



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Secretary of State sends election funds to county boards of elections

On Wednesday, CCAO was informed by the Secretary of State's office that funding for the August election, appropriated in House Bill 33, the main operating budget, had been mailed to each county. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Ohio Association of Election Officials, based each county's share of the \$16 million appropriation on a formula that includes prior comparable election expenditures and current voter registration counts. You can access a list of [funding by county here](#).

You can also view the [grant agreement here](#) and the [August Special Election Expense Report here \(Excel file\)](#).

Additionally, as an important note, boards of elections are guaranteed by law to be covered by the state for all permissible costs of administering the special election, in accordance with [ORC 3501.17\(F\)](#), since the election is solely for voting upon a statewide ballot issue.

If you have questions about the reimbursement process, please contact either the Secretary of State's [regional liaison for your county](#) or CCAO Policy Director Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or at 614.220.7977.

CCAO to host budget overview webinar on August 1

On August 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., CCAO policy staff will provide an overview of key takeaways from the recently passed state operating budget and discuss the budget's impact on counties. We will review topics such as Indigent Defense, Next Generation 9-1-1, Human Services, H2Ohio, the Local Government Fund, procurement, and changes in tax laws. Policy Staff will answer questions and identify issues that may see additional legislative activity during the remainder of this legislative session.

You can register for the webinar [here](#). If you are unable to register with the link above, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627 and provide her with your email address.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bills that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [Senate Bill 134](#) (Senator Frank Hoagland): To extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.
- [Senate Bill 136](#) (Senator Hearcel Craig): To reduce property taxes on qualifying owner-occupied homes and to name this act the Property Tax Relief and Local Government Support Act.
- [Senate Bill 137](#) (Senator Theresa Gavarone): To generally prohibit the use of ranked choice voting and to withhold Local Government Fund distributions from a municipality or chartered county that uses ranked choice voting.