STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Fall Legislative Preview

The General Assembly is expected to return to action at the end of September and recess shortly before Christmas. They plan to work on redistricting Ohio's congressional districts, override Governor DeWine's budget vetoes, and other pieces of legislation concerning property tax.

Redistricting

The current congressional maps passed in 2022 expire at the end of this year as the current map did not receive bipartisan support when it was adopted. The Ohio Constitution allows a new map to be passed by September 30 if it receives 60% support in the legislature, including support from half of each party's caucus in each chamber.

If that does not happen, the responsibility will shift to the Ohio Redistricting Commission with an October 31 deadline to pass a map with bipartisan support. The Commission is comprised of the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and an individual appointed by each of the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader. The partisan breakdown of these offices is five Republicans and two Democrats (the minority leaders of both legislative chambers).

If the Redistricting Commission is unable to receive an affirmative vote from at least one of the two Democratic members, then the process shifts back to the legislature. The legislature will then have to pass a map with a simple majority by the end of November.

Currently, a public map submission portal is open to Ohioans, and more than fifty maps were submitted within the first week.

Practically speaking, it is unlikely that a bipartisan map will be passed by either the General Assembly or the Ohio Redistricting Commission, leaving the most likely being that a map will be passed by a simple legislative majority before the end of November. It is unclear how this timeline will impact administration of the 2026 primary election and CCAO will work to ensure our members receive the most up to date information in partnership with the Ohio Secretary of State and Ohio Association of Elections Officials.

Property Taxation

The legislature is also expected to work on property tax legislation and override Governor DeWine's budget vetoes relative to property tax. CCAO believes they will hold override votes in both chambers on provisions concerning county budget commissions and their ability to reduce levies, and provisions impacting the school district 20-mill floor.

The House previously voted to override the Governor's veto of a provision eliminating certain levy types and the Senate is expected to vote to override this veto as well. Since the budget originated in the House, the Senate cannot consider any vetoes until the House has done so.

House Bill 186 (Representative Jim Hoops and David Thomas) will likely advance in the House. The bill limits revenue growth from the school district 20-mill floor to an inflation measure.

Implementation of Federal SNAP Changes

On July 4, President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) into law.

The OBBBA will decrease the federal share of SNAP administrative costs from 50% to 25%, resulting in a larger cost burden on state and county governments across the country. This change becomes effective October 1, 2026, during the current state biennium. If no additional funds become available, counties could see a funding loss of $47 million per year for SNAP administration.

Additionally, OBBBA requires states to begin contributing to the benefit costs of the SNAP program for the first time in the program's history. The state's share will be determined by the state's error rate in SNAP payments. This change is effective October 1, 2027, during the next state biennium and next gubernatorial administration.

CCAO's Rachel Reedy explains these changes in more detail in this webinar (slides and recording). This autumn, CCAO, in partnership with the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association, will continue conversations with the General Assembly about assistance with funding the SNAP program administration.

If you have questions, please contact Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org. CCAO will continue to update members on the implementation of these provisions.

CCAO releases County Advisory Bulletins detailing property tax relief options, solid waste law changes

This week, CCAO published two County Advisory Bulletins (CABs) following the spring legislative session.

CAB 2025-10 Property Tax Relief Options details county property tax release options available to county leaders. These include rolling back inside millage and the new (effective September 30) piggyback homestead exemption and owner-occupancy credits. The CAB explains the procedure for commissioners to adopt these changes and explains how they function.

Members with questions regarding this CAB can contact CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

CAB 2025-11 Solid Waste Management District Withdrawal and Fees outlines changes included in Senate Bill 147 regarding solid waste management districts. The CAB explains a new allowable fee use, changes to the withdrawal process for joint solid waste management districts, and a new, permissive fee option.

Members with questions regarding this CAB can contact CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.