



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Reminder: Sales Tax Holiday July 30 – August 8

The Expanded Sales Tax Holiday, authorized in the state operating budget, will take place from 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, August 8.

The 10-day holiday allows tax-free purchases made both in-person and online on eligible items up to \$500. Excluded items include alcohol, motor vehicles, watercraft, tobacco, vapor products, and cannabis products.

An important part of the statutory language creating the Expanded Holiday is that the state must reimburse the revenue losses to counties and transit authorities that levy permissive sales taxes and the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund. The state budget set aside \$750 million in a special fund to reimburse the state GRF and local governments for resulting revenue losses.

However, the language only requires the state to reimburse counties, transit authorities, the LGF, and the PLF for foregone revenue in August. Since the holiday includes two days in July, as it stands these entities will not receive reimbursement for foregone revenue that occurs during those days.

The Governor's Office and the Department of Taxation have spoken with CCAO and intend to work with the Association and the legislature to maintain the spirit of the original language and ensure that counties and other affected entities will receive reimbursement for those two days as well.

CCAO will include additional information about the sales tax holiday in future issues of the *Statehouse Report* and *Counties Current*. Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck at jhoneck@ccao.org.

Yost rejects qualified immunity amendment again

On Monday, Attorney General Dave Yost rejected a qualified immunity amendment for the ninth time.

The proposed constitutional amendment would repeal constitutional immunities and defenses in cases alleging a civil rights violation by government actors. Yost rejected the summary for the amendment, resubmitted on Friday, July 5, for lack of a title.

The group backing the amendment filed suit against Yost in the Ohio Supreme Court after the eight rejection of the petition. The lawsuit asked the Court to expedite the case to give the plaintiffs a "reasonable opportunity" to begin collecting signatures needed in order to qualify for the November ballot. The Court denied the motion without comment.

The group then sued in federal court. In May, a U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals panel ruled 2-1 that Yost must forward a proposed constitutional amendment on qualified immunity on to the next step in the ballot initiative process. Yost then requested and received an *en banc* review of the lawsuit by the full appeals court. The hearing is scheduled for October.

CCAO conducting platform development survey ahead of 136th General Assembly

As the Association begins to prepare for the upcoming 136th General Assembly, the policy team is conducting a [membership survey](#) to aid in developing CCAO's Legislative Platform for the next legislative term.

The platform will guide the policy staff's advocacy efforts throughout the 136th General Assembly. This includes the Main Operating Budget, the Capital Budget, and ordinary legislation. We are seeking information from our members about issues facing counties that the Association can work towards addressing in the next biennium.

A copy of the current legislative platform [can be found here](#), with links to specific sections below. Please note the current platform has not been updated to account for any legislative changes that have occurred during this General Assembly (since January 2023). If there are current platform positions you would like the Association to consider changing, please note those in the survey.

Platform Sections: [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#); [General Government](#); [Human Services](#); [JEDI](#); [Justice and Public Safety](#); [Metropolitan and Regional Affairs](#); [Taxation and Finance](#); [Water Quality Task Force](#).

[You can access the survey here.](#)

The survey is the first step of the platform development process. CCAO's standing committees will hold meetings in August and September to discuss and make recommendations to their platform sections. Staff will present the platform to the Board of

Directors in October and November, with final approval of the platform being voted on at the Annual Business Meeting at Winter Conference in December.