STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

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CCAO publishes Advocacy Toolkit

The CCAO Policy Team is happy to unveil the County Advocacy Toolkit! The Toolkit is the product of work with the CCAO Legislative Advocacy Task Force and is intended to serve as a helpful touchpoint as CCAO members advocate on behalf of their county and the Association with state leaders.

The toolkit provides tips on effectively advocating to your legislators and state officials and provides members with examples and samples of what other members have done to advocate for their counties. The toolkit is split into two parts: the first gives ideas and advice on how to advocate based on what members have found successful in the past, while the second part contains samples of effective advocacy materials. This includes testimony to the General Assembly, resolutions passed by boards of commissioners, social media posts, and more.

We hope that the resource proves useful!

OBM July report shows increase in sales tax refund payments, strong PIT revenue despite withholding rate reductions

On Monday, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released its Monthly Financial Report for July, the first report of SFY 2025 (July 2024 through June 2025).

Last month, the state collected $14 million less in non-auto sales tax revenue than in July 2023, largely due to greater refund payments. Sales tax refunds in July 2024 totaled $37.2 million, significantly larger than the recent average for July refund payments (an average of $8.2 million across recent years). The OBM report does not discuss what caused the elevated refund payments.

The other largest General Revenue Fund source, the personal income tax (PIT), showed a small $1.6 million increase over July 2023. The report includes a discussion on pages 19 –

20 detailing the impact that various changes to the personal income tax enacted in the last operating budget have had on revenues. For example, the largest component of the PIT is employer withholdings, which only grew by 1% compared to July 2023. OBM considers that strong growth because average withholding rates decreased by about 12.5% over the same period.

Overall, state GRF tax revenues were $10.0 million (0.5%) above July 2023. All source state GRF revenue was slightly down compared to July 2023 due to a decrease in federal grant revenue. OBM ascribes this to a timing issue, as there were four weeks of federal revenue collection in July but five weeks of payment disbursements.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- House Bill 655 (Representative Tom Patton): To authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.
- Senate Bill 308 (Senator Sandra O'Brien): To limit the ability of school districts to reallocate unvoted property tax millage and to include emergency levies and substitute levies in the calculation of a school district's effective millage floor.