About Rural Organizing

The primary purpose of our organization is to rebuild a rural America that is empowered, thriving, and equitable by passing forward-thinking policies to address some of the biggest challenges facing our communities. We do this work by leveraging digital technologies to mobilize our network in support of local, state, and federal level policies and candidates that benefit small towns and rural communities.

We are boldly progressive and proudly rural.

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RuralOrganizing.org (RRLO)

Description:
RuralOrganizing.org is a national network of civic leaders, organizers, and activists fighting for our hometowns and rural communities. We are legally designated as a 501c4 political non-profit and based out of Columbus, Ohio.

Stakeholder(s):

Small Towns:
In small towns and rural communities across the country, authentic relationships are the foundation for community change.

Tip O'Neil:
Tip O'Neill famously said, “All politics is local,” but we’ve found that rural politics are also personal.

Rural Communities:
We believe that communities, causes, and candidates must leverage [personal] relationships in order to organize and mobilize rural communities toward enduring and sustainable change.

Rural Progressives:
With smart communications and strategic distributive organizing, we will empower rural progressives and develop, pass, and implement policy platforms needed to rebuild small towns across America.

RuralOrganizing Board

ANTHONY J. WENNDT:
Board treasurer of RuralOrganizing.org

NICK LEVENDOFSKY:
Board chair of RuralOrganizing.org

KATE ALBRIGHT-HANNA:
Vice Chair Board Chair

RUBY ELBASHA:
RuralOrganizing.org board member

Matt Hildreth:
Executive Director — Matt grew up on a small farm in eastern South Dakota and is a graduate of Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota where he studied Philosophy and Communications. He earned a Master’s Degree in Strategic Communication from the University of Iowa and holds an Executive Education Certificate from Harvard University’s Leadership, Organizing and Action program.

Small Town Organizers:
Join the national online conversation! Are you an organizer or civic leader working to improve your small town or rural community? Join our Facebook group.

Small Town Civic Leaders

Vision
Thousands of rural community leaders working locally and nationally to enact progressive policy reforms to rebuild rural America.

Mission
To rebuild a rural America that is empowered, thriving, and equitable.

Values

Creativity: RuralOrganizing.org is committed to pursuing creativity, equity, and justice at all organizational levels and throughout all programs.

Equity

Justice

Communication: We strive for proactive communication, reconciliation, and mutual respect.
Reconciliation
Respect

**Humanity**: And we always see the humanity in others.
1. Employment

Ensure that good jobs are available in everyone's hometown.

Quality Employment — We have a right to our roots. No one should have to leave their hometown in search of a good job with decent pay.
2. Human Rights

*Protects the rights of all community members.*

Justice and Equality — We believe in governance that protects the rights of all community members regardless of gender, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin.
3. Healthcare

*Provide effective and affordable healthcare to rural people and small town folks.*

Rural Healthcare — Rural people and small town folks deserve access to effective and affordable healthcare. No one should have to drive for hours to see the doctor.
4. Education

Ensure that kids in small towns are well educated.

Education — Rural should never be a disadvantage. Kids in small towns should get the same quality education as everyone else.
5. Sustainability

Protect critical habitats and natural resources.

Sustainable Land Management — We are fighting to protect critical habitats and natural resources through smart land management programs and policies.
6. Diversity

Accept diversity

Welcoming Communities — We believe communities that are accepting of diversity are best positioned to fight rural population loss and thrive in 21st Century.

### Administrative Information

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