

## **Southeast Ohio gets a seat at jobs table**

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<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/538705/Southeast-Ohio-gets-a-seat-at-jobs-table.html?nav=5004>

We're pleased that Ohio Gov. John Kasich has listened to the concerns of residents of our area and appointed a businessman from Southeastern Ohio to the JobsOhio board.

Lawrence J. Kidd of Jackson was announced Sept. 8 as the ninth member of the board during a meeting in Chillicothe, one of six regional rollout meetings that have been held across the state since Aug. 16.

The brainchild of Kasich, JobsOhio is designed to make the state's economic development system more responsive to the needs of recruiting and attracting new business as well as helping retain and expand existing Ohio business. The system uses a public-private partnership that is driven by business leaders to move the state's economy forward.

JobsOhio is partnering with the Ohio Appalachian Business Council to create a regional development office that will serve 25 counties.

Mark Kvamme, a venture capitalist from California who moved to Ohio after Kasich named him to lead JobsOhio, believes that the private entity will have success in reaching out to potential and current businesses to help them meet their needs and increase employment in the state.

Kasich has maintained from the start that it was critical that all parts of the state be involved in the process of building Ohio's economy.

His appointment of Kidd demonstrates he is serious about following the plan.

Kidd brings solid credentials to his position. He is the chief executive officer of Reliable Staffing Services and is the co-founder of 10 in 10, a program that has a goal of creating 10,000 jobs in 10 years in Southeastern Ohio.

He also has served as the chair of the Jackson County Development Board.

There always has been a concern that the needs and desires of business leaders in our part of the state don't always get the full attention they deserve. By naming Kidd to the JobsOhio board, Kasich has shown that our region's voice will be heard as the state's plans for future development unfold.

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