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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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**May 1, 2026**

## **CCAO member races, county ballot issues on the ballot next week**

Next Tuesday, Ohioans will go to their polling places and vote on a number of primary elections and local issues. As a gubernatorial election year, one commissioner seat is up for election in each statutory county, as well as the county auditor position.

There are 101 seats on the ballot this year:

1. One county executive seat (Cuyahoga County);
2. Nine county council seats; and
3. 91 county commissioner seats (this includes races for five unexpired terms).

Of the 101 seats, 77 have the incumbent running for reelection and 24 have incumbents who are not seeking a new term. This equates to a 76% rate at which incumbents are seeking another term, a decrease from the 2024 cycle.

With 101 seats up for reelection, there are 202 races on the ballot next week (two per seat). Of these, 53 races (or 26%) have no candidates filed, while 99 races (or 49%) feature only one candidate. This leaves 50 races (or 25%) that are contested. This represents a slight increase in the number of contested primary elections compared to 2024.

As mentioned earlier, there are 24 sitting CCAO members who are not seeking reelection. The following members of the CCAO, CEBCO, and CORSA boards, and past presidents of the organizations, are not seeking a new term:

1. CEBCO Vice-President, CORSA Board of Directors Member, and Huron County Commissioner Harry Brady
2. CCAO Board of Directors Member and Ross County Commissioner Jack Everson
3. CCAO Past President, CEBCO Past President, NACo Past President, and Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason

Additionally, there are 35 county-level ballot issues across the state next week.

Thirty of these are property tax levies, with more than half (17) seeking new money. A majority of the levy requests (23) are for human service functions, with boards of developmental disability levies accounting for 12 levies, the most of any single purpose.

There are four sales tax issues on the ballot as well, two for counties and two for transit authorities. Mahoning County is seeking a continuation of its 0.25% tax for roads and bridges, while Miami County is attempting to utilize the special 0.50% authority for county jail projects. The transit authorities seeking sales tax levies are Licking County Transit and the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority.

The final county issue on the ballot is a referendum on Richland County's designation of restricted areas for wind and solar energy facilities.

The [full list of primary candidates is accessible here](#) and the [list of ballot issues here](#).

CCAO will distribute the results of these races to members on Wednesday, May 6, and include the results in the subsequent issues of *Statehouse Report* (May 8) and *Counties Current* (May 11). We will also provide a summary of the primary election results for the General Assembly in the May 8 edition of *Statehouse Report*.

## Legislative Activity

### Committee Hearings

*No hearings held this week.*

### Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [Senate Bill 428](#) (Senator Michele Reynolds): To apply the residential building code and various other laws to four-family dwellings, to permit certain buildings to have a single stairway exit, and to name this act the Build Smart Act.
- [Senate Bill 433](#) (Senator Theresa Gavarone): To alter the law governing coastal management.

### Upcoming Committee Hearings

*No upcoming hearings scheduled.*