



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Engagement with the executive branch during finalization of the Governor's Budget

Engagement with the DeWine-Husted Administration is critical to the success of CCAO's executive budget requests. The policy team encourages members to contact the administration and stress the importance of CCAO's policy items, including additional funding for county jails, indigent defense reimbursement, and Local Government Fund restoration, in addition to other important county priorities. Budget discussions are ongoing within the administration, so now is a great time to engage as the next state budget bill takes shape.

First round of Senate bill introductions includes neighborhood development area bill

This week saw the first round of bill introductions in the Ohio Senate. Of the introductions, one bill may impact counties.

[Senate Bill 2](#) (Senator Kirk Schuring): This bill allows the legislative authority of a municipality or the board of township trustees to designate areas under their jurisdiction as a "neighborhood development area." These areas may not exceed 300 acres (both individually and across the jurisdiction) and may not exempt more than 75% of the assessed value unless agreed upon with the boards of education for impacted school districts. The neighborhood development area must be used for the development of affordable housing, workforce housing, or to address a housing shortage. Designations as a community development area may not exceed ten years.

Senate releases standing committee assignments

The Senate has released the [assignments for standing committees](#) during the 135th General Assembly. Please review these assignments so you can see to which committees your legislators are assigned. It is vital for the advancement of the Association's policy goals that commissioners, county executives, and county councilmembers have a good relationship with their legislators. This is especially true when those legislators are chairs or vice-chairs of committees.

As a reminder, the executive branch must submit its budget to the General Assembly within four weeks of the General Assembly's organization. This General Assembly was organized on January 3, meaning the executive must submit its budget to the General Assembly during the week of January 30 - February 3. Time is running low to engage with the executive branch but also time to engage with your legislators is approaching. It is important to impress upon members of both the executive branch and the legislature the difficulties that your counties and the Association as a whole are facing to help find champions in the House and the Senate who can advance county priorities during internal negotiations.