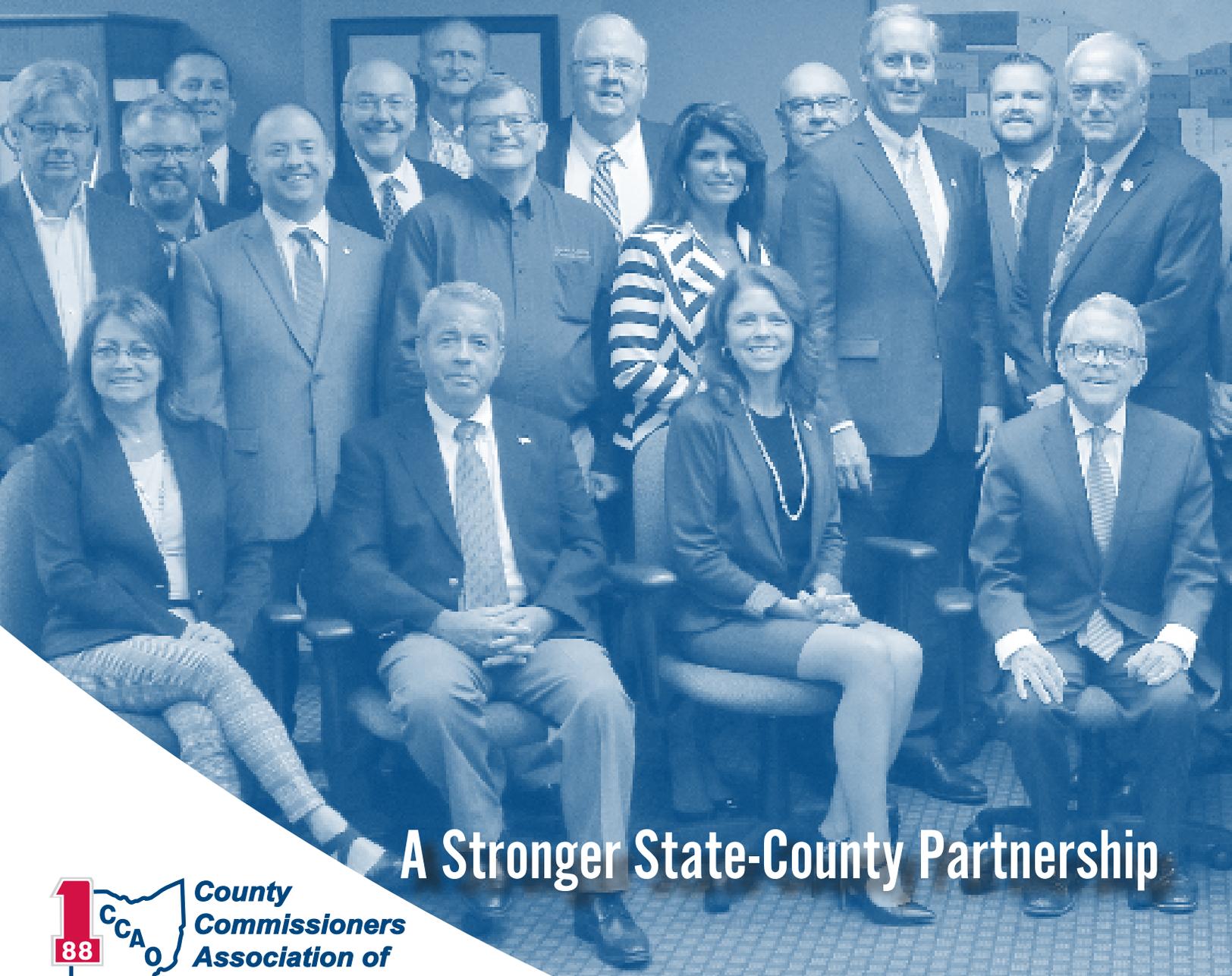


2019 CCAO ANNUAL REPORT



A Stronger State-County Partnership



**County
Commissioners
Association of
Ohio**

2019 CCAO Executive Committee

President Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner
1st Vice President Carl Davis, Monroe County Commissioner
2nd Vice President Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
Secretary Tom Whiston, Morrow County Commissioner
Treasurer Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
Member Tony Anderson, Fayette County Commissioner
Member Mike Halleck, Columbiana County Commissioner

2019 CCAO Board of Directors

Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioner
Ron Amstutz, Wayne County Commissioner
Terry Boose, Huron County Commissioner
Terry Britton, Highland County Commissioner
Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive
Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
Christopher Day, Preble County Commissioner
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Pat Geissman, Medina County Commissioner
Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner
Thomas Graham, Jefferson County Commissioner
DeAnna Holliday, Lawrence County Commissioner

Edwin Humphrey, Clermont County Commissioner
Shannon Jones, Warren County Commissioner
Lori Kokoski, Lorain County Commissioner
Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner
Ryan Mack, Defiance County Commissioner
Gary Merrell, Delaware County Commissioner
Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner
Cory Noonan, Allen County Commissioner
John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner
Matt Old, Erie County Commissioner
Paula Prentice, Summit County Council
Randy Smith, Meigs County Commissioner
Brian Stewart, Pickaway County Commissioner
Doug Weisenauer, Crawford County Commissioner



CCAO Board of Directors with Speaker Larry Householder

A Message from CCAO Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney

Hello members! Please find enclosed your annual report for what has been a very busy and productive year. Together, we have made great strides to strengthen the state-county partnership. Thanks to the DeWine Administration, legislative leadership in the House and Senate, members of the General Assembly and a very hard working Executive Committee, Board of Directors, membership, and our talented policy team, we spoke with one voice and that voice was heard.

The tremendous strides that were made to increase state investment in indigent defense and the child protective system are unprecedented. And after many years, we also saw the adoption of tax policies that will allow for internet sales tax collections to bring parity to main street vendors.

As we bring another year to a close, we will also be wishing Mary Jane Neiman and Doug Foust a fond farewell as they begin new chapters in their lives after years of dedicated service to county government. We wish them much happiness and hope they will stay connected to our CCAO family.

I am excited by the new talent that has joined CCAO in the past few years and look forward to what they will bring to the organization. When combined with the experts already on staff, I know that we are positioned well as an organization to advance effective county government well into the future.

While certainly much remains to be done, there is a refreshing atmosphere of mutual respect that is critical to any successful partnership.

Thank you so much for your engagement in 2019. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a Happy New Year!



POLICY UPDATE

A New Day for the State-County Partnership

Counties are experiencing a much stronger State-County Partnership with the DeWine-Husted Administration and the 133rd General Assembly. This positive development comes after counties united last year to establish CCAO's legislative priorities for 2019-2020 and work with one voice to strengthen counties and thereby strengthen Ohio.

Last year CCAO's Candidates Briefing Guide explained how county government stood in a very different place than it did 20 years ago. For almost two decades, counties watched their partnership with the state erode because of policy decisions that reduced county revenues and shifted more responsibilities to the local level. At the same time, the opiate epidemic strained the county justice and public safety system; costs associated

with this particular wave of addiction present challenges that will last much longer than the epidemic itself. The combination of these situations has caused a perfect storm, forcing many counties to a threshold they have not experienced before.

This year CCAO's members and staff focused on growing relationships with their state partners in the Statehouse and asked the DeWine-Husted Administration and lawmakers to reduce county budgetary pressures by fully reimbursing counties for providing indigent defense.

Indigent Defense Funding

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that the fundamental right to counsel is a state responsibility. Historically Ohio has chosen to share this costly federal mandate with its counties. The unprecedented funding in this year's biennial budget to reimburse counties for



CCAO Executive Committee with Senate President Larry Obhof

this mandate has been a welcome change and strong indication of the improved state-county partnership.

Gov. Mike DeWine in his biennial budget proposal recommended a \$60 million increase in funding for county reimbursement which almost doubled the funding committed to reimbursement over the previous biennium. The governor heard loud and clear the concise, unified request from counties to address this mandate.

The Ohio House chose to build on this sturdy foundation by providing an additional \$35 million in the second year of the budget. Speaker Householder and the House showed their strong support for counties.

Furthermore, Senate President Larry Obhof, Sen. Matt Dolan and the Ohio Senate supported this reinforced foundation between the state and counties.

CCAO originally anticipated that if system costs would remain nearly constant the funding in the second year of the biennium would equate to almost 100 percent reimbursement to counties; however, this figure probably will be closer to 85-90 percent reimbursement as counties work to make incremental improvements to what we believe is a significantly underfunded system.

Children Services Funding

Another one of DeWine's priorities along with Speaker Larry Householder's was to substantially invest in child protection services. The governor made several investments in this area in his budget proposal including increasing funding to child protection by \$30 million each year, and the Ohio House later doubled this unprecedented investment. In addition, the budget provides an additional \$25 million for multi-system youth placement costs and to prevent custody relinquishment and makes key investments in kinship care.

Sales Tax Collection from Out-of-State Vendors

The budget addresses the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* U.S. Supreme Court decision by creating a nexus for out-of-state vendors that lack a presence in Ohio. Annual compliance thresholds are at least \$100,000 in sales and 200 transactions. County and transit sales tax revenues are estimated to increase by \$51 million at full implementation.

Local Government Fund

The Senate increased the ratio of state general fund revenues shared with local governments from 1.66 to 1.68 percent, resulting in an estimated \$10 million gain for local governments over the biennium.

In addition, the operating budget bill provides the following support and tools:

- **Additional Sales Tax Authority for Jail Construction.** Authorizes additional voter-approved sales tax authority for jail construction and renovation in certain circumstances.
- **County Recorder Fee Increased for County General Fund & State Housing Trust Fund.** Increases the fee to record items from \$28 to \$34 for the first two pages and splits the revenue equally between the county general fund and the State Housing Trust Fund.
- **Right-Sizing Poll Workers.** Enables a board of elections to reduce the number of poll workers where a polling location has multiple precincts and electronic poll books are utilized.
- **MARCS Fee Offset.** Continues to provide 50 percent subsidy for the monthly radio unit user fee charge.
- **Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement Program for County Jails.** Provides \$2.5 million each year.

The bill also makes substantial investments in water quality, providing an unprecedented \$172 million in funding over the biennium through the newly established H2Ohio Fund.

Soil and water districts' state-county match rates should go up to a dollar-for-dollar with the \$5 million bump from the state.

An additional one million dollars was appropriated for OSU Cooperative Extension Service as well as the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center (OARDC) – entities that partner with Ohio's counties.

Last but not least, the bill reinstates the Agricultural Society Facilities Grant Program to provide approximately \$50,000 to each county and independent agricultural society for capital projects.

Looking forward, discussions and planning will occur over the next two years to prepare for a possible transition for common pleas courts to establish their own probation department. When the budget bill was introduced, 42 counties who were supported by the state's Adult Parole Authority (APA) would have been required to become autonomous. However, the final version makes the transition permissive for the 23 counties that have probation departments and also utilize APA service. The enacted budget also allows for more future discussions to develop an approach to help the other 13 counties establish probation departments beginning in 2022.

Transportation Budget Provided Significant Road and Bridge Investments

In addition, the DeWine Administration and Ohio General Assembly also made investments in Ohio's infrastructure through the transportation budget earlier this year. The tax on gasoline was increased by 10.5 cents (for a total of 38.5 cents), and the tax on diesel was increased 19 cents (for a total 47 cents). As a result, an additional



Lt. Gov Husted with Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski and Wayne County Commissioner Ron Amstutz

\$865 million more per year for road and bridge project will be available.

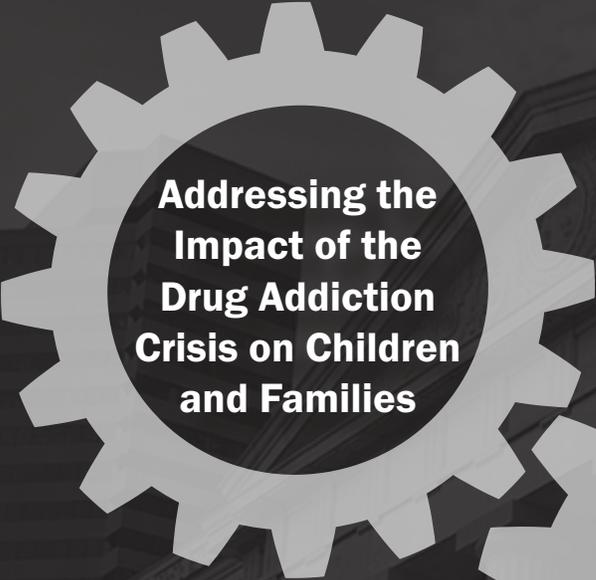
The increase also will mean significant new revenue for counties, townships and municipalities, which get roughly 40 percent of the current gas tax. Under the latest transportation budget, local governments will get 45 percent of the additional revenue generated by the tax increase.

Your Partnership with CCAO has strengthened the State-County Partnership

Counties' successes within the state biennial budget and transportation budget were due in part to our elite team dynamics and because of our excellent partners at the Statehouse. This started at the top with DeWine, Householder and Obhof as well as our former CCAO members who are now legislators, and we encourage you to continually thank them for their renewed commitment to county government and its service to Ohio's citizens.

But a key component to our success was our members' active engagement with the Administration and their legislators. Our members' efforts made the difference. Therefore we must also thank you.

2019 LEGISLATION RE-ESTABLISHES THE STATE-COUNTY PARTNERSHIP



**Addressing the
Impact of the
Drug Addiction
Crisis on Children
and Families**



**Strengthening
the Sales Tax
Base**



**Unprecedented
Funding for
Indigent Defense**



**Rebuilding
Ohio's
Transportation
Network**



**Creating a
New Revenue
Option for Jail
Construction**

THE STATE-COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Unprecedented Funding for Indigent Defense

The DeWine-Husted Administration and 133rd General Assembly strongly responded to counties' unified request for funding indigent defense, with an additional \$155 million appropriated per the biennium.

Addressing the Impact of the Drug Addiction Crisis on Children and Families

The state increased funding for children's services by \$65 million per year, more than double the previous appropriation level, and increased funding for multi-system youth by \$68 over the biennium.

Strengthening the Sales Tax Base

Out-of-state internet vendors must collect and remit sales tax if they have more than \$100,000 annual sales or 200 individual transactions with Ohio customers. Counties and transit agencies are expected to receive over \$50 million from this policy change.

Creating a New Revenue Option for Jail Construction

Counties without a charter may enact a new sales tax, with voter approval, dedicated solely to the construction or renovation of a detention center. The rate may be up to ½ percent provided that a transit agency does not use its maximum sales tax authority.

Rebuilding Ohio's Transportation Network

Ohio raised its fuel tax for the first time since 2005, generating an additional \$135 million per year for counties to repair or replace roads and bridges. The transportation budget also includes funding of \$70 million each year for public transit agencies.

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

31

officials serve on NACo
standing committees

3

Ohio commissioners
serve on their board



50

CCAO members attended the
White House Regional State
Leadership Days initiative

ENTERPRISE SERVICES - CCAOSC



56 counties in the natural gas program
\$1,704,600
Estimated 2019 Annual Savings for County Facilities

58 counties in the electric program
\$1,106,200
Estimated 2019 Annual Savings for County Facilities

26 counties in government aggregation program
\$6,310,200
Estimated 2019 Annual Savings for Citizens of Counties

6 counties are participating in the CCAO SC Solar Saving Initiative

12 counties in the CCAOSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating program
\$242,415 estimated savings for 2019

52 counties in the CCAOSC Workers' Compensation Group Retro program
\$3.4 million+ projected 2019 refund

78 counties use Maximus for cost recovery services

88 counties use CCAO's Deferred Compensation Program
24,000+ county employees

68 counties use Securus Technologies for their inmate calling service

88 counties use CCAOSC Preferred Vendor HG Consulting as needed

59 counties in the CCAOSC Preferred Vendor First Communications program
73 counties in the CCAOSC Preferred Vendor Omnia Partners program

10 counties in the CCAOSC Preferred Vendor TASC program

37 counties in the CCAOSC Preferred Vendor Gov-Deals program

ENTERPRISE SERVICES - CORSA

66 counties
strong

45
affiliated
district
members

\$2.4M net assets returned to members in credits

\$1.3M of member equity used to provide innovative risk management services free of charge

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

Has grown to **38** member counties with over **11,500** employees, using our purchasing power to offer many programs and benefits that only a large employer can provide

\$3 million in member equity used to reduce renewal impact

Almost half of our member counties received a decrease or no increase in 2020 renewal rates

Wellness Grant Program provided **\$526,000** for member counties to use on county wellness initiatives

Upgrading to a concierge type customer service unit that provides personalized and consultative support to our members

Provides industry-leading mobile app to enable members to be more engaged in their health and encourage smart medical consumer behavior

38
counties
strong

52 Statehouse Reports

50 Counties Currents



2 County Leader issues

5 County Advisory Bulletins

4 County Cast episodes

9 webinars

1,000+ people participated in one or more webinars

REPRESENTATION ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Agricultural Commodity Advisory Commission
Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility Advisory Committee (CAFF)
Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
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
RecoveryOhio Advisory Council
Stepping Up Ohio Steering Committee
Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee
Water Resources Advisory Council
Ohio Expositions Commission
Materials Management Advisory Council
Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

STAFF UPDATES

CCAO STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

- 35 years and Retirement – Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate
- 6 years and Retirement – Douglas Foust, Managing Director of Health and Wellness
- 5 years – Mike Kindell, CEBCO Senior Benefits Manager
- 5 years – Andrew Johnson, CCAO Communications Coordinator

2019 PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

Nedra Benson began her service in 2018 as a temporary employee and joined the staff this year as an administrative professional. Visitors at the CCAO office are greeted and assisted by Nedra when attending a meeting or visiting the office.



Robin Garrett joined the staff as an administrative professional. Robin will be handling a variety of administrative support duties and assisting with conferences, seminars and meetings. She brings over 20 years' experience in office management and administrative support for executive management. Most recently, Robin worked as an executive assistant to the board of governors of Grottos North America – Supreme Council Office. In addition, she served as an executive assistant for Atrium Centers, LLC, Rite Rug Company and several other companies.



Rachel Massoud is a policy analyst specializing in human services, workforce development and general government matters. Prior to joining CCAO, Rachel served as a legislative advocate for the Ohio Municipal League. She was also a senior legislative aide for Sen. William P. Coley, II, as well as an intern at the U.S. House of Representatives.



CCAO AFFILIATES

- County Administrators Association
- County Commissioners Clerks & Engineers
- Administrative Professionals Association
- Ohio County Dog Wardens Association
- Emergency Managers Association of Ohio
- Facility Managers Association

- Family & Children First Coordinators
- Ohio County Home Association
- County Loss Control Coordinators Association
- Planning Directors Association
- County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio
- Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio

PARTNERSHIPS

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

The Ohio Association of Elections Officials (OAEO) and CCAO continue to partner through the Joint Committee on Administration of Elections to help counties have adequate resources necessary to conduct fair and accurate elections for all Ohioans as well as to respond to various legislative proposals and state policies.

CCAO and OSU Extension welcomed a new face to Extension leadership in CFAES. Dr. Jackie Kirby Wilkins took the reins as the Interim Associate Dean for Extension upon the retirement of Dr. Roger Rennekamp. Dr. Wilkins implemented the designEXT initiative as the Director for Operations for Extension. 2019 has been a particularly challenging year for many parts of the state, and Extension continues to deliver youth development programs, more workforce development opportunities, and the water quality programs that communities know and trust. One of the biggest challenges has been the Farm Crisis that impacted Ohio in a big way. The Farm Crisis Task Force has responded to community needs and put resources in local communities to help address the challenge.

In 2019, CCAO worked with public and private sector partners in the Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio) coalition to increase funding in the state transportation budget for road and bridge construction and for public transit. The coalition worked closely with state leaders and achieved historic investments in transportation funding that will boost Ohio's economic competitiveness for many years to come.

CCAO partnered with the County Engineers Association, OSU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District Federation and the Ohio Farm Bureau as part of the Drainage Law Revision Task Force. The task force's multi-year efforts resulted in the introduction of House Bill 340, legislation which streamlines and modernizes Ohio's petition drainage statutes.

CCAO & County Commissioners from around Ohio hosted the Women's Leadership Exchange Symposium with EAF Berlin as part of #WunderbarTogether, which promotes women in politics and diverse perspectives.

CCAO continues to support Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State which teach youth about county, city and state government through a non-partisan, objective approach. CCAO alumni help mentor during the eight-day, hands-on experience, and CCAO provides materials regarding county government.

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

OCCO Legislative Reception - April 1 • 2020 NACo Legislative - Feb. 29 - March 4 •
National County Government Month - April 2020 • 2020 Census - mid March •
CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference - Dec. 9-11



County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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