

OHCRN

OHIO COMMUNITY RIGHTS NETWORK
- OHIOCRN.ORG -

It is Time the People Govern

Every Ohioan retains an unalienable right to participate in community local self-government in the place where they live. But every citizen of Ohio is denied the full enjoyment of that right and many are denied it completely.

State laws that deny the authority of community governments to protect their health, safety, welfare and quality of life violate fundamental rights. State laws that exempt agribusiness, fracking, insurance, banking and retail corporations from being governed locally, place the privileges of wealth and property over the democratic rights of citizens to determine the future of their own communities. Local officials regularly confess to their constituents that they wish they could do more, but their "hands are tied" by state preemptive law. These officials are told that if they honor their oaths to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community, they will be breaking state law.

The first communities in Ohio - Broadview Hts., Athens, Oberlin, Yellow Springs, Waterville, and Toledo - have adopted Community Rights Laws passed by the people themselves. These laws prohibit harmful activities, challenge state preemption and corporate "personhood rights" by codifying our rights to local self-governance, to clean air and water, and the rights of nature.

The Illusion of Democracy

The authority to locally administer State dictated regulations and laws does not constitute community local self-government. When residents of our communities are told to appeal to their state representatives if they want laws passed, are really sent on a fool's mission. No Ohio community has representation in the state legislature. Voting districts are gerrymandered for incumbency protection in violation of community integrity by whichever political party is in power come census time. The "representatives" choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their representatives.

Who Shall We Ask to Represent Us?

We are the ones we've been waiting for! On November 16, 2013, citizens from 11 counties in Ohio gathered in Columbus to form the Ohio Community Rights Network (OHCRN), a project supported by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). At the convention, attendees signed the Columbus Declaration resolving to form a network of people committed to securing for all Ohioans the right to local, community self-government through the formation of county chapters.

Become part of the grassroots movement for Community Rights by joining the OHCRN. For more information go to www.ohiocrn.org or email us at ohiocrn@gmail.com.

**WHO IS DECIDING FOR
YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**IS IT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE
THERE OR IS IT
'SOMEBODY' ELSE?**

