

CCAO ANNUAL REPORT



2018

2018 CCAO Executive Committee

President Daniel Troy, Lake County Commissioner
1st Vice President Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner
2nd Vice President Carl Davis, Monroe County Commissioner
Secretary Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
Treasurer Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
Past President Ed Humphrey, Clermont County Commissioner
Member Mike Halleck, Columbiana County Commissioner

2018 Board of Directors

Tony Anderson, Fayette County Commissioner
Brian Baldrige, Adams County Commissioner
Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive
Thom Collier, Knox County Commissioner
Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner
Christopher Day, Preble County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner
Robert Glaser, Greene County Commissioner
Thomas Graham, Jefferson County Commissioner
DeAnna Holliday, Lawrence County Commissioner
Ted Kalo, Lorain County Commissioner

Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner
Gary Lee, Union County Commissioner
John Love, Putnam County Commissioner
Gary Merrell, Delaware County Commissioner
Kerry Metzger, Tuscarawas County Commissioner
Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner
Cory Noonan, Allen County Commissioner
Ann Obrecht, Wayne County Commissioner
John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner
Paula Prentice, Summit County Council Member
Holly Stacy, Seneca County Commissioner
Brian Stewart, Pickaway County Commissioner
Doug Weisenauer, Crawford County Commissioner
Tom Whiston, Morrow County Commissioner



A Message from CCAO Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney

I continue to be inspired by our members. Public service in this environment is not for faint of heart. You continue demonstrate that leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. You have shared stories of talking to those incarcerated in your jails to better understand why they're there and how you can help them out – literally and figuratively. You speak of concern for deputy sheriffs who have responded to yet another overdose call and the child protective caseworker stretched thin with heavy caseloads. Too many needs. Too few resources. You speak with enthusiasm about new programs you are working on to help and economic development strategies to create opportunity. What you do matters. You care and it shows. Since one of the hazards of your job is to only hear from people when something isn't going well, I hope you know how much CCAO appreciates your service.

This year, we have focused on preparing for the change that comes with a new administration and general assembly. Our CCAO board and policy staff have done a great job putting together a compelling candidate briefing guide and robust advocacy campaign to educate and encourage our next governor, General Assembly and communities in general to understand the challenges that counties are facing and to embrace strategies to strengthen the state-county partnership. You all continue to do a great job sharing the message with candidates and the media. Keep it up!

This year also saw the culmination of years of groundwork come to fruition as funding for elections equipment was passed into law. A big thanks to the members who have served on our task force with the board of election officials and the policy team, along

with each of you whose advocacy helped get us to the finish line. It is an example of a stronger state-county partnership that we need replicated in the state biennial budget.

It is always a bittersweet season for me. As we prepare to welcome new members, that also means we will be saying our goodbyes to members who have left their imprimatur on our association in some special and indelible ways.

Words cannot adequately convey what you have meant to me personally and professionally, so I will simply say thank you for your legacy.

There are many ways CCAO has been working hard to enhance effective county government. Please find enclosed some of the highlights from the year.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Dulaney

POLICY UPDATE

Take the “Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio.” message to your community

CCAO is currently engaged in a comprehensive approach to educate and encourage Gov. Mike DeWine and the General Assembly to seriously consider and include in the new state biennial budget our proposals on how Ohio and its counties can move forward together to strengthen our counties, strengthen our state-county partnership, and strengthen our great State of Ohio.

Our message - “Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio.” - conveys the scope of the revenue losses counties have experienced, identifies the current challenges that are facing county government, and outlines strategies to

strengthen the state-county partnership – but we need you to tell your own county’s story.

Each county must write and communicate your own local story as an integral part of our collective message to show the governor, state leaders, and legislature the devastating consequences our counties are facing unless we all proceed together under a stronger partnership.

Your local community has to hear and understand the message and your county’s story. We need you to take your message to your local media, community organizations, and constituents. To that end, we have developed and made available resources to help you tell your county’s own story.

CCAO firmly believes that the success of our message is dependent on your local efforts.



We encourage you to actively reach out to those in your community at every chance and in every way possible to tell your county's story

20+
media mentions

and assist our association in the discussion of the challenges of county government today, and hopefully secure your community's support for our agenda to address your challenges.

The counties and the state are fundamentally connected and it is our shared responsibility to make Ohio stronger so that our citizens and communities can thrive. But for almost two decades counties have watched their partnership with the state eroded by policy decisions that reduced county revenues. These state decisions, when coupled with our growing costs, have created an environment where many counties have had to deplete reserves, delay capital projects and struggle to provide the direct services that Ohioans need. In many instances, while the state was cutting taxes, counties were forced to raise taxes to continue their state mandated functions.

As commissioners, council members and county executives we encourage you to join us and take our message and your story to your legislators, the media and your community and citizens. We need your help in leading the discussion of the challenges of county government today, and hopefully in securing your community's support for CCAO in addressing these challenges.

"Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio." outlines the key elements of the stronger partnership that will serve Ohio well and improve

the quality of life for the residents of our great state. CCAO specifically is asking the General Assembly and governor to:

- Restore the **\$166 million annual** Medicaid MCO revenue loss to counties.
- Restore the LGF to its previous statutory level of **3.68 percent** of the General Revenue Fund (GRF) taxes, creating an additional **\$145 million annually** for counties. Currently the LGF receives **1.66 percent** of GRF taxes, as compared to **3.68 percent** in 2008.
- Establish and fund a special state line item for counties to pay for a portion of the increased costs related to the explosive growth of the opiate epidemic crisis.
- Assume total responsibility for indigent defense. *In Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the fundamental right to counsel is made obligatory upon the states by the fourteenth amendment. The state should accept this responsibility and stop requiring its counties to bear **50 percent or more** of the costs. The Ohio Public Defender's Office estimates that in fiscal year 2018, indigent defense services will cost counties **\$79.5 million.**

CCAO also believes that economic development, preservation of the sales tax base and county government reform are required to deliver "Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio."

County government must be given an even greater role in promoting a climate that encourages strong

POLICY UPDATE

economic development. Modern, well maintained public infrastructure, coupled with a dependable, skilled workforce are vital when it comes to attracting businesses to Ohio's communities. We believe that the state can partner with counties to create a job friendly environment by focusing on these top policy priorities:

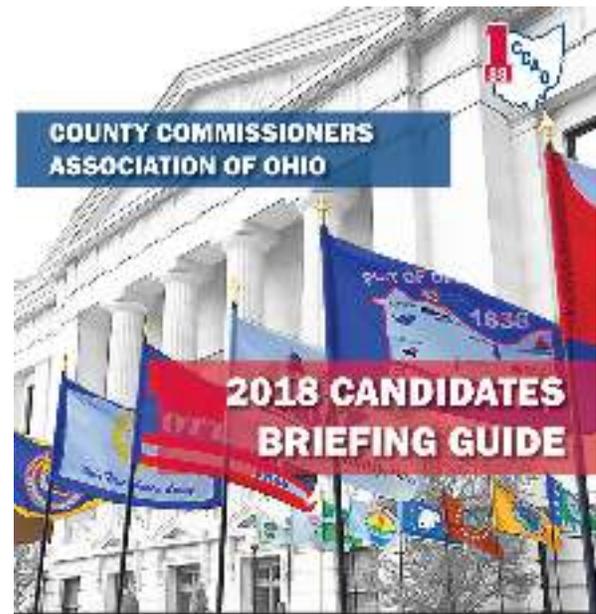
- Modernize road and bridge funding to address local transportation needs.
- Address the needs of modern water and sewer infrastructure.
- Expand access to broadband technology to unserved areas.
- Uphold local best practices and flexibility in county workforce programs and provide adequate funding for early childhood education initiatives in a way that does not compromise county funding or access to child care.

Protecting county resources by preserving the sales tax base is critically important for county fiscal stability. The sales tax has become the most important revenue source for both the state and for counties, yet the General Assembly continually carves out new exemptions from the sales tax. Ohio must protect the existing sales tax base from further erosion and carve outs.

Finally, there is merit in working to strengthen the partnership between state and county government through engaging in a serious discussion about county government reform. Counties stand ready and willing to launch a total reform of county government; even though attempts for large scale change have proven difficult in the past. If Ohio is not ready to take on a comprehensive reform effort, it should consider, at a minimum, providing

commissioners with greater budgetary control and management.

As a commissioner, council member or county executive you are a well-respected political leader within your community. We believe that your stature within your community can help us achieve "the Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio" goal – CCAO asks you to please join with us in 2019 to take this message and your story to your community.



STRONGER COUNTIES.
STRONGER PARTNERSHIP.
STRONGER OHIO.

RE-ESTABLISH THE STATE/COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Protect the **sales tax base** from further erosion

Create a state budget line item to help counties fight the **opiate crisis**

Permanent replacement of **Medicaid Sales Tax Revenue**

State assumes costs of **indigent defense**

Restore **LGF to 3.68 percent** share of state revenues

CCAO secures elections equipment funding

\$114.5 million

in state funding provided to the counties to help them replace their current voting systems

CCAO and the Ohio Association of Election officials have been working together for over five years with the Ohio House and Senate, the Administration, and the Secretary of State to promote a state/county partnership to establish a program to provide for the acquisition and deployment of new voting equipment across Ohio prior to the 2020 presidential election.

CCAO commended the Ohio Senate for passing sub SB 135, a bill introduced by Sen. Frank LaRose that appropriates nearly \$115 million for counties to make desperately needed upgrades to voting technology. It also creates a bipartisan committee of state and local officials to negotiate prices with vendors to ensure Ohio gets the best and lowest cost voting equipment.

"Ohio's 88 counties serve as agents of the state and administering elections in our 88 boards of elections offices is a crucial part of that role...The Senate's decision to address this election administration infrastructure issue is in the best interest of our democracy, and I hope it is the beginning to a stronger partnership between state and county governments." - CCAO President Daniel Troy

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

CCAO allies with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to discuss and manage important county issues pending in the U.S. Congress and executive agencies.

54

Ohio counties
are members

30

members serve on the NACo
standing committees

3

Ohio commissioners
serve on their board



ENTERPRISE SERVICES - CCAOSC

56 counties in the natural gas program **\$1,709,800** Estimated 2018 Annual Savings for County Facilities

26 counties in government aggregation program

\$6,219,000 Estimated 2018 Annual Savings for Citizens of Counties

53 counties in the CCAOSC Workers' Compensation Group Retro program **\$3.4 million** Estimated 23% refund of projected premium

\$27,165,351
5 year projected refunds

\$12,129,218
2010-2019 actual refunds to date

73 counties use Securus Technologies for their inmate calling service

75 counties use Maximus for cost recovery services

55 counties in the electric program

\$1,092,700
Estimated 2018 Annual Savings for County Facilities

6 counties are participating in the CCAO SC Solar Saving Initiative

11 counties in the CCAOSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating program.

\$207,536
estimated savings for 2018

88 counties use CCAO's Deferred Compensation Program.

~24,000
county employees





ENTERPRISE SERVICES - CORSA

66
counties
strong

44
affiliated
district
members

\$2.4M net assets returned to members in credits

\$1M first time and one time only dividend checks dispersed to members

\$1.7M of member equity used to provide innovative risk management services free of charge

Received Auditor of State Award

Cybersecurity Vulnerability Scans offered to members

Law Enforcement Initiatives: Body Scanners, Guardian System, Jail Booking Software, ACA

Secured grant funding from reinsurance carrier for Law Enforcement online training platform

ENTERPRISE SERVICES - CEBCO

Leveraging the purchasing power of **35 member counties** for deep discounts and superior service

Incentive-based wellness programs focus on early detection and prevention

County-centric programs responsive to your needs unlike any other option

Industry-leading technology for members connects your employees with the top providers and facilities, encourages smart medical consumer behavior

Majority of our member counties saw **no increase** in their 2019 rates

35
counties
strong

EDUCATION

52 Statehouse Reports

50 Counties Currents

5 County Advisory Bulletins

11 webinars

1,000+ people participated in one or more webinars sponsored by CCAO, CEBCO and CORSA

LEGAL ADVOCACY

New Riegel Local School District v. Buehrer Group Architecture & Eng, Inc.

– CCAO joined OML, OTA and school boards to preserve existing case law around defective construction claims.

McConnell v. Dudley and Coitsville Police Department and Township Police Depart and Board of Trustees

– Joined with OML and OTA in a case where the plaintiff attempted to erode sovereign immunity using a negligent training claim.

REPRESENTATION ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Agricultural Commodity Advisory Commission
- State Auditor's Regional Advisory Groups
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility Advisory Committee (CAFF)
- Ohio Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee
- Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO)
- Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission
- Commission on Dispute Resolution
- Elder Abuse Commission
- State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
- Statewide Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network
- Homeland Security Advisory Council
- Farmland Preservation Advisory Board
- Ohio Geographically Referenced Advisory Board
- Ohio Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee
- Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
- Jail Advisory Board
- Consortium of County Law Library Resource Boards
- Governor's Executive Workforce Board
- RECLAIM Advisory Committee
- Stepping Up Ohio Steering Committee
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Advisory Council
- Ohio Expositions Commission
- Materials Management Advisory Council

STAFF UPDATES

CCAO STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

Kathy Dillon, CCAO Office Manager and Boards Liaison - 37 years
Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager - 20 years
Thisbe Butcher, CCAO Finance Manager - 15 years
Tricia Callihan, CORSA Program Assistant - 15 years
Douglas Foust, CCAO Managing Director of Health and Wellness - 5 years

2018 PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES

John Brownlee was promoted to managing director of property and casualty insurance in July.

Tanya McComas was promoted from the position of administrative assistant at the reception desk to the position of program assistant.

CCAO/CORSA welcomed Frank Hatfield as the CORSA risk control manager.

CCAO welcomed **Jon Honeck** as a senior policy analyst to focus on taxation and human service policy.

Marilou Lamb was hired as a temporary employee during Kathy Dillon's absence. CCAO extended an offer for Marilou to be the new CCAO office manager and boards' liaison.

Adam Schwiebert joined the CCAO staff as a policy analyst focusing on agriculture and rural affairs.

CCAO/CEBCO welcomed **Hannah Whiston** as our new wellness/benefits administrator. Hannah is the primary wellness coordinator for counties in southern Ohio.



Brownlee

McComas

Hatfield

Honeck

Schwiebert

Lamb

Whiston

PARTNERSHIPS

CCAO is actively engaged with the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) to restore the **state-county partnership**.

CCAO participated in a **public transit advisory committee** convened by **Greater Ohio**. Other participants included regional transit authorities and several municipal chambers of commerce. The advisory committee explored potential dedicated funding streams to help supplement significant underinvestment in public transit systems across the state. The findings of the advisory committee's work are found in the report titled, "Fueling Innovation in Transit."

CCAO and **OSU Extension** collaborated this year as Extension implemented an administrative redesign as part of its **designEXT** initiative. The redesign streamlined the Extension bureaucratic structure, reducing administrative load by establishing an area leader system in place of the previous administrative regions. These new area leaders will benefit Extension service by providing greater flexibility in staff distribution and allowing for enhanced programming to the populations they serve.

In 2018, CCAO became a founding member of **Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio)**, a coalition of public and private sector stakeholders that have united in an effort to educate state leaders on the critical needs of Ohio's transportation infrastructure, and to advocate for a dedicated funding solution that provides long-term, smart investment in Ohio's transportation future.

Drainage Task Force - **CCAO** members along with county engineers, **the Ohio Farm Bureau**, **OSU** and others come together to recommend statutory updates to Ohio's drainage law.

LOOKING AHEAD



Stronger Counties. Stronger Partnership. Stronger Ohio: Engage and educate the governor, the General Assembly, the media and communities on the importance and need for a stronger state/county partnership.

Mark your Calendars

CCAO New Member Training - Feb. 11 - 13 • OCCO Legislative Reception - April 9
2019 NACo Legislative - March 2 - March 6

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County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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