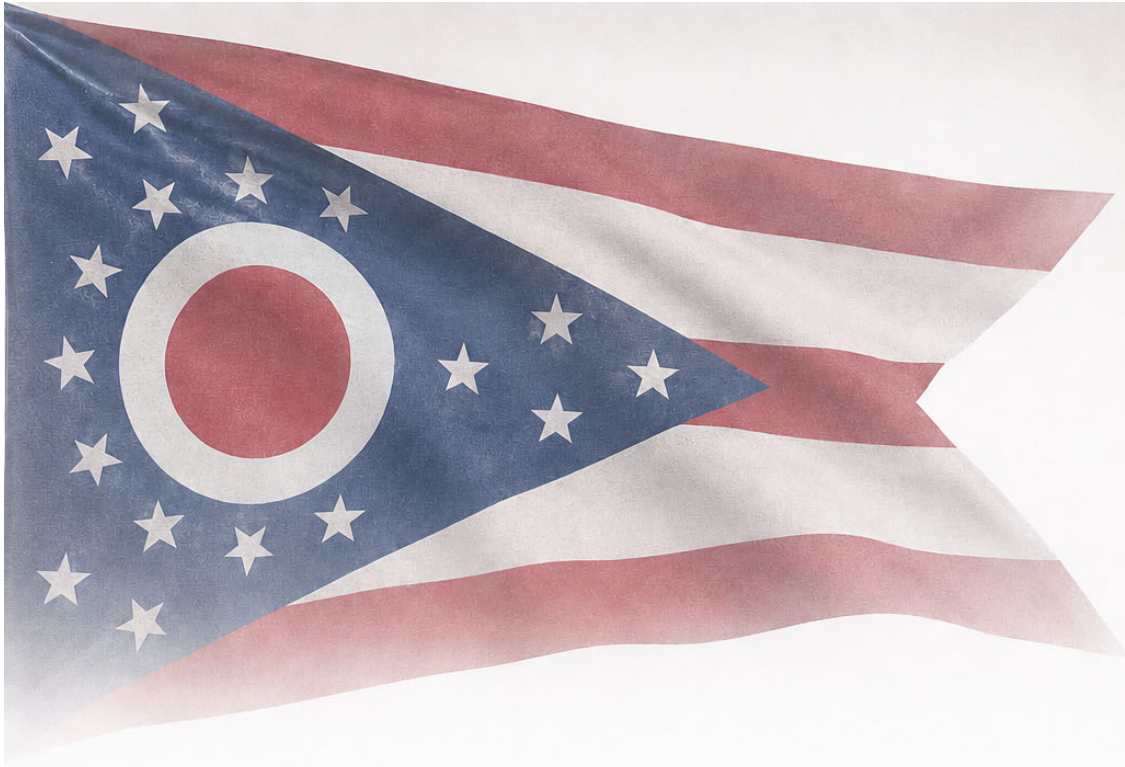




— OHIO —
PRESIDENTIAL
HISTORY AND POLITICS
CONFERENCE



September 17, 2026

DAY ONE

The McKinley Presidency

CHAIR

David B. Cohen, University of Akron

PANELISTS

Belinda Weiss, National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Museum, “William McKinley of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry: How the Civil War Shaped His Presidency”

Kimberly A. Kenney, William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, “McKinley’s Front Porch Campaign”

W. Dennis Keating, Cleveland State University, “William McKinley and the Birth of American Imperialism”

Kevin F. Kern, University of Akron, “Political Football: Ohio Presidents and the Early Development of American Football”

Ohio and Contemporary Presidential Politics

CHAIR

Kevin F. Kern, University of Akron

PANELISTS

Anne M. Cizmar, Eastern Kentucky University, “Ohio Presidents and the Pardon Power”

Michael E. Shepherd, University of Michigan, “So Goes the Nation? An Analysis of the Electoral Performance of Presidential Tickets with Ohio-based Candidates”

Zachary Morris, Kent State University, “Evaluations of Trump Ideology and Political Preferences in the Buckeye State”

4:00 PM

ROUNDTABLE 1

From the Gilded Age to the Jazz Age: The Enduring Influence of Ohio's First Ladies

MODERATOR

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

PANELISTS

Kara French, William & Mary, (Lucy Hayes)

Jennifer Capps, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, (Caroline Harrison)

Michelle Gullion, National First Ladies Library & Museum, (Ida McKinley)

Annette Dunlap, Independent Scholar, (Helen Taft)

Katherine A. S. Sibley, Saint Joseph's University, (Florence Harding)

7:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ambassador Frank Lavin

Presidential Leadership:

Lessons from the 1980s



Frank Lavin is a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution. In the Reagan Administration, Lavin served on the National Security Council and the White House staff. Lavin later served in the Bush (41) and Bush (43) administrations; in the latter, he also served as Ambassador to Singapore and Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce. In the private sector, Lavin served in senior finance positions in Hong Kong and Singapore with Bank of America and Citibank. Lavin earned a BS from the School of Foreign Service and an MS in Chinese language and history from Georgetown University; an MA in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University; and an MBA in finance from Wharton.

Book Signing to follow presentation

Inside the Reagan White House: A Front Row Seat to Presidential Leadership, Frank Lavin (Post Hill Press, 2025)

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