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November 7, 2022

Tomorrow is the 2022 General Election, make sure to get out and exercise your right to vote! Good luck to all of our readers who are on the ballot or have issues on the ballot!

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Petty named Managing Director of Policy for CCAO

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) announces Kyle Petty has been named Managing Director of Policy. He most recently served as the Association's Legislative Counsel.

Petty will be responsible for coordinating the Association's legislative advocacy and member services on policy matters for its 282 elected officials and hundreds of affiliate county members.

"The association is thrilled Kyle has accepted this leadership position and will continue to advocate for a strong partnership between Ohio's 88 counties and the state," CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler said. "Kyle brings to the team years of legislative advocacy experience and a proven track record of results. Ohio's counties will be well served by his talents."

Prior to joining CCAO, Petty served as director of government relations for CHW Advisors. He also previously served as senior legislative liaison in the Office of Governor John Kasich; legislative director for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Ohio Department of Youth Services; and as an administrative and legislative aide in the Ohio Senate. Petty holds Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from Capital University.

Schwiebert to depart CCAO on November 18

As many of you may know, Adam Schwiebert will be leaving us on November 18. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him all of the best and would like to thank him for his five plus years of service at CCAO. During his tenure, CCAO was able to make historic gains in the areas of indigent defense and his knowledge of numerous areas of county government will be missed.

That being said, we would like to congratulate Adam on his new position as the Government Relations and Advocacy Director for the Dayton Metropolitan Library. Adam, his wife Carol, and their baby Emma will be moving to the Dayton area to begin this next chapter in their lives. If you would like to stay in touch with Adam, we are sure that you have his cell phone number. However, if you would like to stay in contact via email he can be reached at adam.schwiebert@gmail.com.

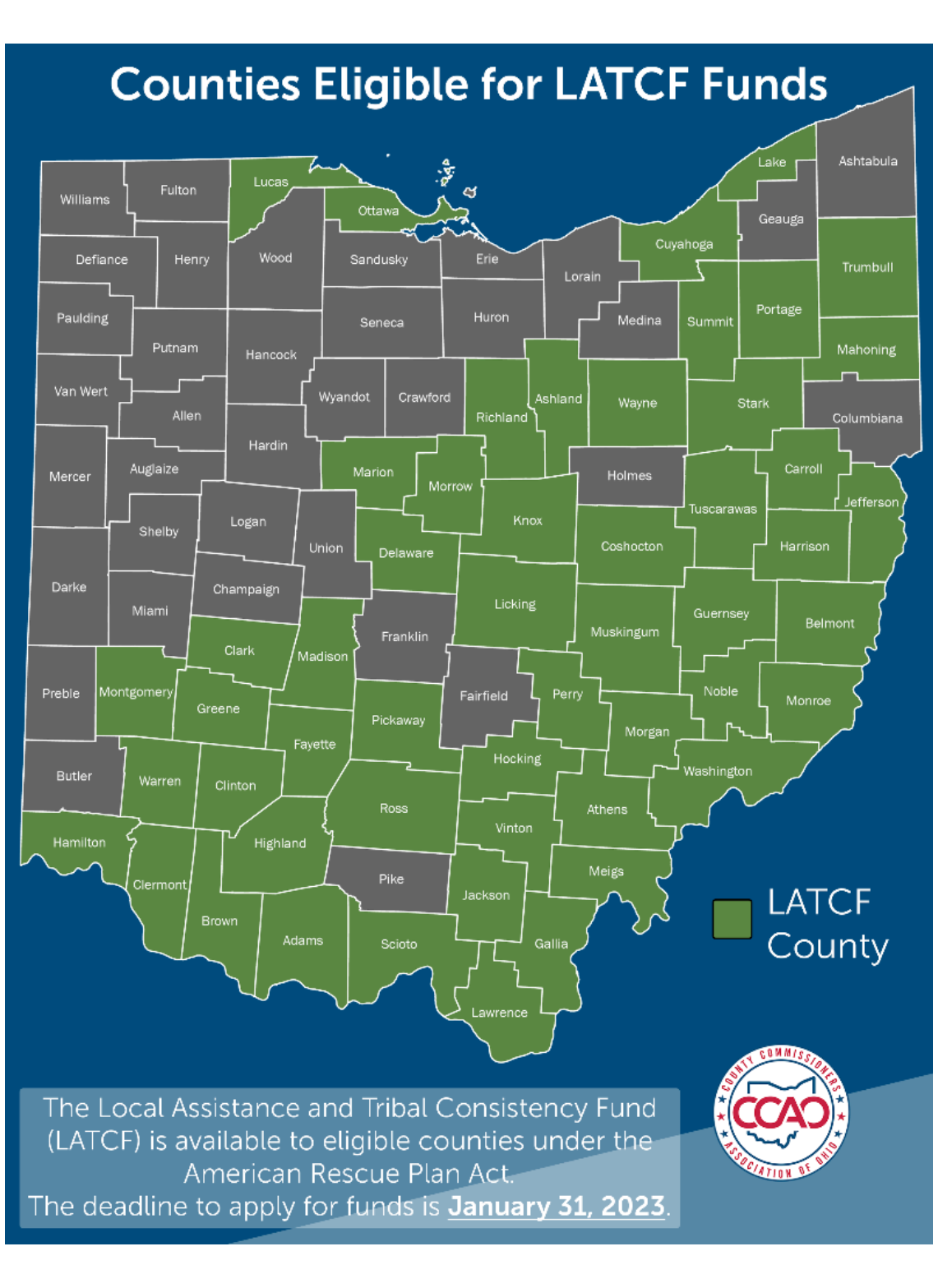
Ohio counties eligible for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds

On September 29, the U.S. Department of the Treasury began releasing the first round of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) payments, providing $1.5 billion to 2,086 "eligible revenue sharing counties" under the American Rescue Plan Act. These are predominantly counties with federal public lands.

Fifty-two Ohio counties are eligible for these funds. These counties can be seen in the map below and are displayed, along with their appropriations under LATCF, in this document.

Counties have until January 31, 2023 to apply, otherwise, they forfeit both payments. NACo worked closely with Treasury to make sure that this program provided payments to counties consistent with Congressional intent, and so we want to make sure every eligible county gets the funding from this program that they deserve. To receive payments, counties can log into the Treasury Department's portal.

Members are encouraged to view a recent NACo webinar on LATCF funding and the slide deck explaining the formula, application process and eligible uses of funds. Please direct questions to NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands Jonathan Shuffield at jshuffield@naco.org.



DeWine-Husted Administration awards new round of Crime Reduction, First Responder Wellness grants

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced numerous grant awards under the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program and the First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program. Twenty-four law enforcement agencies received the former while 62 first responder agencies received the latter.

Fourteen of the 24 agencies that received Violent Crime Reduction grants were county entities, several of which were county drug task forces. Thus far, of the $100 million appropriated to the program, the state has awarded about $70 million. A full list of entities that have received funding under this program can be found here.

Several county entities received First Responder Wellness awards, ranging from $13,000 for Defiance County's 911 Center to fund wellness checks for personnel to $311,167 for Meigs County EMS to hire additional paramedics. Thus far, of the $75 million appropriated to the program, the state has awarded about $21 million. A full list of entities that have received funding under this program can be found here.

Registration open for the 2022 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference

Registration is now open for this year's CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, held December 7 to 9. The theme for this year's conference is Innovation and Inspiration to Shape Ohio's Future.

You can view the current draft of the schedule here! Please keep in mind that some sessions may change between now and the timeslot.

Additionally, 170 tickets to the Columbus Blue Jackets game on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. are available for free courtesy of MS Consulting. Tickets to the game against the Buffalo Sabres are available on a first come, first serve basis. **As of this writing, roughly 50 tickets remain.**

More information about the conference and links to register and reserve hotel rooms are available on the CCAO website.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Bureau of Workers Compensation makes reclassification of certain public employees

The BWC has issued guidance on a new manual classification for public employers effective 1/1/2023 – ***Public Employer Clerical & Clerical Telecommuter Employees***. The premium rate for this classification of employees is significantly lower than the general rate for county employees: the 2023 rate will be $0.15 per $100 payroll compared to $0.71 for other county employees. Classifying employees in the new manual could represent a significant premium savings for counties.

This BWC bulletin provides specific direction and the requirements for the new manual classification.

Ohio Auditor of State Performance Audits

The Ohio Auditor of State has a performance audit service available to counties, schools, and other local governments. Performance audits are voluntary audits to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and functions with the goal of making them better. AOS performance audits require the participation of the organization being audited.

Common performance audit areas include program results/operations, staffing, compensation, contract management, and facility, fleet, and asset use. Performance audits adhere to government auditing standards. Cost for an audit varies based on depth and breadth of work performed.

For more information, please consult the AOS website and this PowerPoint description.

Ohio Department of Medicaid releases COVID-19 Unwinding Toolkit

During the federal public health emergency (PHE) put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, states have been prohibited from disenrolling Medicaid members. The PHE is set to expire on January 11, 2023, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) **does not** anticipate that it will be renewed.

The Department has published a COVID-19 Unwinding Partner Toolkit for helping to guide members on important steps they can take now to be ready for the return to eligibility renewals. The partner packet is available in six languages and includes items such as flyers, social media templates and newsletter content. ODM encourages everyone to use this info and the formatting, so the message is consistent and the materials recognizable.

New NACo initiative to focus on coal communities

Recently, NACo launched a new initiative called Building Resilient Economics in Coal Communities (BRECC). BRECC will be a multi-faceted initiative with three main prongs: the National Network, the Coalition, and Challenge cohorts.

The BRECC National Network is an open forum and peer network that connects coal community leaders representing governments, regional organizations, non-profits, businesses, education providers, and more. You can register for the National Network and receive updates on BRECC programming here.

The Coalition is a network of local leaders dedicated to advancing economic development and community revitalization. An information session regarding the Coalition will be held on November 29 at 2:00 p.m.

There will be two Challenge cohorts, each of which will receive support over a 12-month period to develop and implement an action plan for diversifying area economies. The Challenge will prioritize applicants representing under-resourced communities. The information session on November 29 will cover the Challenge cohorts as well.

You can read more about BRECC here.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Ohio Grants Summit registration open

On November 30 and December 1, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management will host the 2022 Ohio Grants Summit, an online, free event intended to help local governments and non-profits which apply for funding from the State of Ohio.

The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days and each day features four sessions.

The Day One sessions will discuss emerging issues in federal funding, preparing for audits, a discussion regarding American Rescue Plan Act funds, and water and wastewater funding in the recent federal infrastructure bill.

The Day Two sessions will discuss "Buy America" provisions of grant opportunities, how to best prepare competitive grant applications, how to leverage census data when preparing an application, and information sessions with executive agencies.

Registration for the event is free but the number of slots is limited. Registration is separate for each day and can be completed through the links above. If you are unable to register in time, the event will be livestreamed on The Ohio Channel.

State departments to host November webinar regarding elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has partnered with the Ohio Attorney General's Office (OAG) Elder Justice Unit, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Adult Protective Services (APS), and the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) to host a webinar concerning best practices for keeping older Ohioans safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The webinar will be held on November 10 from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

This webinar will be valuable to care managers, case workers, health and safety staff, incident management staff, and quality improvement staff. The goal of the webinar is to improve understanding of the issues regarding elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Ohio, and to better understand the warning signs, reporting requirements, and resources. Best practices on how care coordinators and managed care plans can collaborate with APS will be shared.

Speakers include, Adriana Pust, Incident Manager, ODM; Heidi Turner, Section Chief, APS, ODJFS; Sylvia Pla-Raith, Director of Elder Justice Unit - Consumer Protection Services, OAG; and Natasha Pietrocola, Cuyahoga County Department of APS, Chair of Ohio Coalition for APS.

While elder services does not always receive the same level of attention as children services, it is a vital component of the human services programs that counties are responsible for. CCAO highly encourages counties register employees for this valuable webinar.

Ohio EPA to host two grant-related webinars

The Ohio EPA will host two webinars in November related to upcoming grant opportunities. The first, on November 8, will discuss the 2023 Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant, its application process and eligible activities. This grant is available to local governments, along with schools, businesses, and nonprofits, to establish and implement recycling programs. You can register for the webinar here.

The second webinar, to be held on November 15, will discuss the Mosquito Control Grant program. These grants are open to health departments and other government organizations to aid with mosquito surveillance, control, source reduction, and outreach. The webinar will cover the application process and eligible activities. You can register for the webinar here.

Application window for $50 million in jail project funding is open

The Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (DRC) has opened the application window for $50 million in jail project funding that was included in the most recent capital appropriations bill.

Applications will be evaluated through a process similar to that used for projects funded under the prior capital budget, with one notable change. The question regarding cost per bed will no longer be a "scored question" but it will still be considered for projects intending to expand a jail's housing capacity.

The application can be found here, as well as the announcement letter and an OBM guide on allowable capital expenditures.

CCAO recommends that all counties apply for funds through the program. Even if you consider it unlikely your county will receive funding through the program, applying shows the Dewine-Husted Administration the overwhelming need for jail funding and will help the Association lobby for more funding in the future.

In addition to the $50 million discussed above, there is a total of $575,000 available for designated jails identified in HB 687. A funding guide will be sent directly to these recipients from DRC.

The application deadline for the $50 million pool is November 30, 2022.

NOTE: the application PDF states that the deadline is October 30, 2022. This is an error; the deadline is November 30.

If you have any questions about the grant program or would like to discuss issues with your county jail that may not be covered by these funds, please contact Managing Director of Policy Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or 614-220-7977.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Commissioners pass Natural Gas is Green resolution - Sidney Daily News

Sidney Daily News, November 1, 2022

Shelby County Commissioners Tuesday morning passed a resolution declaring Natural Gas is Green to encourage investment and development in the local gas industry.

The Empowerment Alliance's (TEA) representative Mitch Given spoke with Commissioners Julie Ehemann, Bob Guillozet and Tony Bornhorst prior to their vote.

TEA representatives have been traveling throughout Ohio spreading the message that natural gas is the solution to affordable energy while improving the environment and securing American energy independence.

Northeast District

Stark records, sanitary engineer's office to undergo capital projects

Canton Repository, November 2, 2022

Capital projects are in the works for Stark County's records center and sanitary engineer's office.

The county's records center is expected to move to a recently vacated space in Canton Township, and the sanitary engineer's office will undergo renovations in its existing building.

Construction budgets for these projects are $2.2 million and $2.3 million respectively. Stark County commissioners recently approved an agreement with SoL Harris/Day Architecture for architectural services for the records center and sanitary engineer's office projects.

Central District

Commissioners not giving up on trying to take back land from college | News | perrytribune.com

Perry Tribune, October 26, 2022

The Perry County commissioners have served notice that they will appeal a judge's decision, which allowed Hocking College to retain ownership of a piece of land that the county gifted to the college three decades ago.

The county sued the college in Perry County Common Pleas Court in May, over about 15 acres of land near the college's Perry County campus. The land is the remainder of a parcel of about 25 acres adjacent to state Route 37, which the county deeded to the college for free in September 1993.

The deed contained a "reverter clause," which said that the land was being donated on condition that the college would, within four years of the deed's execution, start construction on a facility for housing governmental offices and the college's educational activities. If the college failed to do so, title to the land would revert to the county.

Southwest District

Hamilton County misses cut of Paycor Stadium naming deal (wlwt.com)

WLWT5.com, November 2, 2022

Expressing frustration, disappointment and puzzlement Wednesday, all three Hamilton County Commissioners reiterated a public call for specific details of the Bengals stadium naming rights deal.

It has been almost three months since the Bengals announced the new Paycor Stadium brand. According to the stadium owner, which is the county, the silence remains deafening.

"We're continuing to ask about it," said Stephanie Summerow Dumas, president of the commission. "And we're really a little puzzled why it's so hard to give us the information that we need."

Southeast District

Belmont County commissioners plan jail expansion

The Times Leader, November 3, 2022

The Belmont County Board of Commissioners is looking at the need for new or expanded facilities, including the Belmont County Jail — a project that has been discussed for several years.

Richard Hord of Martins Ferry attended the commission meeting Wednesday and inquired about the state of the 144-bed facility. Commissioner Josh Meyer said the jail population has been "holding steady" in the range of 150 inmates, with the current number at 152. He said this was an improvement compared to prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the population was closer to 200.

Meyer said Belmont County still has agreements with other counties to house inmates in other jails at a cost. Meyer said he did not have the number of inmates housed outside of the county this year at hand.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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NOVEMBER 8, 2022
GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 9, 2022
CCAO-CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE (Register here**)**

DID YOU KNOW?

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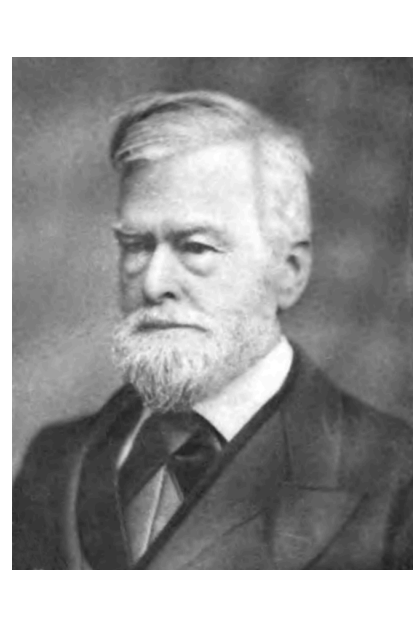
Richland County

A strange series of events in 1844 almost lead to what would have been one of the most unique elections in American history, but the result of the election still has a rare distinction.

In 1842, Wilson Shannon, a Democrat out of Belmont County, won the governorship. The gubernatorial term lengths were shorter then, which meant the next gubernatorial election would be held on October 8, 1844.

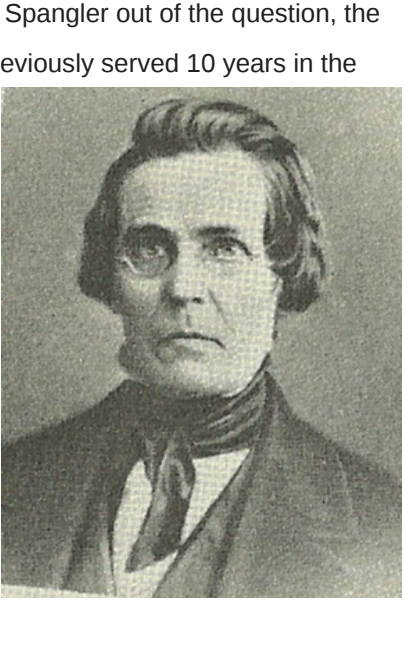


In April 1844, Governor Shannon resigned to accept an appointment as Minister to Mexico under President John Tyler. The office of Lt. Governor had not yet been created, so the governorship passed to the Speaker of the Senate (as the position was then-called), a man named Thomas W. Bartley from Richland County, pictured to the left.

Thomas Bartley, also a Democrat, served the remainder of Shannon's term while also remaining in the Senate. He sought renomination for the governorship but lost the nomination by a single vote to David Tod.

Why did Thomas Bartley's defeat by a single vote prevent perhaps the most unique election in American history? That is because of who the Whig Party, the only other prominent political party at the time, nominated.

The Ohio Whig Party nominated a former congressman named David Spangler as the party's nominee for governor. Spangler, however, declined to run. With Spangler out of the question, the Whig Party nominated a man from Richland County who had previously served 10 years in the General Assembly: Mordecai Bartley, shown to the right.



Had Thomas Bartley secured one more vote and won the Democratic nomination for governor in the 1844 election, he would have faced off against his father, Mordecai. While Ohio was denied an election pitting an incumbent son against his father, Mordecai's narrow defeat of Tod did lead to an unusual transfer of power: a son handing the reins of the state to his dad.

Thomas Bartley later served on the Ohio Supreme Court and is buried in Glenwood Cemetary in Washington, D.C. Mordecai Bartley served a single term as governor before retiring. He is buried in Mansfield Cemetery in Richland County.

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