November 12, 2024

Last week, Fairfield County Commissioner and Vietnam War veteran David Levacy was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. He received the honor due to his military service and life-long commitment to public service across a variety of positions.

Congratulations on the honor, and thank you for your service, Commissioner Levacy!

***Photo courtesy of** Governor Mike DeWine*

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CCAO Nominating Committee issues report

A letter from Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb, Chair of the CCAO Nominating Committee

Earlier this year CCAO President Chris Abbuhl (Tuscarawas County) appointed me to serve as the Chair of the CCAO Nominating Committee. Also serving on the Committee are:

1. Lenny Eliason, Athens County
2. Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County
3. Glenn Miller, Henry County
4. Dave Wilson, Guernsey County

The Committee was charged with recommending candidates for five officer positions and seven regular two-year Board seats as well as one one-year unexpired term. The Committee met on November 8, 2024, and a copy of our report is attached. The attached summary sheet shows the composition of the Board if the Nominating Committee Report is approved. Please note that this list includes individuals who were elected to a two-year Board term last year and will be completing the last year of their terms in 2025.

This report will be formally presented at the annual CCAO Business Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024, and nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The committee wishes to thank all members who submitted their names for consideration. The nomination process was difficult because of the number highly qualified and motivated individuals who expressed an interest in serving.

Finally, the 2025 President will make nine more appointments to the CCAO Board for next year. Should you desire to be considered for such an appointment, please complete and return the attached form and questionnaire to Robin Garrett at CCAO ***no later than November 27, 2024***. In the event you previously expressed an interest to the Nominating Committee for a position and were not selected, you need NOT submit your name again as the next president will automatically receive names previously submitted.

You can view the full nominating report and the request for consideration for a presidential appointment here.

Stark County Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton announces retirement

Last week, long-time Stark County Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton retired. Her career in service to Stark County began forty years ago when she was elected as Stark County Recorder.

Throughout her career, Janet also served as Stark County Auditor, mayor of Canton, worked in the White House under President George W. Bush, and has been a Stark County Commissioner since 2011.

CCAO thanks Commissioner Creighton for her service to Stark County and involvement with the Association, and we wish her the best in retirement!

CCAO member, county ballot issue election outcomes overview

Last week, the November general election included contests for 188 county commissioner, county executive, and county council seats (including two unexpired seats) and 85 county ballot issues, the majority of which were property tax levies. Full lists of the CCAO member races and the county ballot issues can be found on CCAO's Data Exchange.

As a note, election results are not official until final certification, and some election results may change when that occurs. Applicable races are noted both in the lists and in the analysis below.

Based on the unofficial results, five incumbents lost their seats:

- Sandra Ogle (Hocking County)
- David Ditzler (Mahoning County)
- Debbie Lieberman (Montgomery County)
- Adam Shriver (Morgan County)
- Mauro Cantalamessa (Trumbull County)

Additionally, incumbent Jack Schron (Cuyahoga County Council District 6) is trailing by 17 votes (50.01% to 49.99%). This is well within the 0.5% margin that triggers an automatic recount. The recount, plus the counting of absentee ballots not received by election night (ballots must be received no later than four days after the election to be counted), means this race is still too close to call.

CCAO will welcome a freshman class of either 54 or 55 members (pending the outcome of the Cuyahoga County Council District 6 race). The class includes one former legislator (Tim Ginter, Columbiana County) and two former commissioners (Tom Dunlap, Huron County, and Tom McCarthy, Union County).

On the ballot issue front, there were 79 property tax levies, two sales tax levies, a county excise tax levy, a transit authority sales tax levy, and two county charter amendments.

Ten property tax levies failed. An eleventh may have failed, as a replacement and increase levy for the Paulding County Senior Center passed by only 30 votes, meaning the outcome is subject to an automatic recount.

Two of the ten were renewal levies: a 0.9 mill renewal for Highland County Children Services and a 2.0 mill renewal for the Perry County County Home. The Perry County County Home levy failed by just three votes, so the result may change as absentee ballots are counted and the automatic recount is conducted.

One of the two county sales tax levies passed, while the other failed. Gallia County successfully passed a continuation of its 0.25% levy to fund the county's 9-1-1 system. With the passage, the county's rate will remain at 1.50%. Columbiana County was unsuccessful in passing a renewal of its 1.00% levy for general fund purposes. With the levy not passing, the county's rate will decrease to 0.50%.

In other ballot issue news, Cuyahoga County successfully extended its excise tax on cigarettes, the proceeds of which fund arts and culture programs; the Central Ohio Transit Authority passed an increase in its sales tax authority to bolster services, affecting parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, and Union counties; and Summit County passed a charter amendment to modify familial relation employment provisions and failed to pass an amendment altering when county entities must submit estimated revenues and expenditures.

Final week to submit Letters of Interest for NACo Board of Directors representative positions

As part of the upcoming CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, CCAO will be electing two members to the National Association of Counties (NACo) board of directors, per NACo bylaws, during the CCAO Annual Business meeting.

We ask that individuals interested in running for these two positions submit a 1-2-page letter of interest to Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org by Noon, Monday, November 18. CCAO will distribute these letters to Ohio NACo members on Wednesday, November 20.

During the annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5, CCAO will conduct an election for these two positions. This vote will be by paper ballot. Each NACo county will receive two votes, and the top two vote-getters will be the new representatives to the NACo board of directors. The elected board members will begin their terms in July 2025.

This election will not impact any other NACo board positions Ohio members may hold, such as those receiving board appointments from the NACo president or due to previous service as NACo president.

Should there be a two-way tie for first place, both individuals will receive board seats. If there is a three-way tie for first place, there will be a runoff election. If there is a tie for second place, there will be a runoff election. If a tie remains after two elections, a coin toss will be conducted to determine the winner.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact Cheryl Subler or Robin Garrett.

CORSA: Business Email Compromise, the $55 billion scam

Incidents of local governments falling victim to fraudulent payment redirection and business compromise schemes are on the rise. Business Email Compromise/Email Account Compromise (BEC/EAC) is a sophisticated scam that targets governmental entities, businesses and individuals who perform legitimate transfer-of-funds. These scams are frequently carried out when bad actors compromise legitimate government or business email accounts through social engineering or computer intrusion to conduct unauthorized transfers of funds.

BCE scams typically involve bad actors who impersonate a trusted vendor, fellow officeholder/agency or employee in an email and request a change to a bank account, investment account, or a transfer of funds to a specified bank account unaffiliated with the legitimate business. Always verify and validate all such requests by independent means.

Per the Auditor of State, "***NEVER make a change to vendor, financial institution or employee's contact information or banking information without independent verification. Avoid taking re-direct requests by electronic means. In-person communication is always the best practice for verifying identity and contact information. Never use email or embedded phone numbers to verify change requests.***"

Both the Ohio Auditor of State and the FBI report an increase in BCE scams every year which have totaled $55 billion from 2013 to 2023. The Auditor of State offers several BCE risk mitigation practices outlined in Bulletin 2024-003. It is critical that you implement and adhere to these practices if you have not already done so to reduce the risk of falling victim to BCE scams.

Also, the AOS bolded in Bulletin 2024-003 "Failure to follow the guidance in this Bulletin may result in an AOS finding when a loss occurs, and the employee is considered liable as a result of negligence or performing duties without reasonable care."

The FBI also provides several risk mitigation measures. It is also critical that you make sure staff is aware of the current payment policies and practices and you train and test them on same.

CORSA members may enhance awareness of this issue by taking advantage of CORSA University at www.corsa.org that provides the course "Protection from Ransomware and Phishing Attacks." Most importantly, make sure you have implemented the risk mitigation measures contained in AOS Bulletin 2024-13 and train and test staff on same.

As always, feel free to contact me or a loss control staff member with questions about CORSA loss control services and offerings.

CCAO seeking applicants for Administrative Professional position

This role involves providing comprehensive administrative and secretarial support, including drafting, editing, and formatting documents. You'll handle communication tasks such as answering mainline phones, greeting visitors, and sending bulk email communications. Database management is key, ensuring the organization's database is accurate and up-to-date.

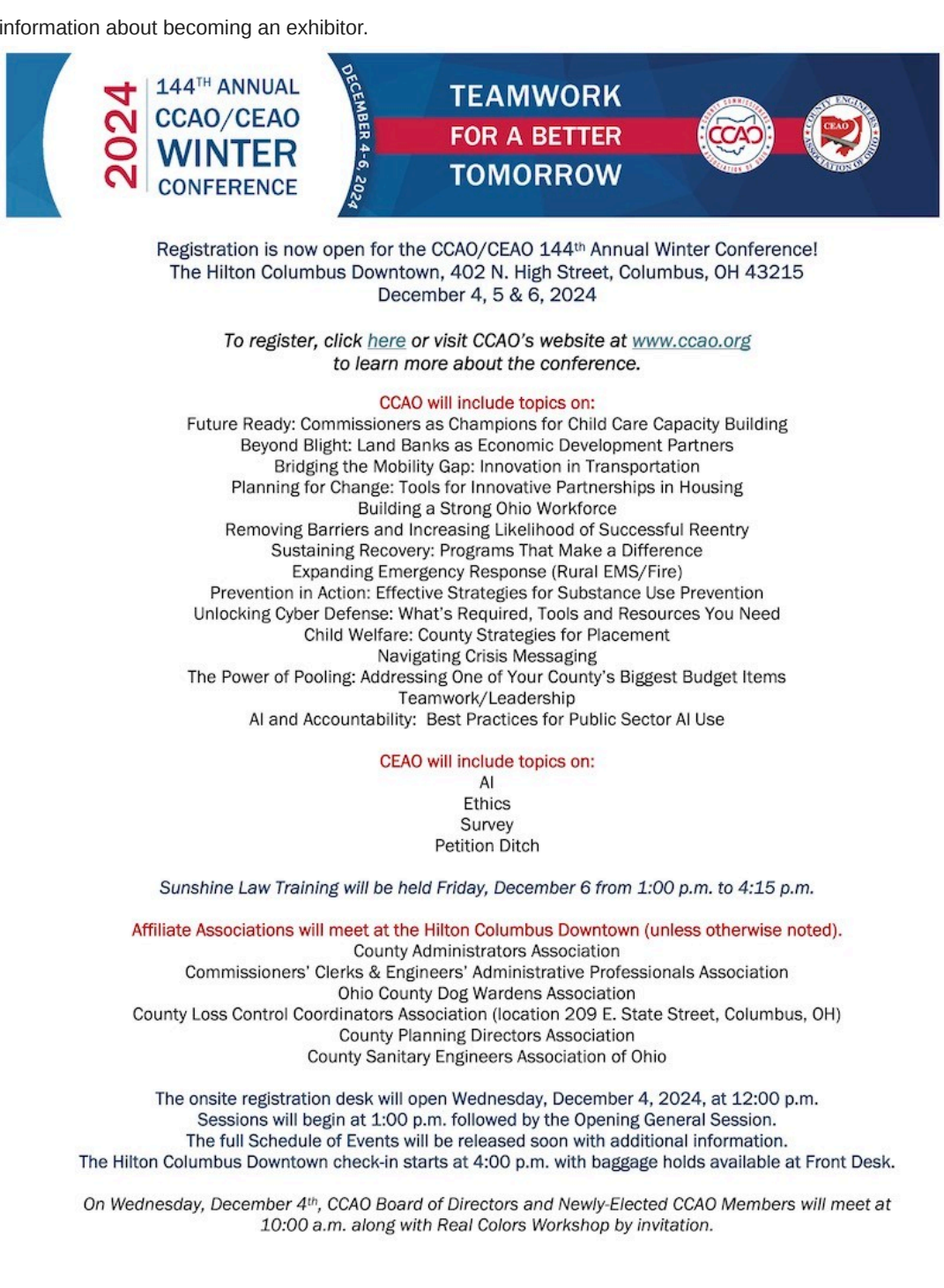
Financial responsibilities include managing and tracking annual member/affiliate dues and logging incoming checks. You'll coordinate meetings, webinars, appointments, and travel arrangements and provide administrative support for webinars using GoToWebinar/Teams. Office management duties involve monitoring and ordering supplies, arranging food and beverages for meetings, and maintaining common areas. Event coordination includes tracking registrations and preparing meeting rooms.

You'll also handle mail, prepare and send outgoing parcels, and develop familiarity with CCAO membership to enhance customer service. Additionally, you'll set up and troubleshoot AV equipment for meetings and perform other duties as assigned.

More information, including how to apply, can be found at the job posting on LinkedIn.

Register for the 2024 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference!

CCAO's website has more information about the upcoming Winter Conference, including forms to become a sponsor, registration forms for those who would prefer to mail or fax a registration, and information about becoming an exhibitor.


2024
144TH ANNUAL
CCAO/CEAO
WINTER
CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 4-6, 2024
TEAMWORK
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW
CCAO
CEAO

Registration is now open for the CCAO/CEAO 144th Annual Winter Conference!
The Hilton Columbus Downtown, 402 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215
December 4, 5 & 6, 2024

To register, click here or visit CCAO's website at www.ccao.org
to learn more about the conference.

CCAO will include topics on:
Future Ready: Commissioners as Champions for Child Care Capacity Building
Beyond Blight: Land Banks as Economic Development Partners
Bridging the Mobility Gap: Innovation in Transportation
Planning for Change: Tools for Innovative Partnerships in Housing
Building a Strong Ohio Workforce
Removing Barriers and Increasing Likelihood of Successful Reentry
Sustaining Recovery: Programs That Make a Difference
Expanding Emergency Response (Rural EMS/Fire)
Prevention in Action: Effective Strategies for Substance Use Prevention
Unlocking Cyber Defense: What's Required, Tools and Resources You Need
Child Welfare: County Strategies for Placement
Navigating Crisis Messaging
The Power of Pooling: Addressing One of Your County's Biggest Budget Items
Teamwork/Leadership
AI and Accountability: Best Practices for Public Sector AI Use

CEAO will include topics on:
AI
Ethics
Survey
Petition Ditch

Sunshine Law Training will be held Friday, December 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Affiliate Associations will meet at the Hilton Columbus Downtown (unless otherwise noted).
County Administrators Association
Commissioners' Clerks & Engineers' Administrative Professionals Association
Ohio County Dog Wardens Association
County Loss Control Coordinators Association (location 209 E. State Street, Columbus, OH)
County Planning Directors Association
County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio

The onsite registration desk will open Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.
Sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Opening General Session.
The full Schedule of Events will be released soon with additional information.
The Hilton Columbus Downtown check-in starts at 4:00 p.m. with baggage holds available at Front Desk.

On Wednesday, December 4th, CCAO Board of Directors and Newly-Elected CCAO Members will meet at 10:00 a.m. along with Real Colors Workshop by invitation.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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DeWine-Husted Administration makes grant awards

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced grant awards under three programs.

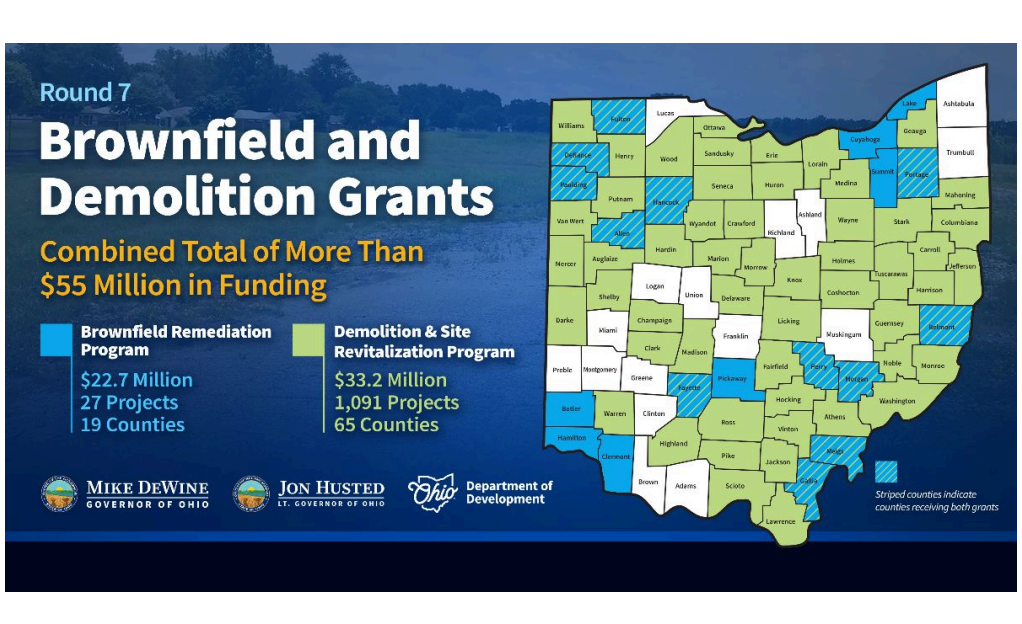
In the seventh round of awards under the Brownfield Remediation Program, the administration granted $22.7 million for 27 projects across the state. One project that received funding is the remediation of a site once used for vulcanizing and dry-cleaning, which will allow the site to expand school facilities, including an indoor swim facility.

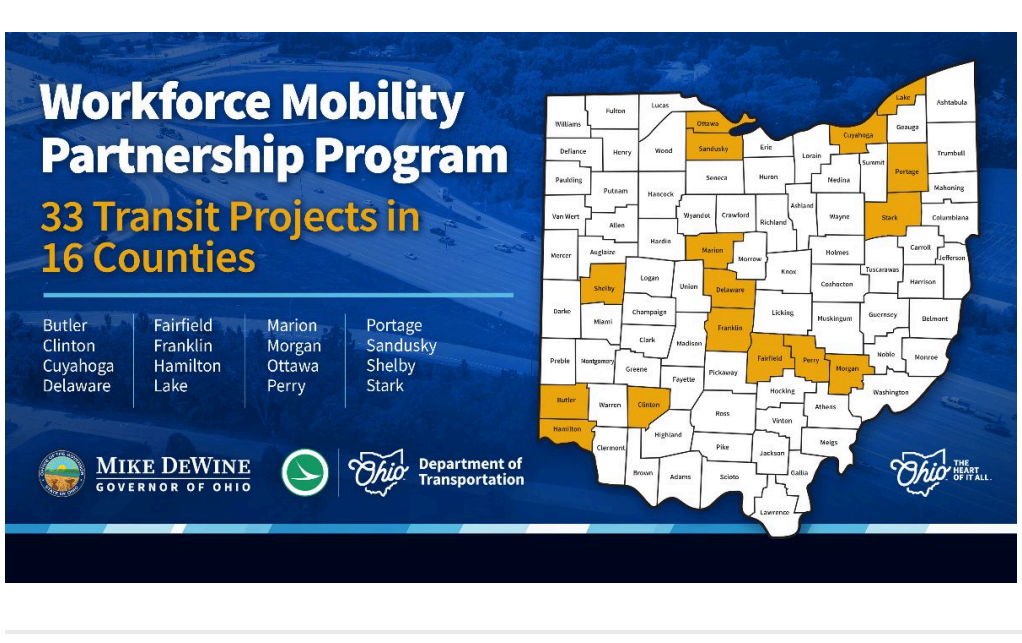
Last week's awards brought the total amount awarded under the Brownfield Remediation Program to more than $510 million for almost 500 projects across 85 counties.

The administration also announced the seventh round of awards under the Demolition and Site Revitalization Program. The seventh and final round awarded $33.2 million across 65 counties. Since the program began, the state has awarded more than $303 million to demolish and revitalize over 6,000 sites.

Also last week, the governor and Department of Transportation Director Pamela Boratyn announced the awarding of $17.5 million for workforce transportation projects across 16 counties. Among the projects that received funding are one to facilitate Perry County purchasing three new vehicles for a route that services employment centers across Perry, Licking, and Fairfield counties; one that will allow Morgan County Public Transit to acquire two new vehicles to improve access and reliability; and funding for Fairfield County to analyze workforce transportation needs and develop strategies to enhance services.

Finally, in the last week of October, the administration announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission selected eight projects in Ohio to receive federal funding. One of the projects is spearheaded by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. The project seeks to improve broadband speeds in seven townships across the county, ultimately serving 60 businesses and more than 1,200 households.

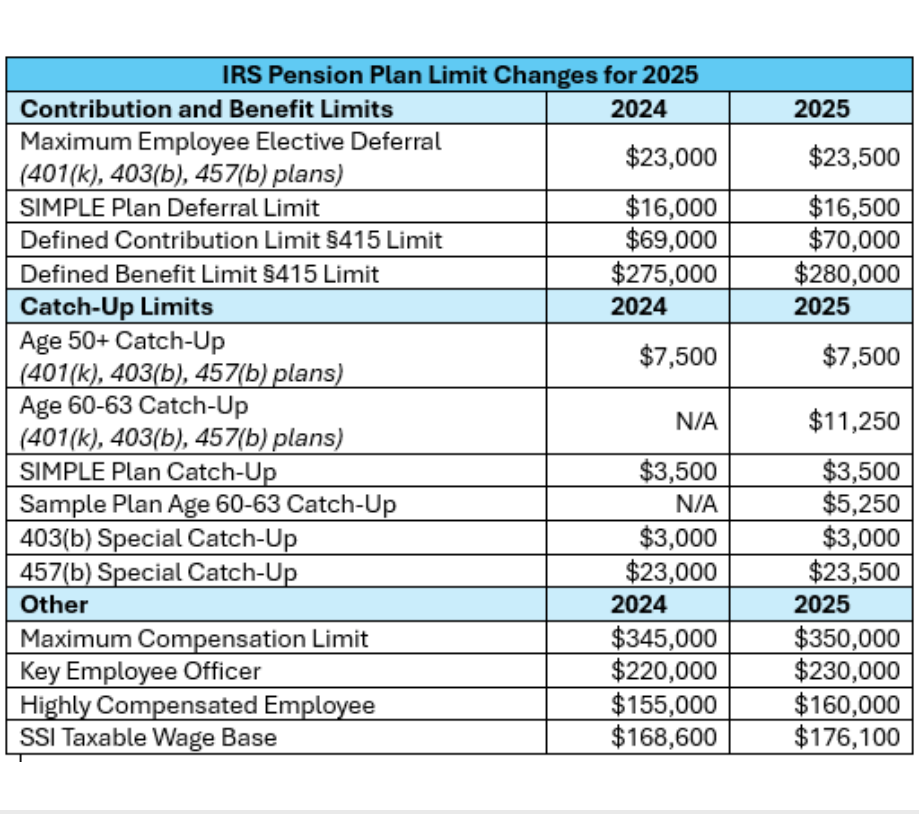

Round 7
Brownfield and Demolition Grants
Combined Total of More Than $55 Million in Funding
Brownfield Remediation Program
$22.7 Million
27 Projects
19 Counties
Demolition & Site Revitalization Program
$33.2 Million
1,091 Projects
65 Counties
MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO
JON HUSTED LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO
Ohio Department of Development
Striped counties indicate counties receiving both grants


Workforce Mobility Partnership Program
33 Transit Projects in 16 Counties
Butler
Clinton
Cuyahoga
Delaware
Fairfield
Franklin
Hamilton
Lake
Marion
Morgan
Ottawa
Perry
Portage
Sandusky
Shelby
Stark
MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL

2025 Retirement Limits Announced by the IRS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced the dollar limits for pension plan contributions and benefits under qualified retirement plans for 2025. The annual limits are typically adjusted based on cost-of-living increases as calculated by changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The table below shows the changes between 2024 and 2025. If you have questions about how these changes may affect you and your OCERP plan, please contact your Empower advisor or Steve Caraway, OCERP Administrator and Special Projects Manager, at scaraway@ccao.org.



IRS Pension Plan Limit Changes for 2025		
Contribution and Benefit Limits	**2024**	**2025**
Maximum Employee Elective Deferral *(401(k), 403(b), 457(b) plans)*	$23,000	$23,500
SIMPLE Plan Deferral Limit	$16,000	$16,500
Defined Contribution Limit §415 Limit	$69,000	$70,000
Defined Benefit Limit §415 Limit	$275,000	$280,000
Catch-Up Limits	**2024**	**2025**
Age 50+ Catch-Up *(401(k), 403(b), 457(b) plans)*	$7,500	$7,500
Age 60-63 Catch-Up *(401(k), 403(b), 457(b) plans)*	N/A	$11,250
SIMPLE Plan Catch-Up	$3,500	$3,500
Sample Plan Age 60-63 Catch-Up	N/A	$5,250
403(b) Special Catch-Up	$3,000	$3,000
457(b) Special Catch-Up	$23,000	$23,500
Other	**2024**	**2025**
Maximum Compensation Limit	$345,000	$350,000
Key Employee Officer	$220,000	$230,000
Highly Compensated Employee	$155,000	$160,000
SSI Taxable Wage Base	$168,600	$176,100

Department of Public Safety to host town halls on EMS workforce

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is scheduling town hall meetings with remote attendance options in November as an opportunity for stakeholders to provide live feedback regarding issues facing the EMS workforce. These meetings allow community leaders to comment on the issues and add any insights they'd like included in the final report.

Each town hall meeting will be one hour long, and leaders are encourage to attend one of the following sessions (you're welcome to attend more if you wish). Please register to attend in person or virtually at the link provided for each date you will attend. Each meeting will begin at 6pm and finish no later than 7pm:

- November 18 – Penta Career Center, Perrysburg, OH https://bit.ly/PentaCareerCenterEMSWebinar
- November 19 – Butler Tech, Fairfield Township, OH https://bit.ly/ButlerTechEMSWebinar
- November 20 – Logan-Hocking Middle School, Logan, OH https://bit.ly/LoganHockingEMSWebinar
- November 21 – Wayne County Regional Training Facility, Apple Creek, OH https://bit.ly/WayneCountyEMSWebinar

You will receive meeting location information and a link to your selected meeting(s) upon registration, please save to your calendar for your chosen session(s).

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Nudell, from The Paramedic Foundation at nnudell@paramedicfoundation.org.

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.

TOMORROW: Final housing forum to be held in Ross County

The final housing forum put on by BrickerGraydon, OhioRealtors, and CCAO will be held in Ross County tomorrow. The event will discuss regional updates on the opportunities and challenges to creating high-quality, workforce-attainable housing options. It will also review what other communities are doing to find new housing development finance solutions and discuss the impact of new state funding awards infusing large amounts of development resources into the region.

The event will feature Ross County Commissioner Jack Everson, Ross County Treasurer David Jeffers, Chillicothe Mayor Luke Feeney, and Director of Ross County Planning and Development Devon Shoemaker as speakers.

The event is free, but space is limited. You can RSVP here.

Ransomware attack simulation to be held in Columbus next week

On November 19, the Professional Development Academy will host a tabletop cybersecurity training, *Columbus Cybersecurity Simulation: Ransomware Attack*. This free in-person simulation will immerse participants in a complex scenario where they'll tackle the challenges a ransomware attack poses.

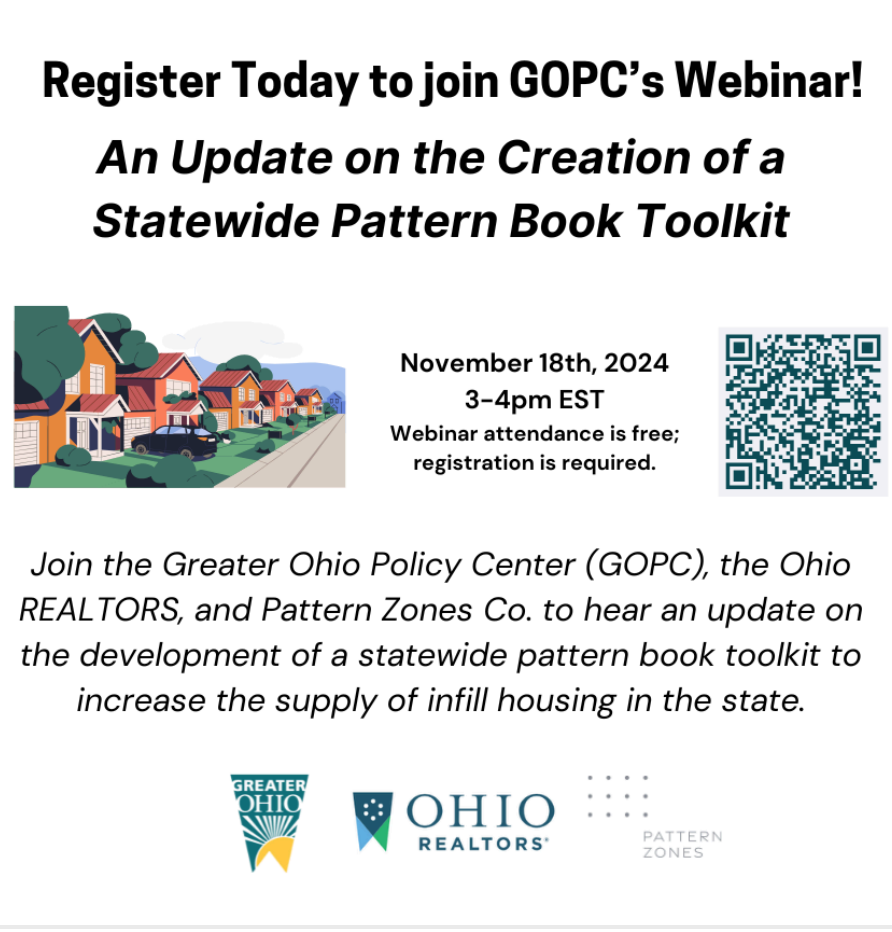
Ransomware attacks have become a growing concern in recent years, resulting in many sleepless nights among risk managers and organizational leaders due to the significant financial and reputational damage to people and organizations. This simulation focuses on preventing such damage and provides the necessary steps to respond appropriately if and when you are in a ransomware situation.

The event is free, and registration can be completed here.

GOPC, Realtors, and Pattern Zones to host webinar on infill housing toolkit

On November 18, the Greater Ohio Policy Center, Ohio Realtors, and Pattern Zones Co. will be hosting a webinar to discuss the Statewide Pattern Book & Toolkit, a resource the organizations are developing to help increase the supply of infill housing across the state.

Registration for the webinar is free and can be completed here.


GREATER OHIO
OHIO REALTORS
PATTERN ZONES

Register Today to join GOPC's Webinar!

An Update on the Creation of a Statewide Pattern Book Toolkit

November 18th, 2024
3–4pm EST
Webinar attendance is free; registration is required.

Join the Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC), the Ohio REALTORS, and Pattern Zones Co. to hear an update on the development of a statewide pattern book toolkit to increase the supply of infill housing in the state.

Ohio Grants Summit to hold 2024 event in late November, registration now open

On November 19 and 20 (Tuesday and Wednesday), the Office of Budget and Management will host the 2024 Ohio Grants Summit, the latest iteration in the annual event that works to connect local governments with the partners and expertise needed to successfully compete for grants at both the state and federal level.

Registration for the event is free and must be completed separately for Day One and Day Two. The event is virtual and will be streamed on The Ohio Channel. Registration is not required to watch the stream, but those registered will have the opportunity to ask questions of speakers.

Each day runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The agenda for each day is below:

Day One:

- Grant Writing 101: Tips for a Successful Grant Application
- Ohio's Unified Approach to Federal Funding
- People, Policies, and Systems: The Foundation for Establishing Sustainable Grants Capacity

Day Two:

- Obligating and Closing Out ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Uniform Guidance Update
- Water/Wastewater Roundtable

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

Non-traditional first responders offered training on use of Narcan

Sentinel Tribune, November 6, 2024

Wood County has launched a program that will offer training to help first responders who come in contact with opioids.

Ohio Rep. Haraz Ghanbari and Wood County Health Commissioner Ben Robison announced the program at a press conference on Thursday held at the Ohio State Highway Patrol headquarters in Bowling Green.

The collaborative partnership in Wood County will offer training in the use of Narcan to those who are considered non-traditional first responders, Ghanbari said.

"We have seen incidents across the state and around the country of first responders who have come into contact with illicit drugs during the course of their duties. … Oftentimes, those first responders may be out there on the scene by themselves," he said.

Exposure to opioids, including fentanyl and heroin, usually occurs through ingestion but also can result from absorption through the skin and inhalation.

"Seconds matter in these incidents," Ghanbari said.

The training will help equip first responders and others like Ohio Department of Transportation and turnpike workers as well as tow-truck drivers that are often a secondary response unit at the scene.

Northeast District

Summit County lights up green for Veterans Day

Akron.com, November 7, 2024

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday on Nov. 11, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Councilwoman Christine Higham announced plans to illuminate county buildings green from Nov. 4-11 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort uniting counties in support of military veterans. This is part of an initiative between Summit County, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers.

Now in its third year, Operation Green Light's mission is to show support for veterans of all military conflicts, as well as raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans and their families, and the resources that are available at the county, state and federal level to assist them. In 2023, over 300 counties participated in Operation Green Light.

"Summit County is proud of our ongoing support for local veterans and their families. At a time when we are feeling divided as a nation, we can all agree that those who risked and sacrificed their lives to protect our country and our way of life deserve our support," said Shapiro. "This week is a special opportunity for the whole community to show that gratitude for those who served this nation."

In addition to lighting county buildings, bridges and other meaningful landmarks, residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to participate by changing one light bulb inside or outside their home to a green bulb.

"Operation Green Light is a great way to honor our veterans and a simple way to bring awareness to the challenges facing veterans and their families at home," said Higham. "I encourage everyone to join us in displaying a green light for our veterans and their families."

Central District

County court receives $200K in grant funding

Morrow County Sentinel, November 6, 2024

The Morrow County Common Pleas Court has received $200,302.66 in grant funding to support its efforts in helping fight addiction by delivering needed Recovery Support services, Greg Thomas, court administrator and chief probation officer, announced recently on behalf of Judge Robert C. Hickson, Jr. and Judge Tom C. Elkin.

The grant from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation will go toward providing needed transportation to support individuals sustaining recovery, building recovery capital, and removing barriers to a life of recovery. By providing appropriate and available transportation, sobriety and recovery are sustainable and maintained. The primary goal of the Morrow County Transportation Initiative is to provide transportation to evidence-based programming and to treatment that focuses on mental health and substance abuse, with an emphasis on opiate abuse. Outlining these goals and outcomes for the program should bring a reduction in clients' risk and needs of recidivism, especially with alcohol and drugs. In turn, serving the citizens and communities of Morrow County by providing the community with a safe and accessible environment by dispensing restorative justice.

"When this funding opportunity became available, our court met as a team to identify what needs we have in serving the residents of Morrow County," Thomas said. "Judge Hickson and Judge Elkin are always fully committed to doing everything they can to combat substance abuse and addiction, while also wanting to understand what barriers exist for court-involved individuals. When we discuss barriers, from substance abuse and treatment to attending court hearings, transportation is always at the top of the list.

Southwest District

Highland County RISE coordinator introduced; JFS director discusses 'disappointing' levy rejection

Highland County Press, November 8, 2024

Almost one year to the day after approving a new recovery coordinator position, Highland County commissioners David Daniels, Brad Roades and Terry Britton met with Highland County RISE coordinator Taylor Avedisian and Highland County Sheriff Randy Sanders during their Wednesday, Nov. 6 meeting.

As previously reported, commissioners approved a proposal for what is now called RISE (Recovery and Intervention Support Enforcement) at their Nov. 15, 2023 meeting, following an appointment with Sanders, who at that time was Highland County Task Force Chief Investigator, along with Highland County Prosecutor Anneka Collins and Highland County Probation Director of Programming & Clinical Services and Drug Court Coordinator Tonya Sturgill. The resolution was "agreeing to utilize OneOhio funding to employ a full-time substance abuse recovery coordinator, who will play a crucial role in supporting individuals struggling with substance abuse and addiction on their path to recovery."

According to Britton, he and Collins, Sturgill and Highland County American Rescue Plan Act funding coordinator Nicole Oberrecht worked together to come up with this plan to use funding from the OneOhio settlement. Collins also credited Sanders, whom she said did the background research in reviewing other counties' "programs and how they're set up, their paperwork and all that, and the ideas for what they're going to do."

Southeast District

Jefferson County commissioners table YMCA request

Herald Star, November 9, 2024

YMCA Director Marci Crawford hasn't given up on the possibility of getting county funding for her Fifth Quarter initiative to steer kids away from drugs and alcohol, this time asking the Jefferson County commissioners to fund the project with the county's opiate settlement money.

Crawford several months ago had asked commissioners to consider allocating some of their remaining American Rescue Plan money toward the project, but the county's ARPA consultant said the project could be eligible for ARPA funding only if the organization can demonstrate an equal amount of COVID-related losses. Otherwise, commissioners would have to use their "third-bucket ARPA funding" — money from their original ARPA allotment that was transferred into the general fund — to cover the cost, but that was ruled out by commissioners since the state forbids them from giving general fund money to nonprofits.

Prevention and Recovery Board Director Bill Holt was at Friday's commissioner meeting with Crawford to make the case for allocating the county's opioid settlement funds for the project, which uses "evidence-based prevention ideas … to encourage kids to participate in healthy, constructive activities, safe social activities" and meets the opioid settlement criteria for abatement strategies.

Crawford hopes to build to 125 participants for the Friday night program. Her proposed budget totals just under $176,000 a year, which includes day passes, wages, background checks, training, insurance, food, beverages and transportation costs for kids attending, along with a one-time expense of $6,000 for security cameras.

Holt said he and Crawford "worked together to make some tweaks, some changes" to her budget, "to try to make sure it's sustainable"

"The thing I point out, and it's one of the most important things, is that (she's) ensuring this is a safe place for kids, ensuring all the staff and any volunteers have a full FBI background check to ensure a safe place for kids."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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NOVEMBER 12
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting
OCCO Legislative Reception

NOVEMBER 22
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 28
Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 4 - 6
CCAO / CEAO Winter Conference

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