LICKING COUNTY EST. 1808
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
April 1-30, 2024
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH APRIL
STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.

April 1, 2024

Today is the first day of National County Government Month! Throughout the month, CCAO will be spotlighting the many roles that counties play in the lives of Ohioans. Read on below for more information about how to celebrate the month!

Above: Licking County Commissioners Duane Flowers, Rick Black, and Tim Bubb pose with their National County Government Month yard signs outside the Licking County Courthouse.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Today begins National County Government Month!

As you may be aware, April is National County Government Month. CCAO wants to help counties across Ohio celebrate!

We will be mailing each county a window slick and an informational poster to display in your county buildings, five copies of the Ohio Counties Matter informational booklet, two copies of the Why Counties Matter brochure, along with a sample resolution for your county to adopt recognizing National County Government Month. Links to these documents are available at the end of the article.

We will also provide digital copies of the booklet and brochure if you wish to send it to your local printer or print them yourself. If you would like to work with us to further customize these documents or purchase additional physical copies, please reach out to Jessica Newbacher at jnewbacher@ccao.org.

CCAO also has yard signs for you to display. These are available at our office in Columbus. They will be distributed to you when someone from your county comes into our office or as our CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO staff visit your counties.

During the four weeks of April, CCAO will be running a social media campaign focusing on 4 Pillars of County Government:

- Week One: Justice/Public Safety
- Week Two: Economic Development & Workforce
- Week Three: Services for children, families, seniors and veterans
- Week Four: Additional Government Functions

The purpose of the campaign is to educate the residents of your counties about the multifaceted and vital work that gets done at the county level. If you choose to opt-in to the campaign, CCAO will provide you with a customized graphic (with your county name and flag) each week of April to use on your social media platforms, websites, email messaging, etc.

- National County Government Month Board Resolution - Word Document
- National County Government Month Board Resolution PDF
- Why Counties Matter Brochures
- Ohio Counties Matter Digital
- Ohio Counties Matter Print

If you have not yet signed up to participate in our social media campaign and would like to, you can do so here: Opt-In Form

Thank you for helping us celebrate National County Government Month!

CCAO Members invited to participate in Montrose Group's 2024 Development Opportunity

A limited number of members of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) are invited to participate at no cost in the 3rd annual Montrose Group's 2024 Development Opportunity Forum on May 21, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio. The Montrose Group is a leading economic development and public policy advocacy organization, that advises over a dozen communities including several Ohio counties on public policy and economic development matters, companies on corporate site location, and developers on land use entitlements and economic development incentives across Ohio.

The Montrose Group's 2024 Development Opportunity Forum will provide interactive sessions so participants can:

- Learn about global companies and foreign direct investment in the US.
- Engage on how to develop mega-sites primed for billion-dollar projects.
- Discover how the collapse of the office market could create either a "Doom Loop" or an opportunity for the rebirth of aging office sites.
- Uncover how communities are meeting the demand for housing.
- Network with an unprecedented group of public and private sector leaders focused on corporate site location projects.

If you're interested in participating, you can register here. Please note that only the first 50 CCAO members who register will receive the no-cost registration. The Montrose Group 2024 Development Opportunity Forum will be held at the Grand Event Center at 820 Goodale Blvd. in Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212. Professional development credit for the economic development leaders through OEDI credit, lawyers, accounts, and real estate professionals.

If you have any question concerning the program or have trouble registering, please contact Dave Robinson at drobinson@montrosegroupllc.com.

Save the date: In-person Small County Affairs Committee meeting on April 30

The Small County Affairs Committee will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, April 30 at 10:30am. The meeting will take place at Parks Edge Event Center located in Jackson, Ohio. We will be joined by JobsOhio and the Office of Budget Management (OBM) to hear an update from both entities followed by a Q&A period. An official agenda will be distributed pending confirmation from an additional invited organization.

Please use this notification to block off your calendars from 10:30am-1:30pm. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to Nedra Benson at nbenson@ccao.org as soon as possible for planning purposes.

CCAO conducting survey on municipal inmates in county jails

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio is conducting a membership survey to gauge how counties across the state are approaching an emerging issue in their county jails: the housing of municipal inmates. ***Please submit responses no later than April 10.***

CCAO has heard from some members that their jails, already crowded, are having additional strain placed upon them by municipalities in their counties sending inmates to the county jail instead of a municipal holding facility. While some counties may have agreements in place regarding the municipality paying to house inmates at the county facility, others may not.

To better evaluate the issue and potentially work with the General Assembly on a legislative solution to this issue, CCAO is asking members to respond to this survey to better educate the Policy Team on the scope of the issue.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Kyle Petty, Managing Director of Policy or Nick Ciolli, Research Analyst.

Central District to hold meeting on May 3; Southwest District on May 6

Central District
The Central CCAO/CEAO District will host a regional meeting in Fairfield County on May 3.

The event will feature a breakfast and a welcome by Central District President and Delaware County Commissioner Gary Merrell, followed by an update from CCAO. Then, each Fairfield County Commissioner will give a brief presentation on one of their areas of focus:

- Commissioner Jeff Fix: Fairfield County's Land Use Planning Process
- Commissioner Steve Davis: Expanding Transit to Meet Workforce Challenges
- Commissioner David Levacy: The Fairfield County Workforce Center and Training Programs.

The event will conclude with a tour of the county's workforce center and a lunch.

Registration can be completed here. Please RSVP no later than April 22 so that appropriate preparations can be made. If you have difficulties registering, please contact Fairfield County Administrator Aundrea Cordelia at aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

Southwest District
Save the date! The Southeast CCAO / CEAO District will host a meeting on May 6 at 11:00 a.m. in Harrison County. The meeting will be held at Wagner Field, the home of the Harrison Central High School Huskies.

The full agenda is still being finalized but the focus of the meeting will be on solar power and feature guests from two solar energy companies (Nottingham Solar and BJAAM Solar Partners) and area residents.

You can send RSVPs to cgraham@harrisoncountyohio.org.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner:

PALMER ENERGY COMPANY

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Governor DeWine begins aid for tornado-affected counties, seeks federal declaration

Following last week's damage assessment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the 11-county area affected by this month's tornadoes, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has initiated several federal and state disaster aid mechanisms which could bring financial relief to Ohioans affected by the severe weather incidents.

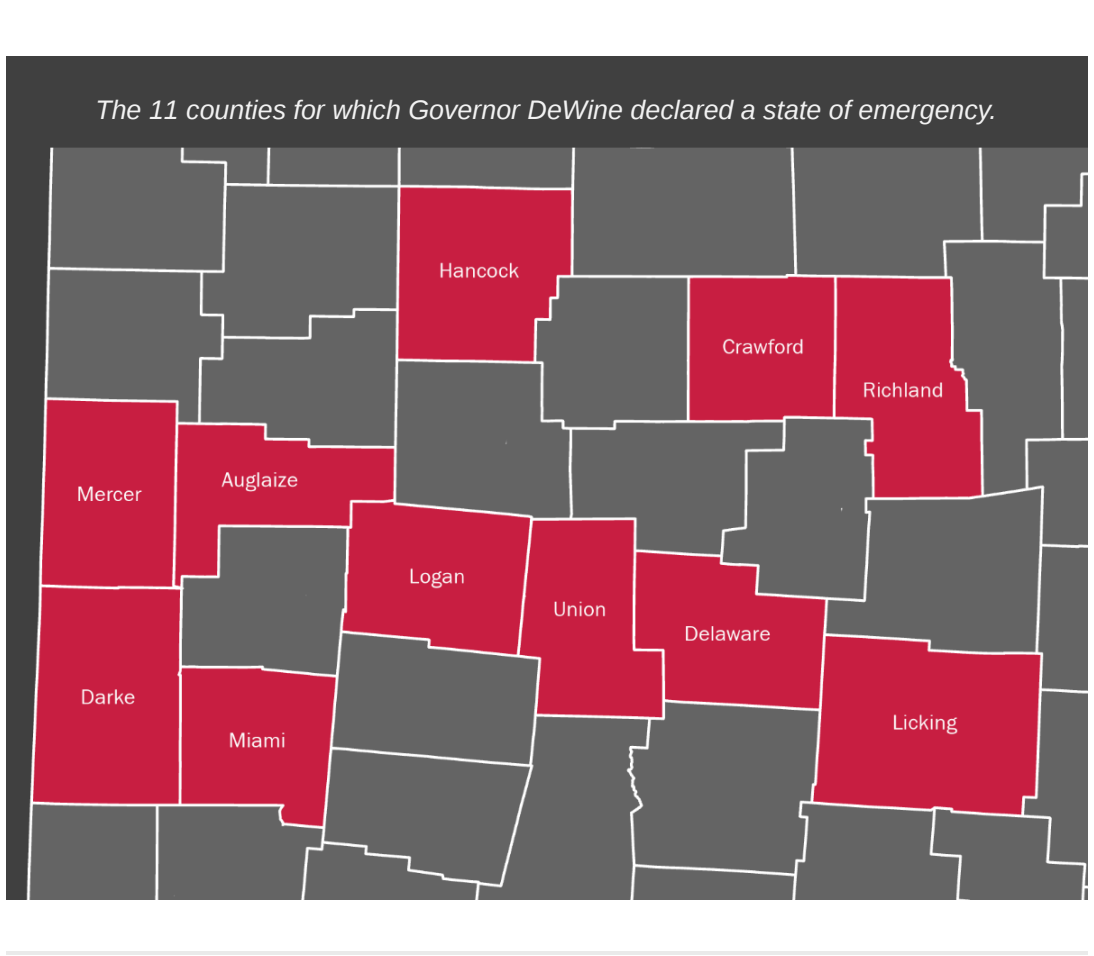
Among the relief mechanisms initiated are:

- **State-Level Aid:** Governor DeWine has directed his cabinet agencies to develop a plan for state-level financial relief programs for individuals and businesses that can be implemented jointly with the Ohio General Assembly to get affected Ohioans assistance while the following requested federal programs are being evaluated by the Biden Administration. Governor DeWine has spoken with the Senate President and the Speaker of the House and will work with the General Assembly on pursuing this in the coming days.

- **FEMA Disaster Declaration:** Governor DeWine is seeking a FEMA Presidential Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act. If granted by the White House, this will allow FEMA aid for eligible damages that have not been reimbursed by other government programs or private insurance. FEMA declarations are granted at the discretion of the President and often take several months for a decision to be issued after the Governor's application.

- **Small Business Administration (SBA) relief:** As part of the FEMA declaration request, Governor DeWine is beginning the process of activating the federal Small Business Administration's relief programs following a disaster. The SBA issues low-interest loans to businesses and individuals to cover eligible damages. According to federal guidelines, the SBA may begin to set up a local office and prepare for loan applications no sooner than 21 days after Governor DeWine's FEMA declaration request that was issued last week.

The 11 counties for which Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency.



Apply today! NACo' Prenatal-to-Three County Leaders Academy

The PN-3 County Leaders Academy brings together a cohort of elected and appointed county leaders to explore potential policy levers for expanding and improving services for young children and their families.

Attendees will have a chance to learn from their peers and national experts, share successes and challenges and leave with a better understanding of how to champion PN-3 efforts. The academy will be held in Maricopa County, Ariz. from April 30-May 2, 2024. NACoRF is able to reimburse all travel costs for the event.

Apply here by April 3!

Attorney General releases Opinion on joint purchasing programs

Attorney General Dave Yost recently released an Attorney General Opinion that may be of interest to counties.

The Delaware County Prosecutor submitted a request concerning whether joint purchasing programs (under R.C. 9.48) include the labor necessary to install, repair, replace, or upgrade equipment, materials, or supplies purchased through the program and if a subdivision may use this labor for purposes other than new construction.

The Opinion states that the language of R.C. 9.48 does not apply to construction, but that services may cover installation, maintenance, repair, and similar purposes of items acquired under a joint purchasing program, provided the services do not constitute construction. Determining when the services constitute construction is a matter of fact and one that the Attorney General cannot determine through his opinion-rendering function.

As a note, there are two bills in the General Assembly that would expressly permit joint purchasing programs to be used for construction services. Senate Bill 23 (Senator George Lang), which was favorably reported from Senate Government Oversight on April 19, 2023, and House Bill 145 (Representative Thomas Hall and Representative Brian Lampton), which has received three hearings in House State and Local Government. CCAO provided proponent testimony for both bills (Senate; House).

The Attorney General also has several pending opinion requests that may be of interest to counties that CCAO is monitoring. These include:

- If land reutilization corporations (land banks) may be considered financial institutions from which townships may borrow funds;
- Whether compositing constitutes "agriculture" for the purposes of township zoning;
    - While this pertains to townships, the Revised Code language for composite zoning is identical for counties and townships, so this request may have county implications.
- Questions concerning the scope of Marsy's Law's redaction provisions;
- The authority of a county engineer to permit broadband installations in the public right-of-way.

Department of Aging launches Nursing Home Quality Navigator program

The Ohio Department of Aging, in partnership with the InnovateOhio Platform, Ohio Department of Health, and Ohio Department of Medicaid, built Ohio's Nursing Home Quality Navigator as an accessible, user-friendly dashboard that aims to help Ohioans find a nursing home for themselves or their loved ones.

Governor DeWine's Nursing Home Quality and Accountability Task Force created this new platform. The Task Force highlighted that 68% of Ohioans say that they don't have the information needed to make decisions about their loved ones – a sentiment commonly heard as the Task Force conducted a series of statewide listening sessions across Ohio.

Residents and families shared that they often do not have easy access to key information. And, if they do find the information, it's typically spread out across several locations and hard to understand. The Nursing Home Quality Navigator Platform attempts to address these concerns that will allow families and patients and to choose the Nursing Home that best serves their needs.

Please click here to view the platform along with additional information from the Department of Aging.

State working group on psychiatric hospitals to host first meeting this week after prior rescheduling

At the beginning of March, Governor Mike DeWine announced the creation of a work group focused on the increasing number of "forensic patients" in state psychiatric hospitals. These patients are often justice-involved, resulting in limited access to the hospitals for community members in need.

The first meeting of the group will be held this Wednesday at the Ohio Department of Public Safety Atrium. While this initial meeting will be entirely in-person, future meetings are expected to include virtual attendance options. The group's planned schedule is to meet biweekly and submit final recommendations by summer.

CCAO will keep membership informed of potential opportunities to provide county-perspectives to the group.

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.

April Grant Round-Up

CCAO is notifying members of the following state and federal grant opportunities that are approaching their application deadlines. More grants can be found on our Grants and Funding Opportunities page.

- Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program **(Federal)**
    - *Purpose*: To support efforts to enhance the safety of rural victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to support efforts to prevent these crimes in rural areas.
    - *Funding Available*: $36.4 million
    - *Application Deadline*: April 12

- Deflection and Pre-arrest Division Program **(State)**
    - *Purpose*: To support communities to plan, develop and implement efforts to support those impacted by opioids and other substances.
    - *Funding Available*: $4 million
    - *Application Deadline*: April 30

- Local Law Enforcement Cybercrime Enforcement Grants **(Federal)**
    - *Purpose*: To support efforts to prevent, enforce, and prosecute cybercrimes against individuals.
    - *Funding Available*: $5 million
    - *Application Deadline*: May 1

- Nature Works Grant Program **(State)**
    - *Purpose*: To provide reimbursement assistance for local governments to acquire, develop, and/or rehabilitate recreation areas.
    - *Funding Available*: $150,000 per county
    - *Application Deadline*: June 1

Ohio Land Bank Association to hold 13th Annual Conference in April

The 13th Annual Ohio Land Bank Conference will be held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio, from April 24-26.

This year's conference covers a diverse range of sessions, from housing strategies and urban revitalization to leadership development. Highlighting practical knowledge for community revitalization, the event also features engaging receptions and a number of unique mobile tours, fostering networking and collaboration among attendees.

For more details on session topics and scheduling, visit the event's official site.

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, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Crawford allocates $1.2M to construct Solid Waste District building
Bucyrus Telegraph Forum, March 30, 2024
The district's policy committee approved a resolution allocating $600,000 this year and the same amount in 2025 to pay for construction of an administration building.

The facility will be 100% supported by Solid Waste Management District fees, and will allow residents 24/7 access to containers for general waste and provide an additional space for special waste collections, such as electronics, hazardous waste, and tires, Executive Director Brian Rockwell said.

"This way we have our own facility with an office," he said. "I can do recycling, collection for electronics, hazardous waste, tires whenever I want and how many times I want. It just makes it easier for the district to be able to do special collections for the public."

Solid Waste Management District Administrative Assistant Tina Barker said the general waste containers are located at the landfill, Bucyrus City Hall, Crawford County Fairgrounds and behind Bob Evans.

Rockwell said that limits the number of the containers and makes it harder for the residents to access the area. General waste reception at the landfill closes at 4 p.m. Another factor is accessing the location when roads are muddy leading to the landfill.

Northeast District

Cuyahoga County moves forward with $33.4M contract for future jail site
Cleveland.com, March 27, 2024
Cuyahoga County Council is moving forward with a $33.4 million contract for a new jail site.

Tuesday, Cuyahoga County Council's Committee of the Whole approved two pieces of legislation related to the Cuyahoga County Central Services Campus, which will house various services in addition to the jail. If the legislation is approved during a Tuesday County Council meeting, it will have one more reading before becoming final. This could happen as soon as early April.

The largest piece of legislation, a $33.4 million design/build contract to Gilbane Building Company, would only cover part of the Central Services Campus' projected nine-figure price tag.

The largest portion of the contract, $30 million, would be for "early packages," which are expenses that are not specifically defined, but are necessary to keep the project moving, said Nichole English, the county's planning and programming administrator.

For example, the site has buildings that require demolition, land that must be leveled and basic utility lines that must be extended, English said.

Central District

Long-discussed Columbus zoning changes nearing the finish line
Columbus Dispatch, March 26, 2024
The owners of 13,000 properties in Columbus — mainly those on main bus transportation thoroughfares — will have their zoning and all the associated rules that go with it changed over the summer under City Council's planned update of the city's zoning code.

City officials say the long-discussed zoning overhaul would streamline the approval process for developing more badly needed housing, reduce a Columbus-area shortage, and reduce historic racism.

However, critics say the zoning code overhaul is being done to please developers — major political donors to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther and city council members — by removing ways that neighborhood groups and residents can interfere with their building projects.

Among other things, the proposed changes are expected to:

- Usher in taller buildings.
- Result in fewer expensive parking lots or garages with more apartment residents vying for parking spaces on city streets.
- Reduce site-by-site community negotiations for "variances" from the existing city building code, a process that begins in the city's neighborhood area commissions, whose members are appointed by council, and where residents can begin to provide input.

Southwest District

Busy commission meeting includes talks with county officials, business reps, FFA students
Highland County Press, March 22, 2024
Highland County commissioners David Daniels, Brad Roades and Terry Britton hosted guests from county offices and a local high school, as well as workforce development, land conservancy and renewable energy companies, during a nearly two-hour meeting Wednesday, March 20.

As part of their regular passage of resolutions, commissioners authorized a funding transfer related to foster care costs, while commissioners also voiced their opinion on county voters' rejection of the proposed Highland County Children Services tax levy on the March 19 primary ballot.

Commissioners voted 3-0 to approve a transfer of funds from Public Assistance Fund, 2050 to Children Services Fund, 2115 in the amount of $110,546 for foster care cost utilizing Title XXT funding.

"That's an example of our federal Title XX TANF [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families] transfer money," Highland County Job & Family Services Director Jeremy Ratcliff said of the resolution. "We divert as much as that as we possibly can to pay foster care costs. Not all of our federal dollars allow us to pay foster care placement costs, but that one does, and so we divert as many of those dollars, unfortunately, from other social service activities to pay foster care costs."

Later in the meeting, Daniels said he wished "to express my disappointment that the Children Services levy didn't pass last night," as Ratcliff said the agency faces a potential shortfall of $900,000.

Southeast District

Commissioners Receive Construction Bids
WHIZ, March 25, 2024
Before all the orange barrels and summertime detours, come all the engineering details and financial budgeting.

Muskingum County Engineer's Project Manager Shawn Johnson recently met with the county commissioners to discuss county highway concerns and open bids for upcoming construction projects.

"So every year we apply for certain pots of funding through the CEAO, so it's the County Engineer's Association of Ohio," Johnson said. "This particular round we applied for safety funds and they fund up to $300,000 dollars of guardrail projects or you can do a grant for $150,000 dollars for pavement marking projects. So we applied for both and were fortunate enough to get them both funded."

The engineer's office inspects county roads for various issues to determine their needs and how strongly they should be prioritized.

"So I actually did a set of plans for both projects," Johnson said. "So I took the list that our inspector come up with and then you know we whittled it down to the ones we definitely wanted and made sure stayed under the budget limit. And then included those in the set of plans. And so those go off to the ODOT for approval being as there's federal money involved. And so that's pretty much how those go. So there are specific roads for both guard rail and pavement marking."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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APRIL 5
Annual CEBCO Business Meeting

APRIL 8
Solar Eclipse

APRIL 10
2024 State of the State Address

APRIL 18-19
CCAO Board of Directors Retreat

APRIL 24
CCAO Webinar: Broadband

MAY 3
CCAO / CEAO Central District Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

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Clermont County

A remarkable woman called the Clermont County community of Edenton home. H. Anna Quinby was born on July 8, 1871, and would go on to hold several "firsts" for Ohio women.

She received her law degree from Ohio State University and, in 1908, was an attorney for the prosecution in the first case in Ohio legal history where the lead attorney for both the prosecution and defense was a woman. Quinby was also the first Ohio woman to be admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States, according to both *Woman's Who's Who of America: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporary Women of the United States and Canada (1914-1915)* and her obituary in 1931.

According to the March 1921 edition of *American Lumberman*, Quinby was also the first Ohio woman to apply for the position of notary public, a position which women had been barred from before the 19th Amendment. She was profiled in American Lumberman because in addition to her legal pursuits, she also was the sole owner of a hardwood timber farm.

Finally, according to the October 24, 1924, edition of the *Salem News*, Quinby was also the first Ohio woman and the first Clermont County native of either sex, to become a member of the Ohio Ton-Litter Club. The club recognizes pork farmers who raise a litter of pigs to a ton of pork within 180 days. She raised 12 pigs to a combined weight of 2,546 pounds, good for fourth in the state that year.

This accomplished, multi-faceted woman passed away at the age of 62 in 1931 after suffering a stroke.

So, if you find yourself in the 1920s and need an accomplished lawyer, a notary public, a hardwood wholesaler, and a pork farmer, just head down to Clermont County and look up H. Anna Quinby.

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