



## Barometer Finds Growing Support for Regionalism

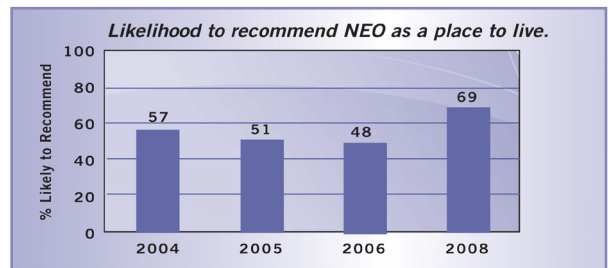
### Northeast Ohio by the Numbers

**2.7**  
High-tech employment in the region grew 2.7% between 2004 and 2007

**550**  
Prognostix Inc. received a \$550,000 grant to fund clinical trials

**100**  
Liberty National Life plans to add 100 jobs in Canton

For the first time since the Fund began tracking the region's attitudes toward the future of Northeast Ohio, residents are increasingly satisfied with the region and are more willing to recommend the region to a friend.



The latest edition of the Northeast Ohio Barometer of Economic Attitudes, also found residents have a strong sense of regional identity and increasingly support regional efforts to strengthen our economy. The Fund previously conducted Barometer surveys in 2004, 2005 and 2006. In the 2004 - 2006 surveys, the percentage of people who said they were satisfied with the region and would recommend it to friends declined from each previous poll.

In 2008, the percentage of people satisfied with the region increased to 76% from 55% in 2006, and the percentage who said they'd recommend it to a friend rose to 69% from 48% in 2006. More than 2,300 residents were surveyed in the 2008 poll, which was conducted by Cleveland State University.

Other highlights of the Barometer's findings include:

- >> **Residents express a strong regional identity – 98% of those surveyed said their county is part of Northeast Ohio.**
- >> **More residents are optimistic that the economy will improve in the future than in the 2006 survey; 41% believe that the economy will improve in the next five years, up from just 26%.**
- >> **82% of residents agree that raising educational attainment in the region will strengthen the economy.**
- >> **82% of residents surveyed favor greater government collaborations, and 67% said they favor government consolidations.**
- >> **60% of residents favored sharing tax revenue from new economic growth.**

“The Barometer identified a growing sense among residents that our diverse communities are all part of a single region, Northeast Ohio,” said Fund President Brad Whitehead. “I believe this stronger regional identity is a byproduct of the Fund’s effort **with its partners** to strengthen our region’s economic competitiveness and it will help the Fund to expand support for the regional initiatives that make up Advance Northeast Ohio.”

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