View this email in your browser

CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
2022 NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
LARGE URBAN CAUCUS COUNTY (LUCC) MEETING
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
COUNTIES CURRENT

Feb. 22, 2022

Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady chairs the NACo Large Urban County Caucus. At their meeting today, LUCC discussed the future of substance use disorder services, advancing health equity, and infrastructure programs.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association News
- Stahl appointed to CORSA board of directors
- CCAO applauds the launch of new broadband access association
- Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.

State News
- Temporary virtual meeting legislation signed – effective immediately
- DeWine Signs House Bill 51 into law
- AOS releases memo on compensation changes for boards of elections members pertaining to the 2020 Federal Census results

Federal/NACo News
- Information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- How communities are investing American Rescue Plan funds with the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker
- 2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Education and Grants
- Infrastructure School: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook webinar series
- Governor DeWine announces $3 Million in H2Ohio Grants for Ohio River Basin Wetland projects
- Ohio EMA publishes info on COVID-19 funding opportunities through FEMA Public Assistance Program
- Ohio Safety Congress & Expo virtual event March 9-10
- 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29
- Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24

County News
A weekly look at news throughout Ohio's 88 counties

Did You Know? - Coshocton County

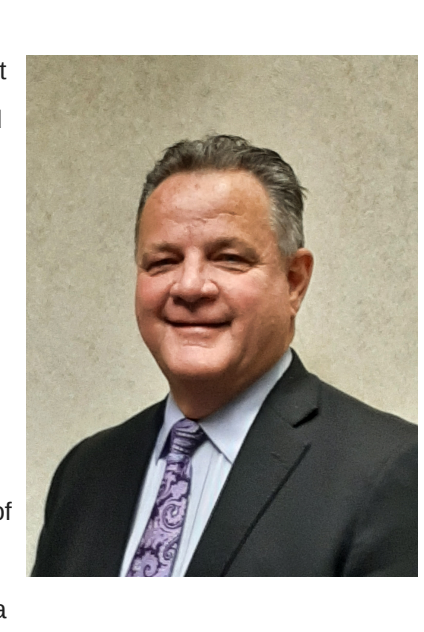
Statehouse Report
Check out the Statehouse Report for the CCAO Policy Team's updates about legislative activity affecting Ohio's counties.

Job Postings
CCAO publishes classified ads on our website free of charge as a service to counties. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson.

Print Version

Dates to Remember

Stahl appointed to CORSA board of directors



The County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) announces that Ottawa County Commissioner Mark Stahl has been selected to serve on the CORSA board of directors. Mark was recommended by the selection committee and was unanimously appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Ryan Mack.

"It is an honor to be selected from member county commissioners to be a member of the CORSA governing Board of Directors. I look forward to supporting the mission of the CORSA board and member counties to provide property and liability coverage and risk management services. Ottawa county has been a member for many years and I am certainly proud to serve on this outstanding board as a commissioner from Ottawa county," said Commissioner Mark Stahl.

"I welcome Commissioner Stahl to the board. Mark's experience and knowledge will be invaluable to the CORSA Board and membership. I am excited that he agreed to share his expertise with CORSA and appreciate his dedication not only to Ottawa County but to CORSA as well. Mark will be a great asset as we look to the future to continue to offer superior services that will help counties protect their resources" said CORSA Managing Director John Brownlee.

Commissioners from CORSA member counties are eligible to serve on the board and are elected by the Board and the membership at the Annual Meeting held in September. Board members may serve four consecutive, three-year terms.

CORSA, established in 1987 by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio as a service program, is a self-insured property and liability pool for county government. Currently, 66 of the 88 counties are members.

Back to Top

CCAO applauds the launch of new broadband access association

BROADBAND ACCESS OHIO
Access Matters.
Communities deserve the flexibility to offer internet access programs that meet the needs of their citizens and encourage economic development.
www.broadbandaccessohio.com

Broadband Access Ohio, a new statewide association promoting broadband access and expansion, launched this week with CCAO included as an inaugural member.

The role of the new association is to advocate for community broadband solutions and public-private partnerships as tools to expand broadband services to all areas of the state. The association is comprised of municipalities, counties, associations, educational institutions and other public entities.

Broadband Access Ohio believes community broadband networks and public-private partnerships provide Ohio citizens, communities, and businesses with access to the internet needed to thrive in an ever-connected world. This group knows broadband internet is not a one-size fits all technology. Communities deserve the flexibility to offer internet access programs that meet the needs of their citizens when they realize that service is not available for their constituents.

Broadband Access Ohio is aligned with CCAO's position of have all forms of broadband available, regardless of technology or provider, in order to tackle Ohio's digital divide.

Additional information on Broadband Access Ohio website and the following one-pager. The news release from the Wednesday announcement is also available, as well as a membership application form for anyone interested in joining.

Back to Top

Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.

Save the Date
Ohio Council Of County Officials Legislative Reception
Ohio Statehouse Atrium
April 6, 2022 | 5-7 p.m.
Free to Attend
The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.
OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.
Please contact CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at (614) 220-0653 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!
OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.

OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.

Please contact CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at (614) 220-0653 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Back to Top

Temporary virtual meeting legislation signed – effective immediately

Gov. Mike DeWine signed House Bill 51 into law. Among other provisions included in the bill is temporary authority for public bodies to conduct public meetings and hearings using virtual technology.

The legislation contains an emergency clause, making the bill effective immediately. This authority is temporary and will expire on June 30, 2022.

The virtual meeting authority in HB 51 mirrors the authority utilized by public bodies earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this authority, members of public bodies using virtual means to participate in public meetings can be counted for quorum purposes and are permitted to vote. All actions taken in a virtual meeting format have the same effect as if it had occurred during an in-person meeting of the public body.

Additional information on HB 51 can be accessed here.

CCAO thanks Governor DeWine and the members of the General Assembly for their support of this legislation. As we have seen, virtual meeting authority is a key tool to allow counties to safely and efficiently conduct county business while simultaneously engaging the broader public.

Any questions can be directed to CCAO Policy Analyst Adam Schwiebert at aschwiebert@ccao.org.

Back to Top

DeWine Signs House Bill 51 into law

Gov. Mike DeWine signed the following bill into law:

- House Bill 51, sponsored by Representative Brian E. Lampton, regards valuation adjustments for destroyed/injured property and expressly incorporates changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 31, 2021, into Ohio law, to provide temporary authority, expiring July 1, 2022, for members of a public body to meet by means of teleconference or video conference.

This bill contains an emergency clause and went into effect immediately upon signing.

Back to Top

AOS releases memo on compensation changes for boards of elections members pertaining to the 2020 Federal Census results

The Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office released a member to clearly layout how the 2020 federal census results would affect boards of elections members' compensation going forward.

Click here to read the memo.

Back to Top

Information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The US Department of Transportation has provided the PowerPoint slides from last week's webinar presentation by Senator Sherrod Brown and USDOT Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Small on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and its impact on Ohio. The following websites provide additional resources:

White House Guidebook: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf
USDOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law
State and Local Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 101 Webinars: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE0JbKk9QnJ2_Cqh_CwQS4PFmkmUwy2if
State by State Fact Sheets: https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/usdot-releases-state-state-fact-sheets-highlighting-benefits-bipartisan
Monthly Office Hours and Bi-Weekly Check-Ins for Local Govs: Intergov@dot.gov
Text of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr3684/BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf
National Association of Counties Analysis of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Back to Top

How communities are investing American Rescue Plan funds with the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker

In the 10 months since the passage of the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), cities and counties have been working to prioritize and execute investing of their portion of the act's $350 billion in flexible State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) dollars. And as recent Treasury Department guidance made clear, local leaders have myriad options to use these resources to address the direct health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to confront the underlying challenges that exacerbated the pandemic's negative effects on vulnerable individuals, businesses, and communities.

To illuminate the many options at communities' disposal, we are introducing the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker, a joint project of Brookings Metro, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National League of Cities (NLC). This tool adds to other important efforts to understand local ARPA implementation, including Results for America's ARP Data and Evidence Dashboard, and the Treasury Department's analysis of highlights from initial SLFRF reports.

Communities have until 2024 to fully plan for and commit their funds, and until 2026 to spend them. Local governments' initial SLFRF expenditure reports contain useful roadmaps on where they are heading with ARPA funds; large cities and counties (those with populations of at least 250,000) have also delivered the first in a series of annual plans that outline their intended and actual uses of SLFRF dollars. Together, these reports detail thousands of projects across dozens of eligible expenditure categories and form the data behind the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker.

Back to Top

2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 "best of category" winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2022 (save $25 off the application fee)
REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

Back to Top

Infrastructure School: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook webinar series

In January, the Biden Administration released a Guidebook to the programs available in the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Administration is launching a series of twelve webinars over the coming weeks that will provide an in-depth look into the programs contained within each of the 12 major chapters in the Guidebook.

Please see the below for the full schedule. Registration links for the February sessions are below and registration links for the March sessions will be available later this month.

- Electric Vehicles: Register Here
  Tuesday, Feb, 22 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Public Transportation: Register Here
  Thursday, Feb, 24 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Rail Road: Register Here
  Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Roads, Bridges and Major Projects
  Thursday, March 3 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Safety
  Tuesday, March 8 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Clean Energy and Power
  Thursday, March 10 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Water
  Tuesday, March 15 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Resilience
  Thursday, March 17 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Environmental Remediation
  Tuesday, March 22 at 4 – 5 p.m.
- Broadband
  Thursday, March 24 at 4 – 5 p.m.

Back to Top

Governor DeWine announces $3 Million in H2Ohio Grants for Ohio River Basin Wetland projects

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz announced that $3 million in grants are available for projects that will improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin through the creation or restoration of wetlands.

ODNR is administering the Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program as part of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative. Wetlands help improve water quality by trapping, filtering, and removing excess pollutants and nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, from the water before they flow into waterways and contribute to harmful algal blooms.

The Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program is funded as part of Ohio's 2022-2023 operating budget, which was passed by the Ohio General Assembly last year. This is the second round of funding available through the grant program, with $5 million awarded for 10 wetland projects in 2021, including the Hellbranch Meadows West Wetland Restoration Project in Franklin County.

Right now, there are more than 80 H2Ohio wetland projects underway or complete throughout the state. You can find a list of ODNR's H2Ohio wetland projects at h2.ohio.gov.

H2Ohio is DeWine's initiative to ensure safe and clean water in Ohio. It is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving water quality over the long term. H2Ohio focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring, and enhancing wetlands, and replacing home septic systems to reduce nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit h2.ohio.gov.

The Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that provides up to 100 percent project funding for high-quality, wetlands-focused projects to address nutrient loading and contribute to water quality improvement. Applicants are encouraged to submit project proposals in the scope of approximately $50,000 to $500,000 for H2Ohio funding consideration.

Program priorities and criteria for grant applicants can be found on ODNR's website. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2022. Each application will be thoroughly reviewed before grants are awarded this spring.

ODNR will host a webinar to talk about the H2Ohio program, the Ohio River Basin grant requirements, and answer any questions regarding the application process. The Microsoft Teams event will be held from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2022. To RSVP to this event, email H2Ohio Assistant Program Manager Rachel DeNoewer.

Back to Top

Ohio EMA publishes info on COVID-19 funding opportunities through FEMA Public Assistance Program

Visit the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's COVID-19 webpage for information relating to grant funding availability through FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program. The PA program is a legacy program, meaning it was in place prior to COVID-19 and is traditionally made available following natural disasters. Under Training, the first two bullets are a recorded webinar and PowerPoint presentation that outlines the application process, eligibility, etc.

Contact the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch at emarecovery@dps.ohio.gov if you have any questions.

Back to Top

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo virtual event March 9-10

The BWC will host the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo March 9-10, 2022 as an *online-only event* with dozens of learning sessions and a digital expo, allowing participants to chat virtually with vendors about new and existing products and services.

Many sessions will qualify for the 2-hour Group Retro and Group Rating annual safety training requirement.

By attending the safety congress, you will learn to:

- Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Achieve better outcomes for injured workers.
- Reduce workers' compensation claims costs.
- Keep Ohio's work force healthy and productive.

Registration is free and is now open.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-644-6292 or check the Safety Congress website https://www.ohiosafetycongress.com/index.cfm

Back to Top

2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29

Ohio Land Banks Association and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity announced that the 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Huntington Convention Center.

Pre-conference activities, including mobile tours, begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 with the official conference kick-off taking place on Thursday, April 28 and concluding on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Please visit the Ohio Land Bank Association website at www.ohiolandbanks.org for conference details.

You can register today using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-tickets-238342808757

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Norman at snorman@cuyahogalandbank.org

Back to Top

Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24

Join the Ohio EPA for a Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. Do you need to develop a SWPPP to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System industrial stormwater permit? Learn the elements of a SWPPP and mistakes to avoid.

Click here to register.

Back to Top

County News

ARPA Funds received by Shelby County
Sidney Daily News, Feb. 15, 2022
The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or American Rescue Plan, signed into law in March of 2021, to speed up the country's recovery from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession included direct funding to local government entities. Shelby County will be receiving a total of $9.4 million in years 2021 and 2022. After experiencing some challenges with the CARES Act funding of 2020, the Shelby County Commissioners recognized they would need assistance in administering this program. The Commissioners reviewed applications and then contracted with Shelby County Regional Planning to assist with program needs.

Locals participate in 'Ohio Loves Transit Week'
Record Herald, Feb. 16, 2022
Every segment of Ohio — businesses, communities, individuals and families — benefit from public transportation, an essential service that enhances economic development, insures sustainable lifestyle and a higher quality of life.

Fayette County Transportation provides over 45,000 trips each year, helping to create and maintain jobs that are essential in keeping our communities strong. They connect friends and neighbors to jobs, schools, medical appointments and providing rides to get a vaccine.
"Fayette County Transportation provides an invaluable service to residents of all of Fayette County and the City of Washington Court House. Friends and family utilize the transportation for work and other personal needs such as grocery shopping, medical appointments and sporting events when possible," said Fayette County Commissioner Tony Anderson.

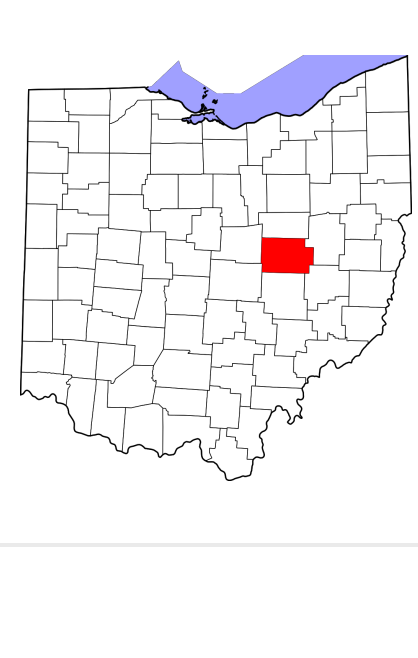
Plans for new Harrison County Jail progressing well, Commission says
WTOV9, Feb. 16, 2022
Harrison County Commissioners and the county engineer discussed a couple of projects Wednesday that will provide more space for people in Harrison County.

The new jail project continues to move through the planning and financing phases with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
"It's all finances, the county's ability to repay, those items," Commissioner Paul Coffland said. "And once that is in place, we'll be able to determine the final dollar amounts."

The project remains on pace to be financed with the help of a $9 million grant from the State of Ohio, which has been awarded.

Back to Top

Did You Know? - Coshocton County



Roscoe Village, a restored canal town from the mid-1800s, is in Coshocton County. Visitors can take a ride on a restored canal boat and learn about life during that period.

Back to Top

Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY 25, 2022
CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MARCH 11. 2022
CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MARCH 17, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 6, 2022
OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Back to Top

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
County Commissioners Association of Ohio · 209 E. State St. · Columbus, Ohio 43215 · USA