

# State Legislative Priorities 2020-22

## The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table

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*Legislative Mission Statement:* The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table, the Regional Civil War Round Table for Southeast Cuyahoga County, Ohio, is committed to seeking legislation and policies that benefits not only the region we serve, and the principle subject-matter that we study and promote, but other cultural organizations, historic sites, and the American People.

Our State Legislative Priorities for the 133rd and 134<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assemblies are:

### **James A. Garfield State Historic Corridor:**

- Ohio is the “Mother of Presidents,” and we should celebrate our state’s place in Presidential History by honoring the Presidents from Ohio along the paths they traveled. A State Historic Corridor along Historic US 20 from (at the very least) Public Square in Cleveland to Public Square in Painesville will *ceremonially* designate the roadway in honor of President Garfield, but also link approximately 20 sites along Route 20 that are significant to the Garfield Family.
- The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table would support additional corridors for the other Ohio Presidents.

### **Protection of Cultural and Historical Sites; Strengthening of Penalties for those who Vandalize or Damage Cultural and Historical Sites:**

- Within the past several months, a significant number of historical and cultural sites, as a result of civil unrest, were damaged – sometimes permanently and irreparably – or destroyed, and in most of these instances, those who committed the crime were never caught. Legislation at the Federal, State and Local levels (that would be consistent with Federal statutes against these types of crime) to punish those who damage these Sites would serve as a deterrent for these types of crimes. Legislation would seek both enhanced penalties, but the allowance of Judges to have options when sentencing those who commit these types of crimes.

## **Preservation of the Flags of Ohio's Civil War Units, including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment.**

- The Department of the Adjutant General is the custodian of the flags of Ohio's fighting forces during the Civil War, and the Ohio History Connection is the agency charged with their care. These flags, all over 150 years old, are in critical need of repair and maintenance. We are asking the General Assembly to appropriate specific dollars in the next State Budget in spring 2021, or sooner, if possible, to begin the restoration process on these key pieces of Ohio History.
- The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table would support the efforts to restore the flags of all of the regiments, especially those with Presidential ties.

## **Declaration of September 19<sup>th</sup> as James A. Garfield Day in the State of Ohio:**

- This day, which would occur on the anniversary of President Garfield's day of death would be a State Day of Observance (much like General Pulaski Day), and would include a formal recognition by the State in the form of wreath placements at key locations, and the flying of the flag at half-staff.
- The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table would support efforts to declare September 14<sup>th</sup> as William McKinley Day.

## **Support for America250**

- Support for efforts geared towards the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States of America in 2026, including resource, material, and financial support to States, Local Governments, and Historical Organizations, to facilitate patriotic, historical, and other educational programming.

For Additional Information, please contact:

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The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table

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