

Preface

The phrase “Follow the Money” was popularized in the 1976 motion picture *All the President’s Men*. The film suggested that a money trail existed within the Office of the President that was indicative of corruption at the highest level. The phrase has been used in a similar context recently, but also in a variety of circumstances over the intervening years when monetary influences have had a determinative impact on political processes and fortunes. With this less sinister context in mind, the phrase became the title for this manuscript.

Money and the budget process are extremely significant in Ohio state politics. The enactment of the biennial budget and public policy-making in Ohio are virtually indistinguishable. True, some important public policy actions occur outside the confines of the budget but less frequently than they happen inside. For this reason, we have added the phrase “Public Policy” to the title of the book in this edition.

This Fourth Edition of *Follow the Money* explores state budgeting in Ohio from both a process and a historical perspective. This edition incorporates a greatly expanded budget history. In particular, it covers the administration of Governor John Kasich in considerable detail. The analysis dives deeply into the key public policy areas of Medicaid and other health and human services priorities as well as primary and secondary education, giving important context and life to the various elements of the budgetary process.

The preparation of this edition of *Follow the Money* involved the efforts of many individuals aside from the editor. Particularly noteworthy are the contributions of staff from The Center for Community Solutions (CCS). Loren Anthes authored the chapter on Medicaid funding and policy, and Tara Britton did the same for the chapter on other health and human services priorities and provided overall direction to the project. Their detailed knowledge of these subject areas made it possible to expand the framework of the book beyond simply a description of budgetary process to a more substantive discussion of the public policy emanating from that process. A mentor of mine, William J. Shkurti, suggested this expanded purpose of *Follow the Money*, and I hope that we were able to accomplish his vision in this edition.

Not to be overlooked are the steadfast support and contributions of other CCS staff members including President and Executive Director John Corlett, Dani Carlson, Rose Frech, Roslyn Bucy Kaleal, Sheila Lettsome, Brie Lusheck, Sam Sobul, William Tarter, Jr., Kate Warren, and Adam White. In addition, suggestions made by consultants Tom Zakrajsek of TOMZAK Design Inc. and Jennifer Chesak

of Wandering in the Words Press greatly improved the look and readability of the final product, while WordCo Indexing Services, Inc. improved its usability. I am also appreciative of the valuable input of our external advisory group including John Begala, Maureen Corcoran, Tim Derickson, Gene Krebs, Justin Nigro, Brian Perera, Pari Sabety, Barbara Shaner, Carter Strang, Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Marisa Weisel, and Chris Whistler.

I also want to acknowledge the contributions of my spouse, Sheila Thomas, who carefully reviewed key portions of the text and made numerous recommendations to improve the product. She also assisted with many of the graphics. Her love and encouragement throughout the process was also very much appreciated, as was that of my adult children, Haley Lynn Thomas and Emily Detwiler, as well as Emily's husband, Michael, and their son, Eli. Haley is also an author, and we bounced many ideas, joys, and frustrations off of each other.

Finally, Dick Sheridan was my first supervisor in state government some four decades ago, and I continue to be inspired by his visionary leadership. His influence is reflected throughout this fourth edition of his seminal book.

Terry M. Thomas

Terry M. Thomas is an independent public policy consultant in the Columbus area. He has extensive experience in state government, including as senior budget analyst for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and as president of the state Controlling Board while serving as deputy director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. His public service also included tenures as assistant director and chief of staff at the Ohio Department of Development, assistant director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and associate vice chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents. Terry was also the founding executive director of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and the association's Friend of Community Colleges Award is named in his honor. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Penn State University with high honor and a Master of Arts Degree in the same field from The Ohio State University.