	1
Biotechnology	1
Biotechnology (Green)	1
Bioterrorism	1
Blue Collar Training	1
Broadband	1
Broadband in Rural Areas	1
Brownfield Recovery	1
Budget	1
Career Opportunities in Engineering	1
Civil Engineering Needs	1
*Clean energy	1
Communicable Diseases	1
Communication Skills	1
Continued R & D in Genetic Application	1
Countering Terrorism	1

Data Management	1
Defense	1
Diseases (Infectious)	1
Diversion of Lake Erie Water	1
DNA within 1 month	1
Ecology	1
**Economic Development	1
**Economic Diversity	1
**Economic Impact of Pollution Reduction on Businesses	1
**Economy	1
Education at all levels	1
Electricity Transmission	1
Energy	1
Engineering Demand	1
Environmental Policy	1
E-Security	1
*Ethanol Production	1
Ethical Dilemmas	1
Evolution	1
Financial Literacy	1
Fingerprint within 1 month	1
Flood Control	1
*Fuel Cells	1
Fuel Efficiency	1
Global Climate Change	1
*Green Engineering	1
Ground Water Quality	1
Hazardous Waste Disposal	1
Health	1
Health Care	1
Health Care Access	1
Healthcare Delivery	1
Honey Bee Colony Collapse	1
*Hybrid Autotechnology	1
*Hybrid Fuel	1
Infant and Child Care Case Development	1
Infrastructure Funding	1
Infrastructure Maintenance in (Down Arrow) Economy	1
Intelligent Design	1
***Lack of US Students to Enter the Sciences	1
Long Term Healthcare	1
Loss of Agricultural Land Use	1
Manufacturing Technologies	1
Mass Transportation Innovations	1
Mastery of rigorous Academic content, esp. in literacy, math, and info technologies	1
Medical Research	1
Mega Agriculture	1

Mining / Drilling Fossil Fuels	1
Number of Political Subdivision in Ohio - Can we be more efficient?	1
Nutrition	1
***Ohio Core - correcting it	1
***P - 16 Educational Alignment	1
Pathopsychology of Addictions	1
Paying for Equal Education	1
***Pre-College Engineering Education	1
***Pre-Engineering Class @ 9th Grade	1
***Problem-solving Skills	1
Provision of entrepreneural assistance	1
Public Transportation	1
Public Transportation to Reduce Dependency on Automobiles	1
***Reform of Teacher Training	1
Regulations - Impact on Businesses	1
Retaining US Businesses	1
Revenue (Taxes)	1
Safe Water Availability	1
***Science & Math Teacher Shortage	1
***Science and Math Education	1
*Solar Activation	1
Statistical Quality Control	1
Stem Cell Application	1
Stewardship of Natural Resources	1
Student Motivation	1
Support of Biomedical and Bioproducts research and commercialization	1
Sustainability	1
***Teacher Education	1
**Technology & Growth	1
**Technology Development	1
Trained Employees	1
Transportation / Funding Infrastructure	1
Transportation Infrastructure	1
Universities Curriculum Overlay	1
Urban Sprawl	1
Utilities	1
Value of Early Childhood Case Management	1
Value of Preventative Care	1
Voting Machine Technology	1
Waste Management / Environment Quality	1
Water / Sewage	1
Water Problems	1
Weapons of Mass Destruction	1
Year-Round School	1