



Rachel Winder

Government Relations Manager

Columbus

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Overview

With more than three decades of experience deeply rooted in Ohio's local and state government, Rachel has dedicated herself to a relentless pursuit of helping her business clients grow in Ohio. She has helped secure millions of dollars by creating government programs, securing contracts, and capitalizing on economic development incentives for her clients. She has reshaped and created policies, rules, and statutory regulations to position her clients for success in the state. Her unwavering commitment to problem-solving and facilitating government procurements, loans and grants is at the core of her professional experience.

Rachel is dedicated to helping Ohio businesses recognize and benefit from the intersection of public policy and economic growth. She served as the Public Policy Advisor to the National Association of Women Business Owners (Columbus Chapter) where she earned the title of 2020 Women's Business Champion. And she later created a statewide Ohio Women's Coalition for women-business owners, where she served as the founding Executive Director and advocated successfully for over \$50 million in zero to low-interest loans for women-owned businesses.

Rachel provides significant positive impact to her clients. She has procured grants and loans from the state on their behalf, changed laws and rules and generally improved the business client for those she serves. She solves problems and navigates government to impact change and find solutions.

Prior to her role at Benesch, Rachel led Ohio government relations for multiple Fortune 50 telecommunications companies. Her tenure as a lobbyist for Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery showcased her ability to navigate the intricate corridors of government with expertise. Rachel's journey began as a legislative aide in the Ohio House of Representatives, where she not only managed the office but also helped shape the legislative agenda for the Chairman of the House Education Committee. Throughout her distinguished career, she has been an unwavering advocate for her clients.

Representative Matters

- Helped secure several million dollars in funding for Ohio's foodbanks.
- Earmarked \$250,000 for a feasibility study for child crisis care centers across Ohio.
- Changed tax law in Ohio for causal sales on behalf of the Ohio Auctioneers Association.
- Spearheaded and successfully advocated for the passage of HB 531, "Braden's Law," criminalizing sextortion in Ohio.
- Championed two amendments to the law governing Ohio boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to promote increased collaboration with and improved access to opioid treatment program providers.
- Successfully drafted and advocated for a new law permitting Sonographers in Ohio to provide intravenous administration of ultrasound enhancing agents, most commonly used by patients undergoing an echocardiogram.
- Upheld radiation safety standards by defeating language inserted into the budget bill proposing to reduce supervision requirements of General X-Ray Machine Operators. Benesch successfully lobbied for removal of the troublesome language in Conference Committee.
- Fought back two amendments that sought to erode the new Ohio Auctioneer Licensing Law by successfully coordinating a line-item veto through Governor Mike DeWine.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, 1992, B.A.

Memberships

- Founding Executive Director, the Ohio Women's Coalition
- Governor's Appointment to the Select Committee on Telecom
- Member, Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board and Tax and Public Policy Committees

- Member, Columbus Chamber of Commerce - Government Affairs Steering Committee
- Member, Ohio Lobbying Association - Nominating and Membership Committees

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Columbus Business First, Women of Influence, 2025
- Named, 2024 Ohio Auctioneers Legislative Champion
- Named, 2020 NAWBO Columbus Women's Business Champion

News & Insights

- [Benesch Government Relations Manager Rachel Winder Receives Excellence in Government Relations Award from American College of Radiology](#)
June 10, 2026 | Press Releases
- [Knox Pages Highlights Benesch's Rachel Winder and Holly Gross](#)
October 14, 2025 | Media Mentions
- [Why Ohio's Congressional Redistricting is Still in the Headlines](#)
September 26, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Trump-Inspired One Big Beautiful Bill Passes U.S. House](#)
May 27, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Government Relations Manager Rachel Winder Named a 2025 Women of Influence by Columbus Business First](#)
May 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- [2024 Government Relations Practice Group Year in Review](#)
February 28, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Passage of HB531 - "Braden's Law" Criminalizes Sextortion, Marking Major Step Forward in Protecting Ohio's Youth](#)
January 9, 2025 | Press Releases
- [Ohio's 2024 Lame Duck Session: Highlights and Missed Opportunities](#)
January 3, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Rachel Winder Quoted in The Columbus Dispatch | "Mother of Olentangy High School student that inspired sextortion bill hopes it saves lives"](#)
December 20, 2024 | Media Mentions
- [Ohio General Assembly Tackles Lame Duck Session and Selects New Leaders for the Next](#)
November 26, 2024 | Client Alerts & Insights