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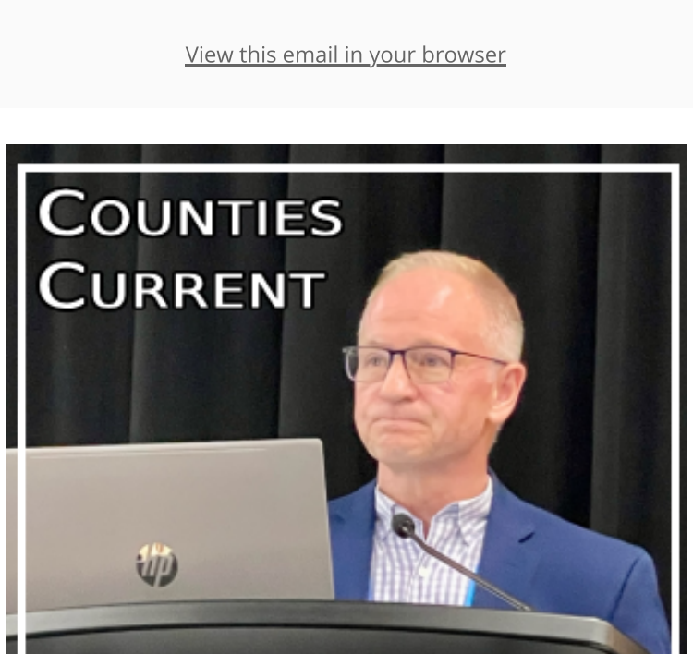
COUNTIES CURRENT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo
CCAO

July 15, 2024

CCAO President and Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl advocated for NACo to continue to include in its policy platform a resolution in support of reforming the Windfall Elimination Provision in the Social Security Act, which reduces benefits for individuals who split their careers in the public and private sectors.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | County News | Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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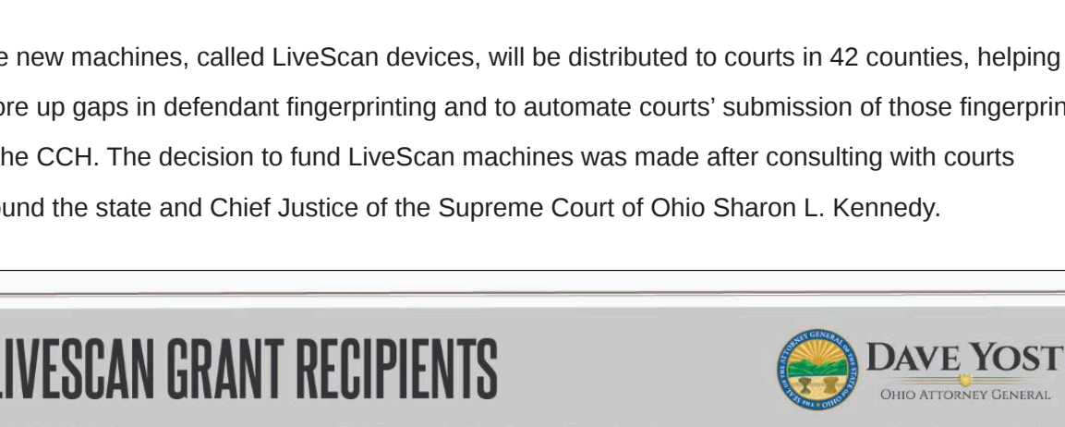
Courts across the state to receive fingerprint scanning machines under Attorney General grants

Earlier this month, Attorney General Dave Yost announced the awarding of just under $900,000 in grants to pay for entities in 42 counties to acquire fingerprint scanning machines.

The 77 machines will go primarily to courts (municipal, county, and common pleas) but some municipal police departments will receive machines as well. Additionally, the Clermont County Jail and the Darke County Jail will both receive a machine. A full list of entities receiving machines can be found below.

Ohio law requires the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation to maintain the state's Computerized Criminal History (CCH), a database of fingerprints and criminal records based on information supplied by 200+ courts statewide as their cases conclude. These records are relied upon for criminal investigations; prosecutorial charges; sentencing decisions; correctional supervision and release; and background checks for those applying for licenses or firearms purchases, and those who work with children, older Ohioans or people with disabilities.

The new machines, called LiveScan devices, will be distributed to courts in 42 counties, helping to shore up gaps in defendant fingerprinting and to automate courts' submission of those fingerprints to the CCH. The decision to fund LiveScan machines was made after consulting with courts around the state and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio Sharon L. Kennedy.



LIVESCAN GRANT RECIPIENTS

DAVE YOST OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

APPLICANT NAME	COUNTY	# OF DEVICES
Allen County Common Pleas	Allen	1
Conneaut Police Department	Ashtabula	1
Clark County Juvenile Court	Clark	1
Clark County Municipal Court	Clark	2
Clermont County Jail	Clermont	1
Clermont County Juvenile Court	Clermont	2
Clinton County Juvenile Court	Clinton	1
Berea Municipal Court	Cuyahoga	1
Cleveland Heights Municipal Court	Cuyahoga	1
Cleveland Municipal Court	Cuyahoga	1
Euclid Municipal Court	Cuyahoga	1
Darke County Sheriff's Office (Jail)	Darke	1
Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court	Delaware	1
Delaware Municipal Court	Delaware	1
Vermilion P.D.	Erie	1
Fayette County Clerk of Courts	Fayette	1
Fayette County Probate & Juvenile Courts	Fayette	1
Gallia County Common Pleas Court (General)	Gallia	1
Geauga County Common Pleas	Geauga	1
Greene County Common Pleas (General)	Greene	1
Xenia Municipal Court	Greene	1
Guernsey County Juvenile Court	Guernsey	1
Fairfax P.D./Mayors Court	Hamilton	2
Hamilton County Common Pleas (General)	Hamilton	2
Hamilton County Municipal Court	Hamilton	2
Loveland Mayor's Court and Loveland P.D.	Hamilton	1
Henry County Family Court (Common Pleas, Clerk of Courts)	Henry	1
Highland County Probation Department	Highland	1
Hocking County Common Pleas (General, Juvenile)	Hocking	1
Hocking County Municipal Court	Hocking	1
Jefferson County Court District I, II & III	Jefferson	3
Steubenville Municipal Court	Jefferson	1
Lawrence County Common Pleas Court (Adult Probation)	Lawrence	1
Logan County Family Court	Logan	1
Lorain Municipal Court	Lorain	2
Elyria Municipal Court	Lorain	2
Youngstown Municipal Court	Mahoning	2
Marion County Common Pleas (Family)	Marion	1
Medina County Common Pleas Court & Medina County S.O.	Medina	1
Medina County Juvenile Court	Medina	2
Miami County Common Pleas and Municipal Court	Miami	1
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	Montgomery	2
Dayton Municipal Court	Montgomery	2
Muskingum County Juvenile Court	Muskingum	1
Noble County Court	Noble	1
Ottawa County Probate and Juvenile Court	Ottawa	1
Perry County Common Pleas Court (General)	Perry	1
Pike County (Common Pleas, Juvi, County)	Pike	2
Preble County Juvenile Court	Preble	1
Ross County Common Pleas (General, Juvenile)	Ross	1
Scioto County Common Pleas Court	Scioto	1
Stark County Common Pleas Court (General)	Stark	1
Stow Municipal Court	Summit	1
Summit County Juvenile Court	Summit	1
Trumbull County Common Pleas Court (General)	Trumbull	1
Trumbull County Juvenile Court	Trumbull	1
Warrensville Heights P.D.	Trumbull	1
Warren Municipal Court	Trumbull	1
New Philadelphia Municipal Court	Tuscarawas	1
Warren County Common Pleas	Warren	1
Warren County Common Pleas (Probate, Juvi)	Warren	1
Williams County Common Please Court (Juvenile)	Williams	1
Northwest Ohio JDC	Williams	1

URGENT: DRC seeking notices of intent to participate in TCAP for upcoming state budget requests

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) administers the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) grant program through Bureau of Community Sanctions (BCS). This grant provides funding to counties who volunteer and agree to participate in the program and who submit Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) pursuant to R.C. 2929.34 and R.C. 5149.38 that indicate their willingness to participate. In the SFY 2024-2025 biennium (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025), 63 counties volunteered to participate.

In preparation for the upcoming state operating budget (which will run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027), DRC needs to know which counties will be participating in the TCAP grant program during SFYs 2026 and 2027 to determine the correct amount of funding to request from the General Assembly to support the TCAP grants.

DRC is respectfully requesting that counties provide an email response from one person authorized to respond on behalf of the county to DRC.BCSgrants@odrc.state.oh.us **by Wednesday July 31, 2024.**

These responses will be used to create applications in early 2025 through which each county will be required to upload their Memorandum of Understanding. Requests made after this date, may be excluded from consideration. Each email response must include the following information:

- **County:**
- **Name of Primary Contact:**
- **Phone number of Primary Contact:**
- **Email Address of Primary Contact:**
- **FY24/25 T-CAP participation (choose only one):**
  - **{ } YES Felony 5 T-CAP**
  - **{ } YES Felony 5 and Felony 4 TCAP**
  - **{ } NO**

It is ***imperative*** that each county respond by July 31, 2024, as requests made beyond this date may not be included in the budget request presented by DRC. It is the intent of BCS to pursue TCAP grants with all counties that indicate their desire to participate if funding permits.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and response. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Morris at Matthew.Morris@drc.ohio.gov or Jennifer Gentry at Jennifer.Gentry@drc.ohio.gov.

Traffic enforcement camera annual report due this month

Any county that operated or contracted with another party to operate any traffic enforcement cameras during the previous state fiscal year (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024) is required a file a report with the Department of Taxation no later than July 31. This report is required by R.C. 5747.502 and must contain the location of traffic enforcement cameras and the civil fines collected from the cameras in school zones and non-school zones.

A copy of the report can be accessed here. If you have questions concerning the reporting requirement, please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation, Revenue Accounting Division at RevenueAccounting@tax.state.oh.us or call (614) 466-7150.

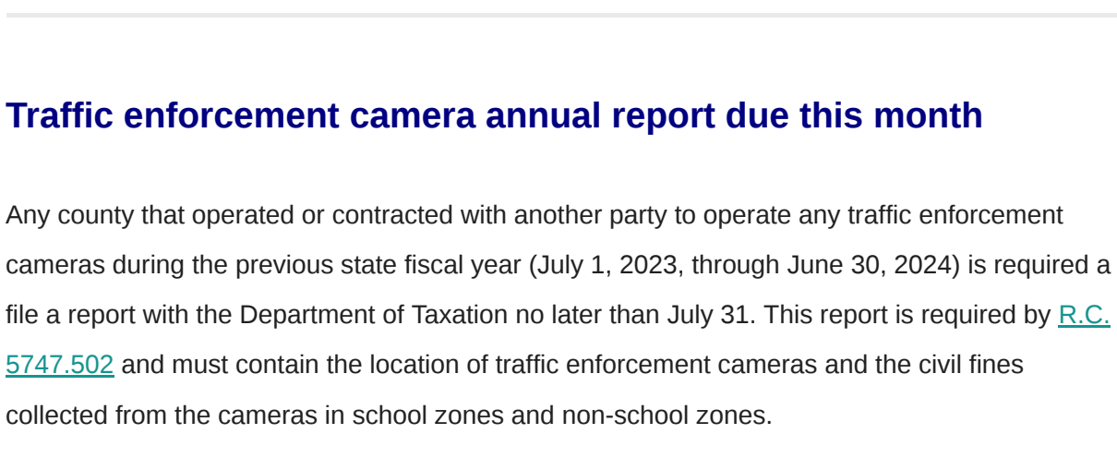
More than half of Ohio counties to receive Department of Interior PILT funding

In late June, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that state and local governments nationwide would be receiving Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from the federal government from revenue generated by commercial activities on public (and thus tax-exempt) land. The total PILT payments will total $621.2 million, of which about $800,000 will flow to Ohio counties.

Payments are based on both the number of acres tax exempt in each county and the amount of economic activity generated by the acres. According to the Department of Interior's website, 45 Ohio counties will receive PILTs for 2024. Payments range from $235 (Brown and Jefferson counties) to $141,931 (Lawrence County).

As the map below shows, using 2023 PILTs, counties in western states tend to receive larger PILTs due to a combination of more tribal land and more federally owned land in the western states.

No exact disbursement date has been announced, but NACo and CCAO will notify counties once that date is released.


2023 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) AMOUNT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo
Explorer.NACo.org
COUNTY EXPLORER
1344
543
568
439
175
$0.0
$1.0
$10.0K
$100.0K
$1.0M
$4.2M

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner:

JobsOhio

Ohio's Economic
Development Corporation

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Final OBM report for SFY 2024 shows less revenue and spending than expected, allowing positive year-end balance

Last week, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released its Monthly Financial Report for June. The report doubles as the final report for SFY 2024 (July 2023 through June 2024).

The state finished the fiscal year with a cash balance of $1.1 billion despite total revenue falling 0.5% below estimates. Non-auto sales tax revenue finished a negligible amount less than estimated (0.04% below) while auto sales tax and the personal income tax both fell well short of their estimates (4.3% and 4.6%, respectively).

While revenues fell short of OBM's anticipations, state spending finished below budget as well, enabling the state to finish the fiscal year with a positive balance. State General Revenue Fund disbursements ended about $1.6 bill below budget (or 3.8% less spending than expected).

Spending in eight of the nine categories finished the state fiscal year below estimates, with the Health and Human Services category finishing the most underbudget as a percentage of estimates (9.3% less than anticipated). Medicaid spending finished the most under budget in raw dollar figures (about $1.2 billion less than initial estimates).

Comment period on state Fire Code open through July 25

The Division of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), part of the Ohio Department of Commerce, is in the process of reviewing and updating all chapters of the Ohio Fire Code. The State Fire Marshal is accepting comments on the draft proposed rules until the end of the day on Thursday, July 27.

The draft code is available here. The division has also made available a table summarizing significant changes, accessible here.

If you have any questions about the rule update process and/or the submission of a comment, please contact OhioFireCode@com.ohio.gov or call the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau at 614-728-5460.

Auditor of State opens nominations for Taxpayer Hero Awards

Auditor of State Keith Faber announced last week that nominations for Taxpayer Hero Awards are open. The award was created to acknowledge state and local government officials who demonstrate initiative with innovative ideas to cut costs, increase efficiency, protect tax dollars, and uphold the integrity of government in Ohio.

Nominations can be submitted by anyone in the state and will be reviewed and approved by the Auditor or a designee. Once a nomination is approved, the person will be contacted and formally presented with a certificate and an award.

Nominations can be submitted 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.

CCAO, DCY to hold child welfare placement webinar

On Thursday, July 25, CCAO and Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Director Kara Wente will provide an update on the department's transition and strategic goals. The director will focus on updates regarding Ohio's child welfare placement challenges, including information on the department's Children Services Placement Crisis Working Group.

Members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

House Bill 33, the state operating budget, created DCY as a new cabinet level agency. DCY operates programs and services previously housed at six other cabinet agencies and serve children prenatal to age 21.

Director Wente has spent her career advocating for children. She has served as the Director of the Governor's Children's Initiative since January 2023 and was previously the Chief Operating Officer for Future Ready Columbus. With more than 20 years in dedicated state service, Wente has extensive experience in serving the most vulnerable children and families in Ohio.

She used data as an accountability tool for systemic change during her time as the Assistant Director of Health and Human Services at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and led several large-scale system and policy changes as Deputy Director at the Office of Family Assistance.

You can register for the webinar here. If you are unable to register with this link, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627, and provide her with your email address.

Registration for SPBR conference open until July 31

Registration is now open for the State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) conference and will continue through the month of July.

The conference, to be held on August 22, is intended for those new to the field of managing exempt and non-exempt employees in the classified civil service. This SPBR Conference is also for new or current managers, union officials, attorneys, staff, human resource professionals, elected officeholders, and those who are or will be working in positions where they need to know how Ohio's laws and court decisions are evolving to impact public varied employment issues and questions.

Registration costs $175 and can be completed here. Rooms are available at the Marriott Columbus Northwest as well (SPBR requests that you abstain from booking hotel rooms until your registration for the event is confirmed).

The session topics include the following:

- How Will AI Impact Tomorrow's Workforce?
- Best Practices and Challenges to Implementing R.C. 124.34 Orders
- Whose Side is HR On? Employer vs Employee Interests
- Social Media: Work or Personal Expression?
- Public Records: Challenges and Solutions
- Bridging the Generational Divide: Building a Cohesive Workplace Culture

An application for 5.5 continuing legal education hours is pending.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Lucas County announces new Conviction Integrity Unit

Toledo Blade, July 6, 2024

Dubious criminal convictions in Lucas County are about to face a fresh wave of scrutiny.

The county prosecutor's office announced the creation of a new Conviction Integrity Unit on Wednesday morning; a review board will examine select innocence claims where new evidence, science, or witness testimony arises.

"We don't always get it right," said Pete Gerken, Lucas County commissioner, "and when we don't get it right, people's lives hang in the balance."

Lucas County has seen several high-profile cases involving wrongful convictions in the limelight in the past few years. Danny Brown, who was released early after serving nearly 20 years in prison, had a wrongful imprisonment lawsuit dismissed in 2018. In the case of Eric Misch, who was convicted 31 years ago, a judge ruled in June that the state had suppressed exculpatory evidence.

Beyond these and other cases that raised questions about the validity of their convictions, two other primary factors sparked the county to look into and then move forward with the creation of the unit. First, conviction integrity units and innocence projects have sprung up all across the country in the last five years as criminal justice reform advocates highlight the prevalence of wrongful convictions. And second, a surge in cases during the pandemic forced the prosecutor's office to re-examine the way it operates.

The goal of the CIU is to actively seek out cases where either the police or the prosecution erred and work to deliver justice.

Northeast District

New Lake County local government funding formula receives community approval

News Herald, July 6, 2024

A majority of Lake County communities have approved a new formula to determine how much state funding each receives, giving the formula enough support to go into effect for next year.

The new local government fund alternative formula replaces one from 1982. Local officials say that the new formula increases funding to the eastern end of the county and decreases it in the west to more closely match the county's population distribution.

The new formula also decreases funding for the county's park districts.

To take effect, the new formula needed approval from the county commissioners, Mentor City Council as the representative for the county's largest city and at least 12 of the remaining 22 city, village and township governments in Lake County. Elected officials began to consider the formula in June.

The formula received the needed approvals by the end of the month.

The townships in the county's central and eastern portions stand to receive "a considerable increase" under the new formula, County Auditor Chris Galloway previously said. He added that they had "gotten the short end of the stick" for the previous 42 years.

Central District

Commissioners open road material bids, hear splash pad concerns

Perry County Tribune, July 3, 2024

At the June 26 Perry County Board of Commissioners' meeting, commissioners Dan Kinsel and Ben Carpenter addressed a handful of issues and opened bids for the purchase of materials for three county roads.

The roads in question are County Roads 97, 57 and 12. One company, the Ohio Bridge Corporation, was the sole bidder for each one, with price bids of $80,270 for County Road 97; $74,848 for County Road 57; and $109,140 for County Road 12. The commissioners indicated they will take the bids under advisement and address the issue at a later date.

Under the heading of paperwork, the commissioners approved the final renovation project on the courthouse, as well as the billing process for the project. They also approved the moving around of funds at the Perry Multi County Juvenile Facility, to cover costs of new workbooks, field trips, and updated firewalls for their residents.

The board heard from Mendra Hupp and Cheryl Boley, representing Perry County Job and Family Services. Hupp and Boley discussed closing out the county's Healthy Aging Grant and proposed some ideas on what can be done with the leftover money.

After getting the go-ahead to proceed with the grant close-out, Boley expressed appreciation towards her team, saying "I just really want to acknowledge Mendra: she's done a real good job on this. Our staff has worked hard, it was a lot of work, and all the details fell right on our shoulders."

Southwest District

Work starts on new Warren County court building, crime unit HQ planned in Lebanon

Dayton Daily News, July 9, 2024

Warren County is continuing to replace government facilities with more than $16 million in projects moving forward.

Crews are prepping the site of a new county court building, and plans are in the early stages for a new headquarters for a law enforcement unit, said Trevor Hearn, head of the county's facilities management.

The new $12.5 million court facility on Justice Drive, southeast of downtown Lebanon, is replacing the one built in 1976, Hearn said.

"Due to the growth of the county seen over the last 10 years, (it) just has the need to expand the services that they offer to the residents here," he said.

The county's population last year was 252,148, nearly 40,000 more than in 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Hearn said the new one-story, 28,000 square-foot building will feature two new courtrooms, a hearing room, and space for the Probation Department, County Court Clerk and other personnel.

County officials have said the new building will be paid for in cash and won't be bonded.

Southeast District

Major Project Planned to Pave More Than 17 Miles of Belmont County Roads

The Intelligencer, July 8, 2024

Bids were officially opened for a major paving project in Belmont County.

The project will be the paving of seven roads in the county stretching 17.3 miles in total. The project is being funded with a U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration grant. Belmont County Engineer Terry Lively applied for the grant.

"Back in 2020 I applied for this grant through federal highways and it's an 80/20 split up to a maximum of $2 million on the grant and we're maxing out the grant," Lively said. "Federal highways offers money for various funds for various projects through our county engineers association. If we are awarded it, then the money is administrated through ODOT District 11 up in New Philidelphia (which) makes sure we follow all of the proper procedures."

The seven roads to be repaired are County Road 10 in Fairpoint and Maynard, County Road 10 in Crescent and Barton, County Road 24 in Boydsville, County Road 30 at Dixon Hill, County Road 56 in Maynard off Ohio 9, County Road 56 in Maynard off U.S. 250 to the Harrison County line and County Road 72 in Mount Hope. The estimated time frame for the major paving project includes a start date of late August and a completion date of Oct. 25.

Lively recommended that the Belmont County Board of Commissioners accept the bid of $2,884,438 by Shelly & Sands Inc. of Rayland.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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JULY 19
County Classic Golf Outing

JULY 26
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 16
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 21 - 23
CCAO Summer Symposium - Hocking Hills

AUGUST 23
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

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