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March 7, 2022

Rep. Jon Cross joined commissioners from Hardin, Hancock, Logan and Wyandot counties for a great meeting discussing county priorities and strengthening the state-county partnership.

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

Did You Know? - Clinton 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

Presses roll on 2022 Roster

The 2022 CCAO Roster is on its way to your door! Our signature publication is a valuable resource containing contact information and photos for CCAO members and staff as well as information on your state legislators, CCAO affiliates, members of Congress and more. We hope you take advantage of this tool, as it can be helpful in a variety of ways, from reaching out to fellow members on issues affecting your county to contacting legislators as we advocate for resources that build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

2022 CCAO ROSTER
Debbie Lieberman
Montgomery County Commissioner
CCAO President
Cheryl Subler
Executive Director
CCAO
209 East State Street | Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5627 | www.ccao.org
CORSA
CEBCO

This publication will be mailed statewide, with copies going to each board of county commissioners, county executive and county council throughout the state. Paid affiliate members, OSU Extension, the Ohio Statehouse and additional partners will also receive a copy. You can access the online version immediately by clicking here.

Publishing our annual roster is a huge undertaking, and we could not do it without the assistance of our county clerks and administrative staff. We thank you and truly appreciate the work you do to assist counties and CCAO.

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Dana Phipps appointed Defiance County commissioner

Dana Phipps was chosen late yesterday afternoon to fill the unexpired term of Ryan Mack, who stepped down earlier this year after the third year of his term to take an administrative position with the City of Defiance. The Defiance County Board of Elections will meet at noon tomorrow to affirm Phipps' appointment, and he will be sworn in thereafter as commissioner. He will serve at least until year's end.

Phipps stated he is "honored to be appointed, and am eager to get going and serve the people of Defiance County."

CCAO looks forward to welcoming, working with, and supporting him as county commissioner and new member to the association!

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Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association quarterly meeting scheduled for March 21 in Allen County

The Board of Allen County Commissioners and the Allen County Engineer invite you to attend the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association First Quarter Meeting on March 21 at Ohio Means Jobs, located at 951 Commerce Parkway, Lima, Ohio 45804.

This meeting will focus on Workforce, Economic Development and Evolution of the Workplace. Click here for the full agenda.

The Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association is comprised of Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties.

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Portage County to host Northeast Ohio Commissioners Association meeting on March 9

The Portage County Commissioners will host the Northeast Ohio Commissioners Association meeting on March 9 at 10 a.m. at Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center, 8451 State Route 5, Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

All attendees are required to fill out the Access Request Form for Camp James A. Garfield and return to Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett at schristianbennett@portageco.com by Friday, March 4.

There is no cost to attend. You will be responsible for your own lunch. Click here for the menu and pricing. Contact Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennet with any questions at 330-348-3573. Click here for the event flier and agenda.

The Northeast Ohio Commissioners Association is comprised of Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne counties.

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Registration opens for the OCCO Legislative Reception

Register now for the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join county elected officials, members of the Ohio General Assembly and statewide office holders to discuss issues affecting counties. April is National County Government Month, and we look forward to celebrating the work of county government together.

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

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!

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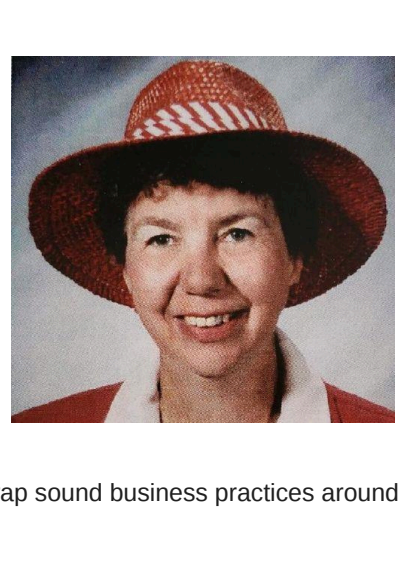
In Memoriam: Betty Blair, former Lorain County Commissioner



Former Lorain County Commissioner Elizabeth C. 'Betty' Blair passed away Friday, Feb. 25. Blair, served as a commissioner for 20 years before retiring in 2010.

Blair was instrumental in the creation of the Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise or GLIDE.

The program, a partnership between the commissioners, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce and Lorain County Community College, "helps Northeast Ohio entrepreneurs wrap sound business practices around great business ideas," according to its website.

"It's a great legacy for all three of us, because it's still effective to this day," [Lorain County Commissioner Dave] Moore said of the Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise.

Ted Kalo, current Lorain Clerk of Courts, also served as a county commissioner with Blair.

Kalo said Blair's ability to communicate with a variety of people from different backgrounds made her a superpower as a politician.

"She had the ability to work with a diverse group of people with diverging opinions and bring them together," he said. "She was really good at getting people to the table and working through issues.

You can read The Morning Journal's story on Blair here.

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Husted, BroadbandOhio announce new mapping resource to identify gaps in coverage

Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced that BroadbandOhio has published a new mapping resource tool on their website that more accurately shows how many of the state's households are connected to high-speed internet, providing a clearer, more detailed picture of Ohio's broadband availability gaps. A statewide map along with profiles on each of the 88 counties can be found at Broadband.Ohio.Gov.

The maps use on-the-ground Ookla Speedtest Intelligence® records from a 15-month period to measure four different internet speeds: under 10 Mbps; under 25 Mbps; under 50 Mbps; and 50-100 plus Mbps. Whereas the FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Data from FCC 477 maps only uses data that is reported through internet service providers, this new map uses real-world, on-the-ground speed test information from actual internet customers to determine where there are gaps in coverage. The new maps will be used as a supplement to other currently available data, helping to provide more information to BroadbandOhio; Ohio citizens; local, state and federal officials; internet service providers; and other stakeholders.

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New congressional map enacted; General Assembly provides $9 million for primary election expenses

The State Redistricting Commission enacted a new congressional map (accessible here). The previously enacted map had been invalidated by the Ohio Supreme Court. It is expected that the latest version of the map will also be challenged in court in the coming days. Following the commission's vote, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose issued a directive to county boards of elections instructing them to include congressional candidates on the May 3 ballot.

There has been considerable discussion surrounding the feasibility of conducting the May 3 primary election. Last week, the Ohio Association of Elections Officials released a letter to legislative leaders outlining their significant concerns about conducting an election on such a tight timetable.

In response, the General Assembly on Wednesday appropriated $9 million to local boards of elections via Senate Bill 9 to assist with additional expenses brought on by the expedited timeline. These funds will be disbursed to county boards of elections at the discretion of the Secretary of State's office to fund expenses such as overtime, temporary labor, additional support for board vendors, and ballot production and printing. Additional details on eligible uses of these funds should be forthcoming. The bill now goes to Gov. Mike DeWine for his signature.

CCAO thanks the General Assembly for the additional state support provided to county boards of elections. Counties have a significant fiscal responsibility to fund many election-related expenses, so additional state funds to offset unbudgeted costs brought on by events outside counties' control is appreciated.

Attention now turns to the Ohio Supreme Court and its review of the latest state legislative district maps as well as the anticipated challenge to the congressional district map. Additional invalidations would further jeopardize the May 3 primary election schedule.

CCAO will continue to monitor developments on this issue. Any questions can be directed to CCAO Policy Analyst Adam Schwiebert at aschwiebert@ccao.org.

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ARPA - Treasury updates reporting compliance

Treasury last week released updated Compliance and Reporting Guidance (Reporting Guidance) for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program. This Reporting Guidance includes updates to reporting requirements to reflect the final rule that Treasury adopted on Jan. 6, 2022. These updates take effect for the next Project and Expenditure Report that all state, local, and Tribal governments **need to submit by April 30, 2022. Members are advised to read the Reporting Guidance as they make plans to use their ARPA funds.**

The Guidance reviews Award Terms and Conditions and explains the types of data that counties will be expected to report in April. The document also provides a concise summary of the Uniform Guidance requirements applicable to the grant award (see pp. 7 – 12). The document reminds recipients that "Per 2 CFR Part 200.303, your organization must develop and implement effective internal controls to ensure that funding decisions under the SLFRF award constitute eligible uses of funds, and document determinations."

The following are some of the concepts discussed in the Reporting Guidance:

- Allowable costs / federal match. SLFRF funds may be, but are not required to be, used along with other funding sources for a given project. Recipients should note that SLFRF funds available under the "revenue loss" eligible use category generally may be used to meet the non-federal cost-share or matching requirements of other federal programs. SLFRF funds beyond those that are available under the revenue loss eligible use category may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, other than as specifically provided for by statute.
- Administrative costs: Recipients may use funds for administering the SLFRF program, including costs of consultants to support effective management and oversight, including consultation for ensuring compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements.
- Cash Management. SLFRF payments made to counties are not subject to the requirements of the Cash Management Improvement Act and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 CFR Part 205 or 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8)-(9). As such, counties and other recipients can place funds in interest-bearing accounts, do not need to remit interest to Treasury, and are not limited to using that interest for eligible uses under the SLFRF award.
- Procurement, Suspension, and Debarment. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that any procurement using SLFRF funds, or payments under procurement contracts using such funds, are consistent with the procurement standards set forth in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327, as applicable. The Uniform Guidance establishes in 2 CFR 200.319 that all procurement transactions for property or services must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, consistent with standards outlined in 2 CFR 200.320, which allows for non-competitive procurements only in circumstances where at least one of the conditions below is true:
    - the item is below the micro-purchase threshold;
    - the item is only available from a single source;
    - the public exigency or emergency will not permit a delay from publicizing a competitive solicitation;
    - after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

The Uniform Guidance requires an infrastructure for competitive bidding and contractor oversight, including maintaining written standards of conduct and prohibitions on dealing with suspended or debarred parties. To see if a vendor has been suspended or debarred, you will need to search for the organization at http://www.sam.gov/ (System for Award Management).

- Subrecipient Monitoring. In many cases, a county or other recipient may decide to provide funding to a nonprofit or other organization to carry out the purposes of the grant. In these situations, the county becomes a "pass-through" entity under the federal regulation and the organization receiving funds is the "subrecipient." The county is required to manage and monitor subrecipients to ensure compliance with requirements of the SLFRF award. The county should develop written policies and procedures for subrecipient monitoring and risk assessment and maintain records of all award agreements identifying or otherwise documenting subrecipients' compliance obligations. ***Subrecipients do not include individuals and organizations that received SLFRF funds as end users. Such individuals and organizations are beneficiaries and not subject to audit.*** Subrecipients are subject to an audit pursuant to the Single Audit Act and 2 CFR part 200, subpart F, whereas contractors are not subject to an audit.
- Recordkeeping. Generally, the county must maintain records and financial documents for five years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury.

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Register today for the 2022 NACo Annual Conference

Join county elected and appointed officials from across the country in Adams County, Colo. for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Annual Conference & Exposition on July 21-24.

The Annual Conference is the premier national opportunity for counties to exchange cutting-edge practices, elect the association's leadership and shape NACo's federal policy agenda for the year ahead.

Click here to register and to get more information.

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2022 NACo Achievement Awards application period 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.

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

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

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ODOD brownfield remediation program

The Ohio Department of Development posted the eligible counties for round two of funding, and the portion of the original $1M set-aside still available to each eligible county. A second application round is now open for these counties as of March 1. You can view the list here: https://development.ohio.gov/static/community/redevelopment/2022-Round2-Eligible-Counties.pdf, and apply for funding through the link that is now active on the Department's website: https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/brownfield-remediation-program. Overall program rules may be accessed here.

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NECP Webinar: Money Talks: Funding your Emergency Communications Capabilities

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency is offering a webinar series on implementing the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). Join them for the Money Talks: Funding your Emergency Communications Capabilities webinar on March 9 at 1 p.m. To join, use this link or dial in at 800-897-5813.

Public safety organizations must implement diverse funding mechanisms to build, improve, expand, and support the complex and often expensive communications systems they rely on.

The identification of resources to help cover continually increasing costs and subsidize critical upgrades is an ongoing challenge. The SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS) found that 66% of public safety organizations have insufficient or no funding for operations and maintenance of network systems. Falling short of funding needs affects an organization's ability to properly maintain systems, conduct system lifecycle planning, and make decisions on the purchasing and upgrading of emergency communications systems. Public safety organizations can address these issues by having a variety of funding mechanisms to sustain and upgrade their emergency communications systems.

This webinar assists participants in identifying funding mechanisms to support emergency communications projects. Join the webinar to learn about:

- Federal grant guidance and opportunities that support emergency communications activities
- Working with Statewide Interoperability Coordinators to prioritize communications needs and coordinate applications for federal financial assistance that align with the National Emergency Communications Plan
- Developing a diverse portfolio of funding mechanisms to sustain emergency communications systems

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State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – U.S. Treasury webinars

The U.S. Treasury has also posted a series of recorded webinars to assist recipients to understand and comply with relevant reporting requirements and assist recipients in accessing Treasury's Portal.

The following webinars are currently available to view:

- Project and Expenditure Report – https://youtu.be/6YTsxrEMS1o
- Reporting Tiers - https://youtu.be/JnoKlSwCA-g
- Account Creation and Login - https://youtu.be/MS7EAO2uCs0
- User Roles - https://youtu.be/w7vbi94rVDI
- Bulk Uploads - https://youtu.be/4g6fw3DUQ3k

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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

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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

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County News

Allen County in top three nationally for economic development
March 2, 2022
Allen County is ranked among the best areas for economic development in the nation.
Lima tied for third nationally, with Saginaw, Michigan, in Site Selection magazine's ratings for Top Metros for projects recorded in 2021 and ranked second in Top Metros per capita. Lima is categorized as a Tier 3 Metro, 50,000 to 200,000 residents, as the statistical area includes all of Allen County. It was tied for fourth in 2020 and ranked sixth in 2019.

Qualifying projects must have a capital investment of $1 million or more, add at least 20,000 square feet of space or create 20 or more jobs. Allen Economic Development submitted projects totaling more than $90 million in capital investment which led to 1,900 jobs retained, 195 jobs created and more than 100,000 square feet of space added.

Lawrence County Commission proclaims March as DD Awareness Month
The Ironton Tribune, March 2, 2022
The Lawrence County Commission meeting on Tuesday was packed with what commission president DeAnna Holliday called "a beautiful audience today."

Staff from Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities as well as members of the local DD community were on hand as the commission issued a proclamation marking March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month in the county.

The proclamation also honored LCDD and Open Door School, which helps 500 people with disabilities and their families in Lawrence County.

"All people are capable and contribute to the community," Holliday read from the proclamation. "And we encourage all citizens to make our county a place where everyone feels welcome."

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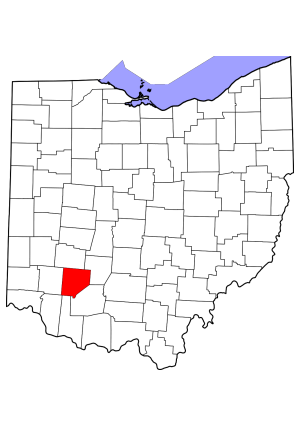
Did You Know? - Clinton County



Clinton County was one of two sites used in the Thunderstorm Project, a joint research project by several federal agencies in the 1940s to understand how thunderstorms affected radar.

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Dates to Remember

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

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

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