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THE STATEHOUSE REPORT

October 14, 2022

A publication of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio
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CCAO member outreach to DeWine-Husted administration needed on operating budget priorities

With the November general election just weeks away, the next state operating budget isn't on the minds of many these days. However, this is a critical period for CCAO member engagement with the DeWine-Husted administration to advance key policy requests for the SFY 2024-2025 state operating budget.

The CCAO board of directors recently developed its list of policy requests ([available here](#)) for the upcoming state budget bill. As the Office of Budget and Management and the governor's office work to shape the next budget bill to be introduced early next year, it is critical that they hear from counties across the state on our key policy priorities.

For the upcoming budget bill, counties are asking the administration for three primary budget requests: **Additional support for county jails, indigent defense funding, and Local Government Fund restoration.** Additionally, CCAO supports partnerships with the state on a number of other critical areas for county government like workforce development, housing, child care and much more.

It is critical that these priorities are included in the as-introduced version of the budget from the administration. In order to achieve that, the CCAO policy team needs the assistance of all the CCAO membership to advocate for these requests with the DeWine administration. The policy team continues to meet with members of the administration to discuss these priorities, but we need to build direct advocacy to the administration from counties all across the state.

Here's how you can help:

1. Share these policy requests with the DeWine-Husted administration

Any interactions with Governor DeWine or Lt. Gov. Husted are a prime opportunity to mention these priorities. With candidates out on the campaign trail over the next several weeks, there are great opportunities for engagement at campaign and community events.

Also, please contact the regional liaisons for Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted and share these requests. Names and contact information for regional liaisons are linked below.

[Gov. DeWine Regional Liaisons](#)
[Lt. Gov. Husted Regional Liaisons](#)

Now is the time to act on administration outreach. State agency budget requests for FY 2024-2025 are currently being compiled, meaning decisions regarding what is included or excluded from the budget will be made soon. We need the administration to hear from members across the state that these are the policy priorities that counties are seeking.

2. Engage the media and tell your story

There are many opportunities to build grassroots support for these proposals. Submitting op-eds and letters to the editor to the local paper is a great way to bring attention to these issues and it often draws the interest of lawmakers. CCAO is happy to assist with drafting if you wish to submit to a local paper.

Members should engage local media at commissioners' meetings to emphasize the importance of these policy requests. Please promote these requests as part of regular updates to community organizations such as local Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, farm bureaus, and other civic organizations. Utilizing social media to promote these requests is another simple and cost-effective way to spread the message. CCAO can assist with preparing any necessary talking points or materials and we plan to have more advocacy resources available soon.

3. Keep the CCAO policy team informed

Please share with the policy team any outreach activities and the outcome of your discussions with administration officials. This helps the policy team to amplify your messaging – such as a published op-ed or social media post – and allows CCAO to tailor its message going forward.

CCAO is only as strong as our members' advocacy. Member actions have a real impact on outcomes at the statehouse. The policy team is willing and ready to assist you in any and all of these outreach endeavors, and we appreciate your engagement and support.

Any questions about CCAO's policy priorities or budget advocacy strategy can be directed to the CCAO policy team.

Don't forget to talk with state lawmakers about Next Generation 9-1-1

With the lame duck session rapidly approaching, now is the perfect time to talk with your state lawmakers about the importance of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1). Passing NG 9-1-1 legislation is a key goal of CCAO during lame duck, and we need member engagement to get this done.

The NG 9-1-1 program is currently contained in [House Bill 445](#) and has had four hearing in the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

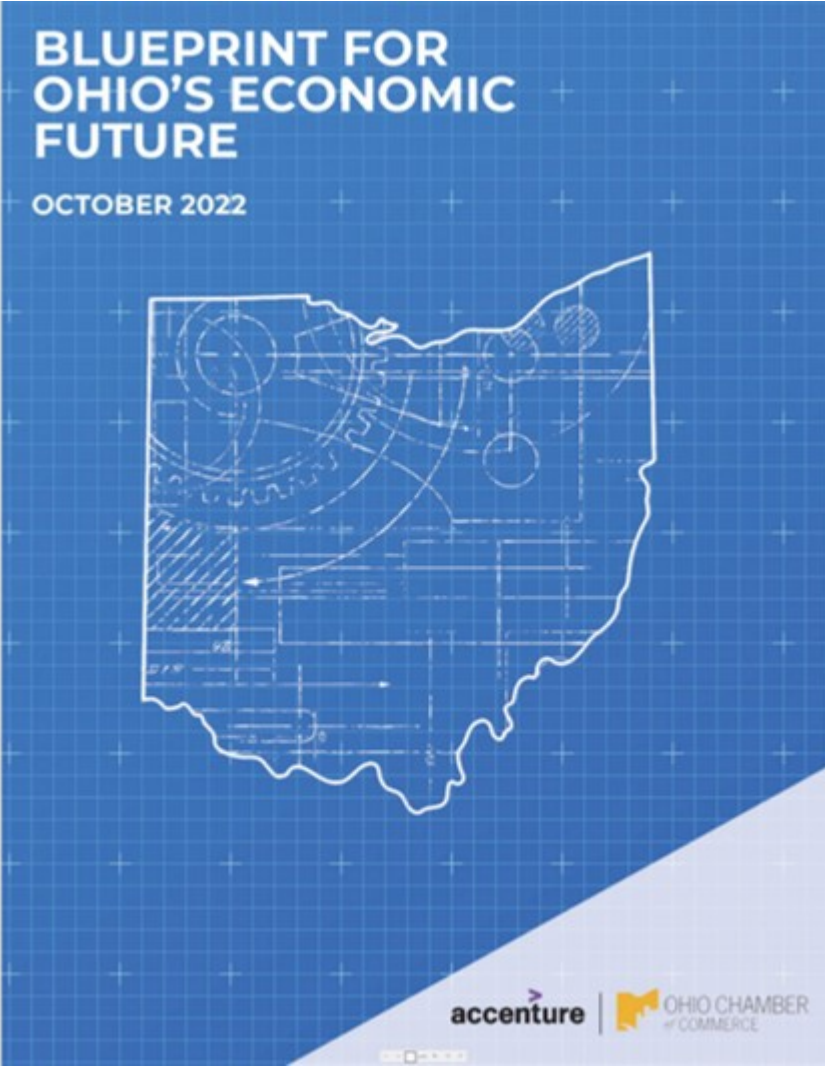
NG 9-1-1 has a host of benefits to all counties and the people of Ohio. These benefits include:

- Voice and integrated text-to-9-1-1, from traditional and new devices, with best location information available, including location data from the device and available geographic information system (GIS) data.
- Calls easily transferred between jurisdictions, with increased collaboration improving emergency outcomes.
- 99.999% reliability with proactive monitoring for maintenance and security.
- Significant reduction in the chance that any 9-1-1 call in the State of Ohio will ever go unanswered.

To fund the necessary technology upgrades at the state and local level, HB 445 establishes a dedicated Universal Service Fee of 70 cents per month, applied to all numbers/devices capable to accessing 9-1-1. Even with this fee in place, taxes and fees on phone plans within Ohio would remain very competitive, if not more competitive, than surrounding states.

NG 9-1-1 is a critical tool to improve public safety response across the state, regardless of geography. Please take a moment to share the importance of this legislation with your state lawmakers and ask them to pass NG 9-1-1 during this lame duck session.

Ohio Chamber of Commerce releases economic blueprint for Ohio report



The Ohio Chamber of Commerce this week released a policy proposal blueprint report seeking to strengthen Ohio's economic competitiveness going into the future. The Chamber partnered with the firm Accenture to collect data and develop policy recommendations across six key policy areas.

Suggested policy reforms included in the blueprint include the following:

Education and Workforce

- Reduce barriers to employment.
- Expand education and job training.
- Grow Ohio's population and recruit out-of-state workers.
- Modernize Ohio's workforce for in-demand occupations now and in the future.

Sense of Place

- Improve affordability that allows for generational wealth building.
- Improve health outcomes and address drug crisis.
- Further understand opportunities for Ohio's natural environment and amenities.

Taxes and Costs

- Target comprehensive tax reform.
- Improve the municipal tax complexity and burden.
- Conduct further analysis on the Ohio Business Gateway's impact on businesses.

Innovation and Collaboration

- Expand venture capital.
- Increase small business support.
- Transition manufacturers to modern equipment to realize greater efficiencies and higher output.
- Enact balanced and comprehensive data privacy legislation.

Business Friendliness

- Expand cleanup of regulatory policies.
- Create efficiency and transparency of license and permit applications.

Infrastructure

- Improve energy transmission and distribution systems.
- Advocate for transportation improvements.
- Improve broadband access.

The Chamber aims to generate a number of bills within the General Assembly to implement the recommendations included in the report. The full report containing details on each policy recommendation can be accessed [here](#).

Bill Introductions

[HB 734](#) (Miller, K., Lampton) - To establish procedures and requirements governing biosolid lagoons and biodigestion facilities, including granting county and township zoning authority over those lagoons and facilities, and to modify the CAUV eligibility requirements for certain land used to produce biofuels.

CCAO/CEAO

Winter Conference

December 7-9, 2022 | Franklin County



Innovation and Inspiration to Shape Ohio's Future

Registration for the 2022 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference is now open! Register on the CCAO website today for this excellent opportunity to meeting fellow commissioners and explore the big issues facing county government.

[Click here to sign up.](#)

