



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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General Assembly primary results show few changes

After Tuesday's primary elections, the match ups for General Assembly seats were set. The entire House of Representatives is up for election (99 seats) and the odd numbered districts in the Senate are up for election (17 seats). Considering seats where the incumbent didn't run there will be at least 22 new legislators in the next General Assembly; three in the Senate and the remaining 19 in the House.

Several current or former CCAO members are seeking General Assembly seats, either as an incumbent or as a new legislator. The only CCAO former running for a legislative seat who is not an incumbent is former Lorain County Commissioner Matt Lundy, who won the Democratic nomination for House District 53.

The incumbent CCAO formers who are seeking new terms are:

- Brian Stewart (Former Pickaway County Commissioner and CCAO Board Member, Republican, House-12)
- Dan Troy (Former Lake County Commissioner and two-time CCAO President, Democrat, House-23)
- Veronica Sims (Former Summit County Council Member, Democrat, House-34)
- Rodney Creech (Former Preble County Commissioner, Republican, House-40)
- Marilyn John (Former Richland County Commissioner, Republican, House-76)
- Roy Klopfenstein (Former Paulding County Commissioner, Republican, House-82)
- Bob Peterson (Former Fayette County Commissioner, Republican, House-91)
- Jason Stephens (Former Lawrence County Commissioner, Republican, House-93)
- Kevin Ritter (Former Washington County Commissioner, Republican, House-94)
- Ty Moore (Former Noble County Commissioner, Republican, House-95)
- Shane Wilkin (Former Highland County Commissioner, Republican, Senate-17)
- Al Landis (Former Tuscarawas County Commissioner, Republican, Senate-31)

Another former CCAO member, Jerry Cirino (Former Lake County Commissioner, Republican, Senate-18), is not up for reelection this year and will remain in the General Assembly.

Additionally, two former CCAO members are leaving the General Assembly. Bill Roemer (former Summit County Council Member, Republican, House-31) and Sharon Ray (former Medina County Commissioner, Republican, House-66).

CCAO member races, county ballot issues unofficial results

Earlier this week, Ohioans went to their polling places and voted on a number of primary elections and local issues. As a gubernatorial election year, one commissioner seat was up for election in each statutory county, as well as the county auditor position.

There were 102 county commissioner, county executive, and county council seats, as well as 35 county ballot issues. Full lists of the [CCAO member races](#) and the [county ballot issues](#) can be found on CCAO's Data Exchange.

Based on the unofficial results, 11 incumbents lost primary challenges:

- Denny Bittle (Ashland County)
- Cindy Carpenter (Butler County)
- Donald Leggett (Carroll County)
- Jim Dvorak (Geauga County)
- Stephanie Summerow Dumas (Hamilton County)
- Michael Linton (Hocking County)
- Mark Holtsberry (Paulding County)
- David Haber (Preble County)
- Julie Ehemann (Shelby County)
- Denny Malloy (Trumbull County)
- Eddie Place (Washington County)

Additionally, in Lorain County, incumbent Jeff Riddell finished the night with a 17-vote lead. That is within the automatic recount threshold, so the outcome could change once provisional ballots are counted and the recount is conducted.

As it currently stands, there will be at least 50 contested races in November, 30 of which will feature an incumbent. The remaining 54 seats did not have a primary in both parties, although there may be independents who filed to run.

As a note, there are two seats on the ballot in November that were not on the ballot this week. The unexpired terms in Fulton County and Sandusky County became vacant after the filing deadline for the primary, so there were not primary contests. Instead, the county political parties will appoint candidates to the ballot.

On the ballot issue front, there were 30 property tax levies, four sales tax levies (two county sales tax levies and two transit authority sales tax levies), and a referendum on a wind and

solar energy siting designation.

Of the property tax levies, 19 passed and 11 were unsuccessful. This cycle featured a high number of levies, more than half (17), seeking new money. Of the 11 unsuccessful levies, 10 were new money requests. All of the unsuccessful levies were for human service purposes.

Of the four sales tax levies on the ballot, the only one to pass was Mahoning County's continuation of its 0.25% tax for roads and bridges.

Miami County attempted a 0.50% tax for a new jail but was unsuccessful. Licking County was attempting to set up its transit authority with a 0.15% sales tax levy but was unsuccessful, and the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority was seeking to renew its 0.35% tax, but voters rejected it.

Finally, there was a referendum on Richland County's designation of restricted areas for wind and solar energy facilities. Voters approved the referendum, which means the restricted areas will remain in place.

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 435](#) (Senator George Lang): Related to abandoned manufactured homes.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

The following committees are currently scheduled to meet and discuss bills that may be of interest to counties. Other committees will likely meet as well, but as of press time for Statehouse Report, they have not released agendas. Please note that these schedules are subject to change.

Tuesday, May 12

[House Children and Human Services](#) (10:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 647](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young): To revise the law governing the publicly funded child care program, modify an appropriation for the Child Care Cred Program, and to make an appropriation
 - Seventh hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE BILL**
- [House Bill 635](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young): To enact the Child Protection Reform Act.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony and interested party testimony

Senate Ways and Means (11:00 a.m.)

- [Senate Bill 367](#) (Senator Andrew Brenner): To allow a sales and use tax exemption for materials and services purchased for certain projects when a port authority or county refuses to endorse an agreement concerning the project.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Finance (3:30 p.m.)

- [House Bill 413](#) (Representatives Tom Young and Bob Peterson): To create the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and require political subdivision participation, to require the state retirement systems to participate in the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database, and to make an appropriation.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Wednesday, May 13

House Local Government (9:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 493](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Dan Troy): To sunset the sale of delinquent property tax certificates on January 1, 2027, and to modify the rules governing the priority of liens after a property tax certificate sale.
 - Fourth hearing, proponent testimony
- [House Bill 445](#) (Representatives Mike Dovilla and Brian Stewart): Regarding regional councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations.
 - Second hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**

House Ways and Means (11:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 608](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Chris Glassburn): To modify the law governing property taxes and other local taxes.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 778](#) (Representatives Kevin Miller and David Thomas): To exclude certain fire and emergency medical services levies from being reduced by a community reinvestment area or tax increment financing property tax exemption.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 737](#) (Representatives Bill Roemer and Thomas Hall): To require that cash payments to the state and local governments be rounded to the nearest nickel.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony
- [House Bill 504](#) (Representative Angie King): To authorize counties to temporarily exempt a portion of property's increased value from taxation following a reappraisal and to name this act the Calculated Adjustments for Property Surges (CAPS) Act.
 - Fourth hearing, all testimony

House Agriculture (11:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 163](#) (Representatives Tristan Rader and Kellie Deeter): To require Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2025, and to make an appropriation.
 - Fifth hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**

Senate Local Government (2:30 p.m.)

- [Senate Bill 281](#) (Senator Kristina Roegner): To authorize a board of county commissioners, on its own behalf, to award a franchise for the operation of a public transit system.
 - Third hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [Senate Bill 366](#) (Senators Bill Blessing, III and Catherine Ingram): To sometimes require payment of delinquent property taxes and assessments when a lot is transferred.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony