



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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OCCO, CCAO pursuing county official pay adjustment

Earlier this summer, the Ohio Coalition of County Officials (OCCO), a coalition of all the county row officer associations, began discussions about seeking legislation to change the pay amounts for county elected officials. As a reminder, under legislation passed in 2018, county elected officials received a 1.75% annual raise, sometimes referred to as a "Diet COLA" (cost of living adjustment), through 2028. After the high inflation in 2021 and 2022, county elected official pay has lagged behind.

At the August CCAO Board of Directors meeting, the Board took the following position regarding any potential change to county elected official compensation: Support a full COLA for county elected officials' compensation and, if there is a bump in compensation for any class, that it be equitable across all offices.

As OCCO meetings have progressed, the coalition has coalesced around a proposal to see all county elected officials receive a 6.00% pay increase annually through 2028.

Early discussions with legislative leadership have begun, with the goal of adding provisions to enact these changes to a bill during the *Lame Duck* session after the November election. If a change is to be made, it is important it happens during *Lame Duck* due to the constitutional prohibition on non-judicial elected officials receiving an in-term pay raise. If a change is not made before they take office, those officials beginning their term next year (two commissioners and all other row officers except for auditors) will not be able to receive the increased compensation.

OCCO is preparing talking points regarding the pay raise provisions which the Association will distribute to membership when they are finalized.

OCCO will be hosting its annual legislative reception on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Statehouse Rotunda. You can register for the [reception here](#). This event is a great opportunity to network with your legislators and share your perspective on the need for a pay adjustment.

If you have questions about the OCCO proposal, please contact policy@ccao.org.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

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

- [Senate Bill 318](#) (Senator Niraj Antani): To authorize county commissioners to act in the place of a board of certain alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service districts when managing and spending the budget of the district.
- [House Bill 677](#) (Representative Bill Roemer): To create the escaped convict alert program.