



## Member Bio

### Eric Poklar, Member At-Large

For more than 20 years, Eric Poklar has been trusted by two Ohio governors and other high-level public- and private-sector clients to create and implement communications, marketing and legislative strategies to accomplish their priorities. Most recently, Eric served as the director of legislative affairs for Governor John R. Kasich, where he was responsible for overseeing and managing the governor's legislative agenda and coordinating the legislative operations of executive-level staff at all cabinet agencies. Eric developed and executed the legislative strategy that led to legislative approval in 2013 for extending health-care coverage to approximately 700,000 previously uninsured Ohioans. He also led the legislative efforts to pass Governor Kasich's budget package for fiscal years 2016-2017; a package of mid-biennium budget and policy reforms; and a two-year, \$2.4 billion state capital budget.

Prior to that, Eric served as the director of legislative affairs and communications for the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, in which he developed and managed legislative and communications strategies in support of the state's successful initiative to reform Ohio's health and human services programs, improving health care and saving Ohio taxpayers more than \$3 billion over three years. From 2008-2011, Eric operated his own firm—Poklar Public Policy and Communications—through which he provided government affairs, marketing and communications services for a diverse portfolio of clients, including NASA (through a third-party contract with Fuentek, LLC), Battelle, an education consortium dedicated to expanding STEM education opportunities for students and businesses, a national education consulting firm and other clients.

In August of 2015, Eric became the vice president of legislative affairs and marketing for Buckeye Health Plan, a state-licensed managed care organization and a subsidiary of Centene Corporation that provides health-care services to 315,000 Ohioans who are eligible for Medicaid, Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Eric also served as the chief aide to a state senator, as the director of legislative affairs for Governor Bob Taft and as the director of legislative affairs for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Public Safety. He has two children in Worthington Schools.

Eric was appointed to the State Board in January 2017 and is eligible for re-appointment January 2021.

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