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1st Vice President



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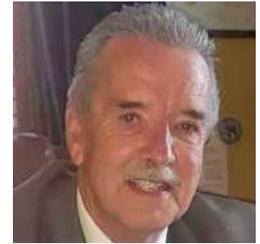
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Cuyahoga County  
Executive  
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## A MESSAGE FROM CHERYL SUBLER CCAO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2021 has been a year of great progress for CCAO and its members, with a long list of achievements that we're proud to share in this annual report.

Steadfast advocacy efforts paid off with the historic funding of indigent defense reimbursement to counties. The DeWine-Husted Administration along with the General Assembly appropriated what is estimated to be full funding in SFY 2022 and hopefully in SFY 2023. Our members' strong advocacy along with the work of the CCAO Policy Team and, moreover, the leadership displayed by our counties' champions and partners in the statehouse enabled this legislative goal to be accomplished for the first time in history. Simply amazing!

As we advanced our policy objectives, we also nurtured our membership. This year 61 new county commissioners and council members joined the ranks of CCAO. The CCAO Executive Committee and Board of Directors along with staff worked to welcome these new members to CCAO through virtual meetings as well as in-person visits, culminating with our two-day new member training at Cherry Valley Hotel. Setting our new members up for success and helping them understand the benefits of the association have been a foremost priority.

In addition, the association has been providing opportunities for all members across the state to meet and learn from one another. Whether it be regional legislative briefings, regional district meetings or simply sharing lunch with fellow county commissioners, executives and council members, bringing members together encourages knowledge exchange and strengthens the association.

Also, the CCAO brand was refreshed with a new logo that coordinates with our service program partners. To keep everyone connected, the association invested in our flagship publication – the Roster, to include vibrant color photos of members and to promote a wider distribution.

Looking forward, the association's leadership has chartered a long-term course for CCAO to become the most effective county state association by 2028. In 2022, the association will continue to focus on supporting our members, particularly in utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; identifying best practices that can be replicated; developing a comprehensive communication and education strategy for CCAO; and crafting a plan for the CCAO Service Corporation business programs to provide greater benefit to counties.

Last but not least, the association and its members this year gifted to the Ohio Statehouse an engaging interactive display featuring Ohio counties and their vital role in providing critical services. CCAO is building on the legacy from 25 years ago when the association and Ohio counties donated \$40,000 for the popular, beautiful county floor map. Now visitors of all ages to the capitol can learn more about the 88 counties that compose our great state.

This comprehensive annual report details these accomplishments and many more! These successes largely are due to you - our members, coming together for strong counties and a strong Ohio.

Finally, a sincere thank you to CCAO President and Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb for his leadership, vision, guidance and kindness this year. His "CCAO Team" approach facilitated success for all.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous, healthy new year!





## CCAO POLICY UPDATE

Following a turbulent 2020, the CCAO Policy Team looked to 2021 to return to “normalcy,” if such a condition still exists. While 2020 provided tremendous uncertainty, 2021 ushered in an era of transformative developments for county government. The year may not have proven to be “normal,” but the year’s developments brought many positive impacts for county government nonetheless.

From historic support of key state budget priorities to unprecedented inflows of federal funds, 2021 provided a year of firsts. CCAO was pleased to help navigate many of these developments, but the association could not have done it alone. Close coordination and cooperation with our state and federal partners made many of these achievements possible. Above all, these successes are due to the commitment and engagement of CCAO’s members.

### State budget success

The number one priority for CCAO heading into the state budget process was to achieve 100 percent reimbursement for indigent defense funding. With the help and support of Governor DeWine and numerous lawmakers, along with the advocacy efforts of countless CCAO members, this goal was achieved.

The push for indigent defense began in earnest over two years ago, when CCAO made indigent defense reimbursement the association’s top priority as part of Governor DeWine’s first budget bill. The successes borne out of that budget, which significantly increased indigent defense spending above its historic average, set the stage for CCAO to make the final push to fully fund this mandated service.

This year, as part of Governor DeWine’s FY 22/23 operating budget (House Bill 110), the governor provided counties over \$40 million per year in additional indigent defense funding. These increases backfilled previous pandemic-induced state budgetary cuts and provided funds for an estimated 95 percent indigent defense

reimbursement rate. Governor DeWine clearly heard counties’ number one priority and delivered.

Later, the Ohio House of Representatives, led by Speaker Bob Cupp, provided an additional \$8.3 million in FY 22 and \$12.3 million in FY 23 – sufficient funding for an estimated 100 percent indigent defense reimbursement rate. Senate President Matt Huffman and the Ohio Senate continued the strong support for indigent defense reimbursement by passing their version of the budget with CCAO’s primary funding request intact. Throughout the entire budgetary process, CCAO found many allies along the way.

As CCAO members know, the indigent defense reimbursement rate is driven by many factors, and a 100 percent reimbursement rate cannot be guaranteed in the future. However, it’s certain that fulfilling CCAO’s number one budgetary request was only possible through the focused and consistent advocacy efforts of many CCAO members, for which the policy team is very grateful.

Additional budgetary items:

- **Historic investment in broadband expansion.** The enacted budget bill provides \$250 million in state funding for the newly-established Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program, which seeks to expand broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of the state.
- **Children Services funding.** The budget bill provides an additional \$10 million per year to help counties fund the new State Kinship Support Program and federal Family First Prevention Services Act.
- **Additional sales tax authority for jail operations.** The previous budget bill authorized counties to levy an additional 0.5 percent of unused transit authority sales tax to fund county jail construction. House Bill 110 expands that ability to include jail operations.

- **MARCS fee subsidies.** HB 110 increases by \$500,000 the amount provided to local governments to subsidize monthly MARCS radio user fee charges.
- **Brownfield remediation and demolition funding.** The budget appropriates \$350 million and \$150 million in state funds over the biennium to fund brownfield remediation and site demolition programs, respectively.
- **H2Ohio funding.** The budget continues the H2Ohio Fund for water quality improvements and provides approximately \$170 million to fund these efforts.
- **Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program.** HB 168 provides \$250 million to help Ohio communities improve water and wastewater infrastructure.

### American Rescue Plan Act guidance

In early 2021, the U.S. Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), providing \$1.9 trillion in federal COVID-19 relief. Of this total, \$350 billion was allocated to state and local governments to fund various COVID-19 response efforts. Ohio counties will receive approximately \$2.2 billion in ARPA funds by early next year.

Unlike previous coronavirus aid which flowed through the state to most local governments, ARPA dollars flowed directly to counties from the U.S. Treasury, bypassing the state. While the policy team did not have to pursue state legislative appropriations for these funds, the policy team continues to support counties as they navigate complex federal regulations on ARPA fund eligible uses. Issues such as navigating federal procurement regulations, calculating lost revenue, coordinating projects with the state and other questions are on the minds of many members.

The policy team is committed to helping counties navigate the usage of these once-in-a-generation investments. To date, CCAO has conducted multiple webinars, drafted briefing materials, and hosted a day-long symposium on ARPA funds to try and answer member questions. The team plans to continue making resources and experts available to address county questions over the years to come.

### Navigating opioid settlement

For several years, counties and other local governments across Ohio and the nation have been involved in

ongoing litigation surrounding the opioid epidemic. In March 2020, the state of Ohio and its local governments entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) called “OneOhio” that outlined how any potential settlement dollars would be allocated. Under the OneOhio MOU, local governments will receive 30 percent of any settlement dollars directly, 15 percent will go to the state, and the remaining 55 percent will be allocated to regions across the state through a nonprofit foundation.

In August 2021, a settlement offer was negotiated with three large opioid distributors. CCAO worked with the Plaintiffs Executive Committee to distribute information about the proposed settlement to all of our members, regardless if they had a lawsuit pending, to give them the opportunity to sign on. Ninety-eight percent of Ohio’s counties ultimately signed on to the settlement.

After the settlement was reached, the next step in the process was to set up the nonprofit foundation that would accept 55 percent of the settlement funds. In addition to the statewide foundation, the 19 regions across the state must organize themselves in order to assess and recommend different projects to the state foundation for funding. CCAO continues to work with its local government and state partners to provide a roadmap for counties in organizing their respective regions.

### Wind and solar siting

This past spring, legislation granting commissioners considerable new authority over utility scale wind and solar siting was enacted by the General Assembly through Senate Bill 52. CCAO did not seek this legislation nor support or oppose the bill, but the policy team is committed to providing information and resources to help members understand their options and to make the best choices for their counties.

### The road ahead

As the dust settles from an active 2021, the policy team looks forward to 2022 with anticipation. Key county priorities such as protecting the sales tax base and additional state support for county jail construction lie ahead. Whatever 2022 may bring, the policy team takes comfort in knowing that they have an active membership base behind them to support CCAO’s message, and a stronger partnership with the DeWine-Husted Administration and legislative leaders at the Statehouse. Engaged members lead to better public policy, which helps build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.



## CCAO Welcomes 61 New Members and Hosts Training

CCAO welcomed **61 new members** in 2021. Members and staff were able to meet many of them in-person at the New Member Training at Cherry Valley Hotel in Licking County

The event, which started out as the return to in-person CCAO board meetings, was the vision of CCAO President and Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb. With his guidance and foresight, CCAO planned an incredible opportunity to meet and greet each other while also providing an opportunity to learn and build on the knowledge of what the association brings to the table.

A number of speakers and moderators provided invaluable insight that gave way to informational and sometimes lively sessions! Tim Bubb, CCAO president and Licking County commissioner; Morrow County Commissioner Tom Whiston; Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero; Coshocton County Administrator/Clerk Mary Beck; Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann; Mark Altier, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman; Adams County Commissioner Diane Ward; Auglaize County Commissioner Doug Spencer; Knox County Commissioner Thom Collier; Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish; Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller; Fairfield Deputy County Administrator Aunie Cordle; Montgomery County Administrator Michael Colbert; CORSA Risk Manager Frank Hatfield; and Isaac Wiles Attorney at Law and CORSA Hotline Counselor Jeffrey Stankunas all led sessions.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jay Hottinger and House Rep. Marilyn John carved out a few minutes from their busy schedules to join us to speak about the importance of state and county partnership and ongoing communications with lawmakers.

The staff at CCAO was very happy to host our board members and our newest members under one roof. It was wonderful to see everyone gathering together to gain insight into county government operations and best practices as well as discuss today's important issues.

*John, Bubb and Hottinger*





**CCAO Policy Team Hits the Road for Regional Briefings**

The CCAO Policy Team hosted five regional meetings to bring together county commissioners, executives and council members along with key staff from across the state and discuss pertinent policy issues. The meetings featured presentations on the state budget, ARPA and Senate Bill 52 implementation. Additionally, lunch included a roundtable discussion among members about the successes and opportunities throughout their counties.

*Pictured above are CCAO members and Policy Team in Warren County.*

**CCAO Leads ARPA Symposium and Education Efforts**

CCAO in September hosted an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Symposium, which helped county commissioners, executives, council members and key county staff as they navigate the planning and procurement processes for their federal ARPA dollars.

The CCAO Policy Team also conducted multiple webinars and provided briefing materials to support members.



**CCAO Drafts SB 52 Manual for Members**

CCAO produced a manual to help counties navigate the new authority granted to them under SB 52 regarding siting of solar and wind energy projects.

The manual provides members with background on the policy, things to consider while making their decision on creating restricted zones or blocking individual projects, and a walkthrough of revenue scenarios if a qualified energy project pays property tax or a payment in lieu of taxation (PILOT).

**Additional Support**

The CCAO Policy Team hosted webinars, established monthly virtual office hours for members to gain insight and guidance, published County Advisory Bulletins, responded to many phone calls and email inquiries about best practices, and more to help county commissioners, executives and council members build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

### CCAO Numbers at a Glance

**10**  
WEBINARS

**21** REGIONAL  
LEGISLATIVE  
BRIEFINGS



**50** COUNTIES CURRENT  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS

**4**  
ISSUES OF  
COUNTY  
LEADER



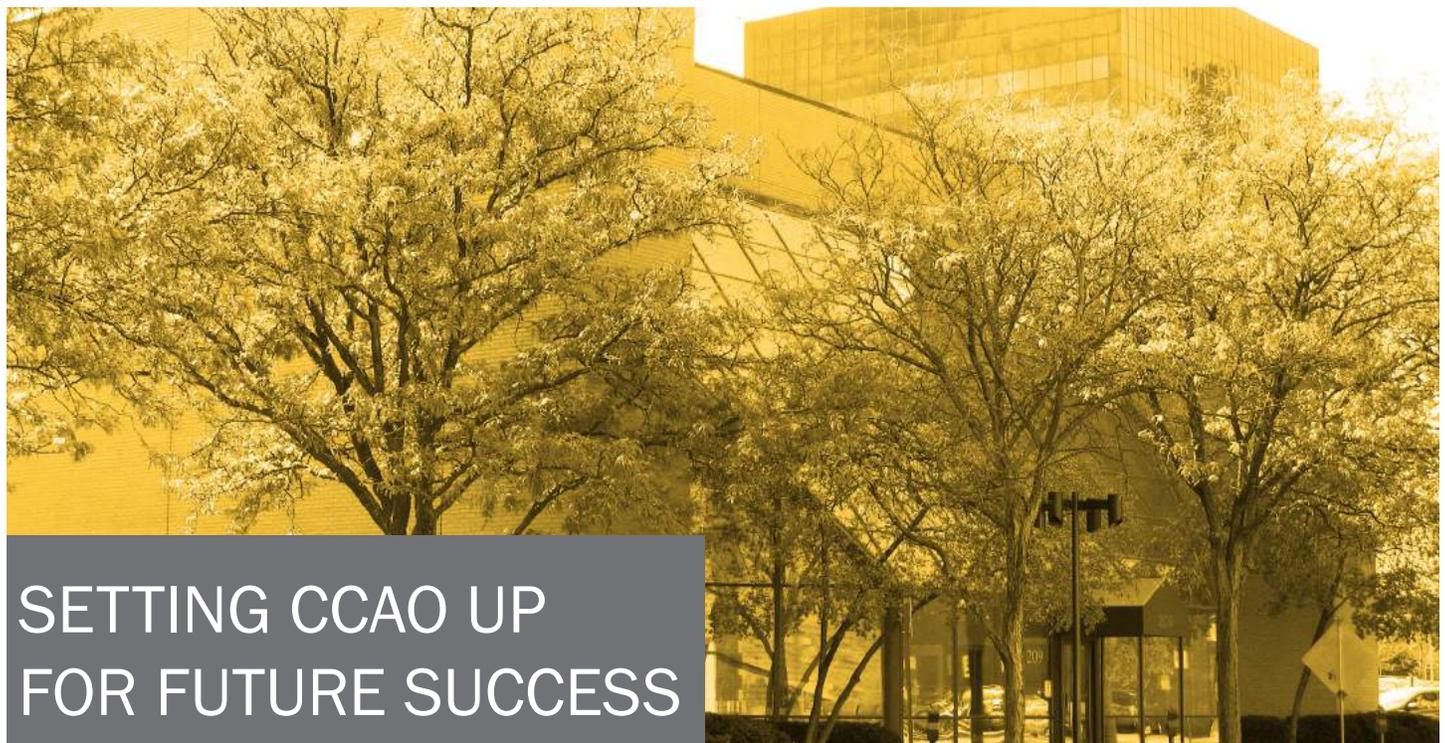
**51**  
STATEHOUSE  
REPORTS

**6**  
COUNTY  
ADVISORY  
BULLETINS

**61**  
NEW MEMBERS

**5** FALL  
REGIONAL  
BRIEFINGS





## SETTING CCAO UP FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

### CCAO Board Adopts Strategic Plan

The board of directors for CCAO adopted a 3-year strategic plan that has been put forward by a committee of members and CCAO leadership. The Strategic Planning Committee met on several occasions with a consultant throughout 2021 in pursuit of presenting a plan that would guide CCAO from 2022 through 2025.

Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix was asked to chair the committee.

“We worked really hard to find the right mix of members from small, medium and large counties, Republicans and Democrats, board members and non-board members. The best part – to me – about our process is that each member as well as Cheryl Subler and John Leutz brought a unique perspective to our meetings, and everyone who participated made some significant contribution to the final plan,” Fix said.

John O’Grady, Franklin County commissioner and committee member, offered, “This was the most non-partisan project I’ve ever been a part of. Everyone in the room was totally focused on creating a plan that would serve the best interests of CCAO long-term. It was really a great experience.”

“We had some long discussions – deep discussions – but they were always respectful and with the end-goal in mind,” added Cory Noonan, Allen County commissioner

and committee member.

The six Core Values identified by the group are:

1. We have a heart for service.
2. We are team oriented.
3. We strive to win.
4. We’re self-motivated.
5. We eagerly snap at challenges.
6. We are creative problem solvers.

The Purpose of CCAO – as defined by the group and adopted by the board: CCAO helps counties effectively serve Ohioans through advocacy, education, service programs and collaboration. We are a “recognized expert resource on county government and connecting counties.”

The BIG GOAL set forth in this strategic plan – where we would like CCAO to be in seven years – is that the “CCAO will be recognized as the most effective county association in the country by 2028.”

From that goal a “3-year picture” was established, and from that, a plan for 2022 came into focus.

The challenge now is for the CCAO staff and board to work collaboratively to put the plan into action and to revisit it on a regular basis to keep it fresh and current.

Other contributing members of the Strategic Planning Committee were Armond Budish (Cuyahoga), Debbie Lieberman (Montgomery), Kathryn Whittington (Ashtabula), Tony Vero (Richland), Lenny Eliason (Athens) and Tony Anderson (Fayette).

“I’m really appreciative of all the time and effort that all of the members on the committee put into this project,” said Fix. “All of us as elected officials are extremely busy. But this group set aside their daily activities on a number of occasions to travel to Columbus and do the hard work that goes into the creation of a viable, vibrant Strategic Plan.”

“And kudos to Cheryl Subler for asking for this. It takes a brave leader to ask for accountability at a higher level, and this plan will provide that.”

The plan was passed unanimously by the board at its September meeting.



*Fix and Bubb*

## **New HVAC Unit Brings Comfort, Saves Dollars**

CCAO this year completed an HVAC project that has not only made the office a comfortable place to work but will save the association significant costs for years to come.

The massive \$300,000 project was originally scheduled for 2022, but CCAO took advantage of staff being able to telework and contracted with Roger Edwards and his team at Integrated & Open Systems to get started in 2021.

His company has serviced the building for the last five years, and he also worked for his brother’s company on the building’s original design in 1978. That original HVAC equipment was what was attempting to regulate the facility; over 40 years later, it was clearly petering out. As Edwards succinctly put it, “The system was old.”

“We got tired of pouring money into band aids for the old unit and figured our money was better spent doing the replacement early,” said CCAO Network Administrator Tim Hoverman, who oversaw the project.

CCAO President Tim Bubb said that move could very well have resulted in savings of up \$100,000, as inflationary pressure on construction materials and systems as well as increasing labor costs would have impacted the project in the future.

According to Bubb, CCAO, CEBCO and CORSA will immediately see savings in monthly costs of natural gas and electricity, and major savings in what has been considerable maintenance costs trying to keep the four-decade old HVAC system functioning.

So, what is involved in a \$300,000 overhaul? The renovated HVAC features a new smaller, high-efficiency boiler for heating; a new steam humidification unit; a new stainless steel water heater; a pair of large ultraviolet vertical light systems in the air transfer chamber on the roof that will sanitize the air headed for the interior; new air condition and air handler units; a special environmental unit for the server room; both new and refurbished motors and fans for the system on the roof; new hot water circulation motor/pumps combinations; and refurbished VAV air distribution boxes in the ceilings inside and all connected to a computerized HVAC management system.

That system will easily allow Hoverman to manage the equipment and ensure it is working properly — an update for which he’s grateful.

“I’d like to thank the County Governance Facility Board for agreeing to push the project up in the timeline. This was way overdue and will be much appreciated by

everyone who uses our building,” Hoverman said.

Bubb concurs, saying, “This project assures the association and its affiliates a comfortable and well-managed building and environmental system for decades to come.”

Additionally, the tinting of the windows in the building’s atrium will improve energy efficiency. The staff also worked outside to refresh and update landscaping around the building to beautify and improve the exterior.

In addition, work is underway to revamp the library to facilitate virtual training and meeting capabilities with quality video and audio equipment to better serve our members.



Hoverman, Edwards and Bubb

### CCAO and CEAO Adopt Central Region

CCAO and CEAO traditionally have relied on four regional county districts to facilitate training and outreach among members, and this year the two associations added a new Central Region to resize and foster greater involvement.

CCAO President Tim Bubb hopes this is only the beginning of a productive working group that will serve as a major economic development engine driving Ohio into the future.

“The goal of this new fifth CCAO/CEAO Region is to build an active and engaged group of commissioners and engineers who share considerable connection to central Ohio and shared challenges and opportunities as this region grows,” he said. “[We want] to bring together leaders with common interests and encourage collaboration on regional projects. Relationships are very important, and this new region will foster relationship building between these 14 counties.”

Those partnerships are also central to what Delaware County Commissioner Jeff Benton hopes to gain from the Central Region.



Back: CEAO Executive Director Dean Ringle, CCAO President and Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb, CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler, and CEAO President and Coshocton County Engineer Fred Wachtel  
Front: Delaware County Commissioners Barb Lewis, Gary Merrell and Jeff Benton and Delaware County Engineer Chris Bauserman

“I have learned so much from my fellow commissioners over the years, and the personal interaction and informal discussion that we have missed in the past year are extremely valuable to me,” he said. “Plus, having this group that focuses on issues in our region is a big plus for collaboration and information sharing.”

CCAO and CEAO launched the Central Region with an inaugural meeting of the commissioners, engineers and guests in Delaware County. The event included the initial meeting, followed by a tour of Delaware County’s newly renovated historic courthouse. Franklin County was next, with a meeting that included a tour of their new, state-of-the-art corrections center and the new, dynamic Columbus Crew stadium.



## New Logos Embraced to Promote Association Unity



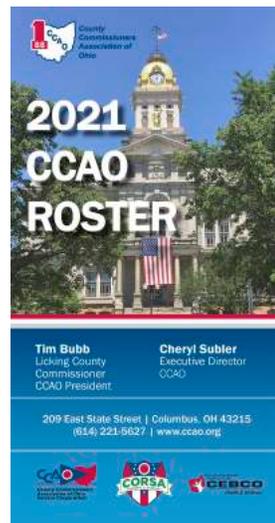
CCAO debuted a new logo designed to promote unity and cohesion throughout the association as well as modernize and expand an established brand that has long worked to advance county government.

“We are pleased to present the newly adopted logo concept for our association of counties. A refresh and redesign were overdue, as our previous logo became dated and lost impact,” said CCAO President Tim Bubb. “The timing for a new logo image is perfect as we conclude the strategic planning process for the next decade for CCAO, and this logo concept will go well with the new logos for CORSA, CEBCO, the CCAO Service Corporation, and the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation. The goal in all cases is to present a contemporary and appealing image that will serve us well in the years ahead.”

The new logo is the result of a several month development process that involved both outside design expertise from Katie Redinger at Inverso Creative as well as guidance from within the association.

CORSA, CEBCO, the CCAO Service Corporation along with the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation also refreshed their logos for a cohesive, connected look.

## Presses Rolled on a Full-Color 2021 CCAO Roster



For the first time, CCAO published the Roster in vibrant color to feature our 282 county commissioners, executives and council members.

The CCAO Roster is a valuable resource containing contact information and photos for CCAO members and staff as well as information on your state legislators, statewide officials, CCAO affiliates, members of Congress and more.

Our signature publication is a vital tool that can be helpful in a variety of ways, from reaching out to fellow members on issues affecting your county to contacting legislators as we advocate for resources that build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

Publishing our annual roster is a huge undertaking, and we could not do it without the assistance of our county clerks and administrative staff. We thank you and truly appreciate the work you do to assist counties and CCAO, and we look forward to working with you in 2022. We also appreciate the support from our vendor partners.



## PARTNERSHIPS

### Three Counties Receive National Award for High Performance Leadership Training

CCAO and the National Association of Counties (NACo) presented the inaugural Award of Excellence for High Performance Leadership to Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton counties for their commitment to strengthening the leadership skills of elected officials and the county workforce through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. The award was presented to counties at a ceremony in Columbus.

Over 100 Fairfield County employees at all levels and within multiple departments of the county participated in NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy, a 12-week, online program with small group cohorts that equips public servants with practical leadership skills to achieve results for county residents.

Hamilton County saw 41 participants successfully complete the training.

Franklin County Administrator Ken Wilson participated as an instructor for NACo's High Performance Leadership Training, and Franklin County also enrolled participants in the training academy.

With a curriculum developed by Gen. Colin Powell and public and private sector leaders, the High Performance

Leadership Academy focuses on five essential skills: leading, organizing, collaborating, communicating and delivering. It emphasizes real-time instruction, small-group learning and knowledge exchanges.

"We applaud these county leaders for their commitment to sharpening leadership skills that help build healthy, safe and vibrant counties," said NACo Chief Public Affairs Officer Brian Namey. "By strengthening the skills necessary to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities, county officials are building a brighter future for county residents."

Professional Development Academy CEO Tim Rahschulte said, "These counties have enrolled over 100 existing and emerging leaders. We commend them for strengthening personnel management."

Counties interested in participating in the High Performance Leadership Academy can learn more about the program and sign up for more information at [NACo.org](http://NACo.org). The next session begins January 2022.

Award winners from Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton counties along with Academy and CCAO staff members and CCAO leadership are pictured in the above photo.

## Commissioners Stahl and Mercer Attend Intensive Leadership Program in Nation's Capital

In 2021, Commissioners Mark Stahl (Ottawa County) and Ted Mercer (Miami County) were selected to participate in the National Association of Counties (NACo) County Leadership Institute. This year marks the 17th County Leadership Institute, which brings together 30 local elected officials from across the country for a four-day leadership development program in Washington, D.C. The goal of the program is to enhance the capability of county officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to complex challenges facing county government.

As part of the program, participants work with program faculty and fellow elected officials throughout numerous workshops to develop direction and vision, foster innovation and creativity, improve decision making, and encourage team building and effective communication skills.

Stahl and Mercer represent the 13th and 14th participants Ohio has sent to the institute. To date, the institute has graduated 351 leaders from over 175 counties, representing 45 states.



*Stahl and Mercer*

## CCAO Enhances Ohio Counties' Presence in Statehouse: Gifts Interactive Display About Counties and State Partnership

Twenty-five years ago, Ohio's counties through the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) raised \$40,000 to help gift the popular, beautiful county floor map in the Statehouse. This area of the statehouse, commonly referred to as the Map Room, is a central location for guests and school groups to organize and visit when at Ohio's historic statehouse.

This floor map allows them to view and walk across all 88 counties, and learn to appreciate the geographical diversity of this great state from Lake Erie to the north and the Ohio River to the south and east, to the border counties and the growing central region around the State Capital.

Now, a quarter century later, on the silver anniversary of the Statehouse Renovations, CCAO and Ohio's counties gifted a beautiful, interactive display that allows visitors of all ages to learn more about counties and the vital state-county partnership. Counties are the state's partner in delivering critical services such as the justice system and law enforcement, infrastructure such as roads and bridges, broadband and connectivity, social services, child and senior citizen protective services, fair and honest elections and so much more! Spin the wheel and view information about your county and more on the large video screen in the Statehouse Map Room.





**HISTORIC FUNDING FOR COUNTIES**

**DeWine Announces Six County Jail Facilities to Receive State Support**

Gov. Mike DeWine announced the results of a \$50 million state grant program to assist counties with jail construction and renovation expenses.

The General Assembly had made available \$50 million as part of the state capital appropriations bill (Senate Bill 310) last year to aid counties with capital jail expenses. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections accepted applications from counties earlier this year.

The following counties received grants this fall to assist in building new jails due to the age and condition of their current jail facilities:

- Coshocton County - \$10.1 million
- Gallia County - \$5.5 million
- Harrison County - \$9.1 million
- Lawrence County - \$16.8 million

Two jails received funding to expand their facilities:

- Scioto County - \$1.5 million
- Southeastern Ohio Regional Jail (Athens, Hocking, Morgan, Perry and Vinton counties) - \$1.9 million

The remaining \$5 million will be directed to address safety needs at other jails across the state. CCAO sincerely thanks Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for their support of county government.

State support of county jail facilities is a critical policy priority for CCAO. The funds announced are a strong step in continuing to strengthen the state-county partnership that benefits counties and Ohio as a whole.



*DeWine in Harrison County with Sheriff Ron Myers and State Rep. Don Jones*

## DeWine Awards Millions in Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure Grants

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted this fall announced two rounds of water infrastructure grant funding.

A total of \$250 million in grant funding will be invested in water infrastructure projects as part of the new Ohio BUILDS initiative. The first round of water infrastructure grants awarded \$93 million to 54 projects that impact communities in 60 Ohio counties; the second round awarded 28 water infrastructure projects with nearly \$44 million in financial support.

Funds will help reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs such as the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines and the installation of new water mains. Grants will also fund projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.

A third round of grant recipients will be announced in the future.



*DeWine joined Washington County Commissioners Charlie Schilling, James Booth and Kevin Ritter to announce a \$10 million state sewer grant.*

## American Rescue Plan Act: Counties Receive a Historic Level of Federal Support to Fight the Pandemic and Boost Economic Recovery

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law on March 11, 2021, in order to combat the public health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A strong grassroots effort led by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other associations resulted in a historic level of federal support for counties and other local governments being included in the legislation.

Through the Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund, the U.S. Department of the Treasury will make available a total of \$65.1 billion in direct payments to all counties across the nation. Funds are distributed on the basis of population. Counties in Ohio will receive a total of \$2.27 billion, with half of the funds distributed in 2021 and the remaining half in 2022.

The funds may be used for four purposes:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the local government;
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

In recognition of the need for long-term planning, the ARPA legislation gives recipients a multi-year window to use the funds. All funds must be obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by Dec. 31, 2026. Counties are developing their long-term strategic plans for the use of the historic funds, consistent with Treasury Department guidance. CCAO held a one-day symposium in Columbus on Sept. 29, 2021, to explore ARPA-related topics in-depth, such as broadband infrastructure, water and wastewater projects, and procurement. The speakers included representatives from the Auditor of State, Office of Budget and Management, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Broadband Ohio, illustrating the wide variety of partnerships that CCAO maintains across the state. Additional resources for members are available at [CCAO.org](http://CCAO.org) and [NACo.org](http://NACo.org).

## CCAO ENTERPRISE SERVICES



**\$13.4 Billion** in covered assets

Members have experienced flat to negative renewal rates **4 years running**

**\$5.6 Million** returned to members in the form of dividends, grants and services

Board of Directors approved an additional **\$1.5 Million** cash dividend to be returned to members

**22,000 employees** received virtual training through an enhanced platform developed for only one reason: to better support members



CEBCO continues to grow, as we provide Health/Rx coverage to 42 counties and over **12,800** employees. Our size allows us to offer programs and benefits that our counties could not provide on their own

**\$10 million** in member equity was used to reduce our renewal increase for the second year in a row

Wellness Grant Program provided over **\$525,000** to member counties for their wellness initiatives

CEBCO will provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to all of our member counties at no additional charge

The Sydney Health mobile app will be introduced in 2022 and will include access to all CEBCO benefits and programs

On-site blood draws and Wellness Platform, COBRA, PCORI fees, ACA 1094 filing - all included at no additional charge to member counties



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO  
SERVICE CORPORATION

**58** members in the **Electric Energy Program**

**58** members in the **Natural Gas Energy Program**

**27**

members in the Electric Aggregation Program

Estimated **Natural Gas Energy Program** savings: **\$1.9 million**

Estimated **Electric Energy Program** savings: **\$2.2 million**

**88** counties use the **CCAO Deferred Compensation Program**

**63%** of plan members are using advisory services offered  
**2,536** individual meetings with a Retirement Plan Advisor  
**1,355** employees attended monthly webinars

**67**

counties use Securus Technologies for their inmate calling service

**54** counties participating in **2021 Workers' Compensation Group Retro Program**

**23%** projected premium savings  
Estimated savings of **\$2,906,031**

**77**

counties use Maximus for cost recovery services

**10** counties participating in **2021 Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program**

**9.37%** projected premium savings; Estimated savings of **\$107,737**



## CCAO STAFF UPDATES

### Staff Service Awards

**25 YEARS**

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**20 YEARS**

Amanda Jones, CORSA Claims Representative

**15 YEARS**

Debi Burnette, CEBCO Enrollment and Billing Specialist

Wendy Dillingham, CEBCO Senior Benefit Specialist

Jim Hale, CORSA Risk Control Consultant

Jeff Knapp, CORSA Claims Supervisor

Katie Lininger, CORSA Senior Claims Representative

**5 YEARS**

Brandy Allen, Senior Accountant

### Ciolti joins CCAO Policy Team

Nick Ciolti joined the CCAO Policy Team as the newest policy analyst. Nick is a life-long resident of Ohio, having grown up in both Franklin and Summit counties. After completing his undergraduate degree in political science from Loyola University Chicago, Nick attended the Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University, where he received a Masters of Public Administration.



During his time at OSU, Nick interned with CCAO, assisting the policy team with research and analysis of county-related issues. After graduating, he joined the Legislative Service Commission as a budget analyst focusing primarily on school choice programs and the K-12 funding formula.

### Mills Starts as New CCAO Accountant

Ryan Mills joined CCAO as the new accountant. Ryan was raised in Fairfield County and has since resided in Jackson and Franklin counties. He attended Anderson University in Indiana and then Columbus State, and he hopes to soon finish his accounting degree. He has worked in the accounting departments of Hot Chicken Takeover and Washington Prime Group.



### Sinclair Leaves CEBCO



Oct. 1 marked Wellness Coordinator Tori Sinclair’s last day with CEBCO after 9 years as the wellness champion for CEBCO counties.

“Tori played a major role in developing the CEBCO Wellness Program, and we will have a tough task in replacing her,” said Mike Kindell, CEBCO managing director. “She is a very devoted employee, and we wish her well in her new venture.”

# AFFILIATES

County Administrators Association  
County Commissioners' Clerks & Engineers'  
Administrative Professionals Association  
County Loss Control Coordinators Association  
Ohio County Dog Wardens Association

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

# LOOKING AHEAD

NACo Legislative Conference - February 12-16, 2022  
NACo Annual Conference - July 21-24, 2022  
CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference - December 7-9, 2022



## CCAO COMMITTEES

### **Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

Chair: Tony Bornhorst, Shelby County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Bill Clinger, Wyandot County Commissioner

### **General Government and Operations**

Chair: John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Bill Pursel, Knox County Commissioner

### **Human Services**

Chair: Kathryn Whittington, Ashtabula County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County Commissioner

### **Jobs, Economic Development and Infrastructure**

Chair: Cory Noonan, Allen County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Judy Dodge, Montgomery County Commissioner

### **Joint Committee on Administration of Elections**

Chair: Matt Old, Erie County Commissioner

### **Justice and Public Safety**

Chair: Barb Lewis, Delaware County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Terry Britton, Highland County Commissioner

### **Metropolitan and Regional Affairs**

Chair: Gloria Rodgers, Summit County Council Member  
Vice Chair: Kevin Boyce, Franklin County Commissioner

### **Small County Affairs**

Chair: Harold Montgomery, Gallia County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Tony Montgomery, Pike County Commissioner

### **Taxation and Finance**

Chair: Daniel Dean, Fayette County Commissioner  
Vice Chair: Steve Davis, Fairfield County Commissioner

### **Water Quality Task Force**

Co-Chair: Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner  
Co-Chair: Doug Spencer, Auglaize County Commissioner

### **2025 CCAO Strategic Plan Committee**

Chair: Jeff Fix, Fairfield County Commissioner

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