Career Opportunity

Director of Public Affairs

The voice for Ohio’s residential utility consumers, the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), seeks a dedicated public servant for the director of public affairs, a direct report to the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (Agency Director). This is an excellent opportunity to help others in the public interest, at an agency that advocates for Ohioans in a field dominated by powerful monopoly utility interests. We seek affordable utility bills and reliable utility service for residential consumers. Since the legislature created the agency in 1976, OCC has saved consumers a lot of money, helped with creating and funding programs for assisting low-income consumers, and worked to establish other consumer protections. And OCC has educated thousands of utility customers about choices available to them in a changing industry and ways to save money.

Consistent with this 40-year tradition of consumer advocacy, the director of public affairs advises the Agency Director and other staff about external and internal communications regarding OCC’s advocacy and education for consumers. The director manages public affairs staff in their interactions with the media, including with news releases and responding to media inquiries. The director is responsible for the preparation of news releases, outreach and education information, OCC publications, presentations, Agency annual reports, and other public affairs materials. The director also has responsibility for staff involved in legislative activity, including legislation, testimony, and assistance to legislators who have received constituent concerns about their utility service.

The director’s opportunity for helping Ohioans includes the Agency’s online presence, including social media, public and internal websites. The director will have skills in research, writing, oral communication and creativity. The director will also prepare speeches and other presentations (including at the request of the Agency Director), deliver speeches and presentations, and produce and edit other written materials.

OCC is an agency of less than 40 full-time employees with a “hands-on” approach to work at all levels. The Director should be energetic, self-sufficient, good with personal computing and mobile communications, knowledgeable with web site design and production of content, social media, publishing, and have solid experience with graphic arts software. The director will also need to be ready to learn some of the arcane complexities of public utilities regulation, for effectiveness in the job for consumers.

Minimum Qualifications:

Completion of undergraduate degree in public relations, communications or other relevant degree is required. A Master’s degree is preferred. Also required is five years of solid experience in public relations, graphic art and design, and employee supervision with strong organizational, interpersonal, and oral and written communications skills.

Please apply for this position using the Ohio Hiring Management System (OHMS) link: Director of Public Affairs Posting. Please include your resume, cover letter and salary requirements with your application. Applications will only be accepted via OHMS, without phone calls until February 21, 2020.