View this email in your browser

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CCAO ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
COUNTIES CURRENT

March 17, 2025

CCAO President and Clermont County Commissioner David Painter, CCAO Board Member and Medina County Commissioner Steve Hambley, and CCAO Treasurer and Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro at the Akron Civic Theater. Commissioners Painter and Hambley were in town for a meeting of the Ohio Commission on the U.S. Semiquincentennial.

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

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

---

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Meigs County Treasurer, former county commissioner, passes away in car accident

Meigs County Treasurer Tim Ihle passed away in a car accident last week. Before his appointment to the Treasurer position, he had served as Meigs County Commissioner for more than a decade. The following is an excerpt from Tim's obituary.

Tim was a general contractor for 37 years, building custom homes in and around Meigs County. When he hung up his tool belt as a contractor, he put on a different tool belt -full of character, passion for doing what is right, and life lessons. In 2010, Tim entered politics by running for and winning a County Commissioner's Seat. He took his "new toolbelt" to work with him every day as he championed for Meigs County and the people he represented. He served as a Meigs County Commissioner for 11+ years, whereupon he was appointed to the Treasurer position in 2022.

Tim accomplished many things in his years as a county official and has truly made a tremendous difference in the county. Tim always said, "do things right, and leave it better than you found it". He did just that through his devotion to his offices, co-workers, and citizens. Tim's political positions took him to Washington D.C. on a few occasions, and he was planning to return there shortly.

Tim called himself a "word-a-maker". He could craft a story like nobody else. He was often asked to tell a story at the commissioner meetings and asked to speak at various functions. Whether it was a fishing story from the Cranberry, an elk hunt from Colorado, or a life lesson from an active childhood growing up in Racine, he took the listeners with him through the adventures and always left you with something to think about. People knew they were going to hear an entertaining story, and usually a subtle jolt to think deeper, love harder, and live with purpose.

As many know, Tim LOVED the outdoors. He made many trips with many a hunting friend to Colorado in search of Elk and Mule Deer. He seldom came home empty-handed. He also enjoyed hunting whitetails on the family farm with his son Aaron and cousin, Arnie Green. Tim also made annual trout fishing trips to the Cranberry River of West Virginia with his son and late brother Frank.

Tim loved farming and all aspects of the country life. He had many cows and horses over the years. Taking care of his cattle was to be the last task God had for him on this earth. Tim always called his cattle "therapy cows" and said whenever he had a problem, he'd sit and talk to his cows. They never said much but always listened! He also had a kennel full of another favorite pastime – Australian Shepherds. His dogs were his babies.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Meigs County Dog Shelter.

Deadline nears for MARCS radios to be authenticated

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is reminding Ohio first responders and public safety agencies that use the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) to authenticate all radios or the radios won't work on the MARCS system beginning July 1.

The authentication process can take up to three months.

Radio Authentication (also known as Link Layer Authentication) is an industry standard in first responder/public safety communications and an increased safety and security measure to protect the emergency communications infrastructure of the MARCS radio system throughout Ohio. Authentication will safeguard against unauthorized people using and listening on the system, and those attempting to disrupt the system.

The DAS MARCS Program Office has been actively encouraging customers to have their radios authenticated to provide the best and most secure service to everyone since July 1, 2020.

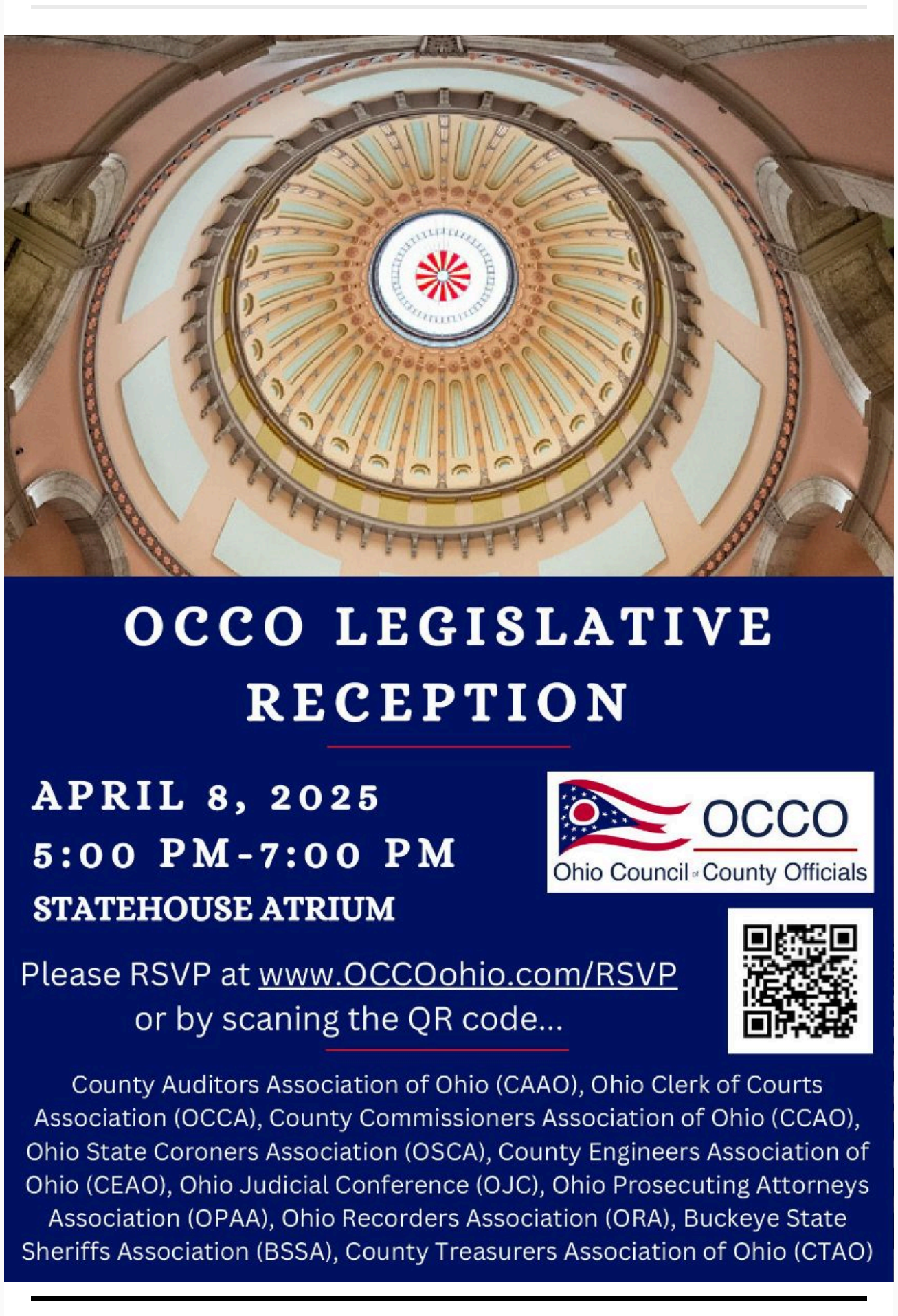
Each radio – base, mobile, and portable – must have Radio Authentication to operate on the MARCS system after July 1, 2025.

Some radios purchased after July 1, 2019, may already have been authenticated.

Radios purchased prior to July 1, 2019, may have the ability to be updated to comply with Radio Authentication, without the need to purchase a new radio.

To start the three-month authentication process, MARCS radio users are urged to contact their radio manufacturer or programming vendor today.

Users also can check with the MARCS Program Office, by emailing DAS-MARCS.admin@DAS.Ohio.gov or calling 614-995-0060.



OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

APRIL 8, 2025
5:00 PM-7:00 PM
STATEHOUSE ATRIUM

Please RSVP at www.OCCOohio.com/RSVP
or by scaning the QR code...

County Auditors Association of Ohio (CAAO), Ohio Clerk of Courts Association (OCCA), County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO), Ohio State Coroners Association (OSCA), County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO), Ohio Judicial Conference (OJC), Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association (OPAA), Ohio Recorders Association (ORA), Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA), County Treasurers Association of Ohio (CTAO)

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

JobsOhio®

Ohio's Economic
Development Corporation

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

State ends February with less revenue than estimated, still positive YTD

The Office of Budget and Management released its March Financial Report, which covers February, last week. Total revenues came in slightly below estimate largely due to timing, as January's CAT revenue contained payments OBM originally anticipated would come in February.

The state is 2.6% above estimates for YTD state source revenue. As a reminder, the YTD period covers the state fiscal year, so it is the total since July 2024. The state non-auto sales and use tax revenue is 7.5% above estimates for the state fiscal year (about $553.7 million).

You can read the full monthly report here.

State Fire Marshal accepting comments on 2nd draft of 2025 Ohio Fire Code

The State Fire Marshal recently announced the release of its 2nd Revised Draft of the 2025 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) and the Report on Comments (ROC), which contains comments received regarding updates to the current OFC.

The OFC is being reviewed as a part of the required five-year rule review process.

With the release of the 2nd Revised Draft 2025 OFC and the ROC, the state enters the next phase of the rule revision process and the beginning of the formal rule filing process.

You can view the proposed rules, along with the ROC and the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) instrument on the State Fire Marshal's website.

The website contains the most recent version of the draft 2025 OFC (including red-lined copies of each rule), as well as the ROC, the BIA, a document summarizing significant changes, and all other previously released documents regarding this OFC update.

If you wish to submit a comment regarding the 2nd Revised Draft 2025 OFC or the BIA, please send them to BOTH the State Fire Marshal (OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us) AND to the Common Sense Initiative Office (csipubliccomments@governor.ohio.gov) by the close of business on next Monday (March 24).

If you have any questions regarding the 2nd Revised Draft 2025 OFC, any of its associated materials, or the update process in general, please send an inquiry to OhioFireCode@com.oh.gov or contact the Code Enforcement Bureau at (614) 728-5460.

Nominations open for Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame class of 2025

The Ohio Department of Aging is seeking nominations of outstanding older adults to induct into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for the Class of 2025.

Nominations must be received by Monday, March 31, 2025, to be considered for induction during a September ceremony.

The Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame honors native-born or long-time Ohio residents age 60 and older who have made and continue to make a lasting impact on their communities, their professions, or their vocations.

Past inductees have included business and industry leaders, advocates, community planners, educators, scientists, health care professionals, volunteers, artists, entertainers, athletes, and more.

Inductees are selected from public nominations. Nominees are evaluated on the scope and impact of their contributions begun or continued after age 60. Nominees must be native-born Ohioans or have been residents of the state for at least 10 years. Posthumous nominations are accepted, provided the date of death is within the last five years and the nominee was age 60 or older at the time of death.

Repeat nominations of Ohioans who were not selected in the past are welcome, provided the candidate still meets the eligibility criteria.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

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

Ohio Chamber of Commerce to host Child Care Policy Summit on April 1

On April 1, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Child Care Policy Summit from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Registration is open and costs $99 for Ohio Chamber Action Network members and $149 for nonmembers. You can register here.

The event will have five sessions:

"Untapped Potential: Ohio" Economic Report
A presentation by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation on a study to assess the financial impact that insufficient child care coverage has had on Ohio's economy.

Early Childhood Workers: The Workforce Behind the Workforce
A discussion on how to recruit and retain child care workers.

Business Engagement Strategies for Childcare
A discussion on the role that business can play in fostering child care options for their workers.

Legislative Panel
A panel discussion with Representative Andrea White (Chair of the House Children and Human Services Committee), Representative Bride Rose Sweeney (Ranking Member on House Finance), and Representative Mark Johnson.

Keynote Speaker
An address by Director of Children and Youth Kara Wente.

SAVE THE DATE! CSH Ohio and OMHAS to host webinar on rental subsidy and supportive housing

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing will be hosting the 2025 Ohio Housing Conference at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on November 12-13.

More details on the schedule, sessions, and speakers will be available in the future, and registration will open in September. You can begin booking at the Hyatt Regency now.

You can view a recap of last year's conference here.

COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

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

'Step up or shut up': County bails out universal pre-K program, calls out businesses

Toledo Blade, March 12, 2025

The county is propping up a universal pre-K program for the rest of the school year, but commissioners cautioned that the one-time money is a "Band-Aid" for the funding challenges imperiling HOPE Toledo.

The $100,000 economic development grant, approved by the Lucas County commissioners Wednesday, will allow HOPE Toledo to begin disbursing overdue payments to their pre-K providers and continue the program until graduation.

After that, commissioners say the organization will not be able to rely on the county for help.

"This is it. We cannot continue to fund a program that is not self-sufficient and not being supported by the business community and the state," Commissioner Anita Lopez said.

Commissioner Pete Gerken, who sits on HOPE Toledo's board, said the missed payments go as far back as January. He said he is "disappointed" the organization ended up in the current situation.

"Let's not get this wrong: This does not save the program, and it does not move the program into next year," Mr. Gerken said. "This is way too important of a program for us to have, as a community, put into this situation."

Northeast District

Commissioners OK $100,000 to start site development for new county jail

The Chronicle, March 15, 2025

The architecture firm designing a new multimillion-dollar Lorain County Jail is starting site development with a $100,000 payment approved Friday by county commissioners.

DLZ Architecture Inc. of Columbus will start site development work, which includes clearing land, preparing it and installing utilities, surveys and soil testing with the funding.

Commissioner Jeff Riddell, a Republican, said DLZ is finishing the schematic phase or layout of the jail, and will move into the design development phase next.

Allowing the company to go ahead with site development means it can start the design phase while finishing the site development phase, he said.

"Spring is upon us, and we want to take the opportunity to get ahead of that," Riddell said.

The plan is to build the new jail, at a cost estimated by DLZ to be $111 million to $117 million, north and west of the existing jail and behind the county Health Department off Murray Ridge Road in Elyria.

The board has not decided how the new jail will be paid for, whether with a bond issue, loans or a temporary tax increase. The county has already set $20 million aside.

The jail is nearly 50 years old, originally built in 1977 with updates in 1998. Long-term repairs to the current facility are no longer cost effective, county officials have said.

Central District

Commissioners award $1.2M in Knox County senior levy funds

Knox Pages, March 14, 2025

On Thursday, the Knox County commissioners approved contracts disbursing $1,203,500 in senior levy funds to 11 organizations.

Commissioners accepted the recommendations presented on March 6 by Senior Levy Advisory Board members Julie Miller, Ron Roberts, Don York, and Denny Dugan.

Deborah Beck, Matt Schwartz, and Jim Wagoner also serve on the board.

"There's always something positive about every agency, trying to do the best they can for seniors 60 and up in Knox County," Miller said. "All of them do different things, but the most common theme is feeding or nutrition in some way, shape or form, whether it's a hot meal or pantry or other social kind of meals."

Miller said that when recommending amounts, the board considered the ratio between salaries and the agency's request.

Many tried to cover 100% of their salaries in their grant request. Miller acknowledged that people are needed to run the programs but said levy funds are designed for seniors.

Southwest District

MC Commissioners OK litter prevention grant

Miami Valley Today, March 10, 2025

The Miami County Commissioners approved a litter prevention program grant, and a marketing services agreement for the sanitary engineering department at their meeting on Thursday, March 6.

The commissioners authorized a $20,000 grant for the 2025 calendar year, from the transfer station to the Miami County Municipal Court for the Community Service Litter Prevention Program. The municipal court program provides litter cleanup along the routes leading to the transfer station and other roads in the county for a cost that is less than the Miami County Transfer Station could provide.

Josh Lococo, assistant sanitary engineer, addressed the commissioners at the meeting.

"This is a yearly grant," he said. "This keeps the roads looking beautiful and we're happy to have them out there."

"They do a good job and it's much needed," said Commissioner Greg Simmons.

The commissioners also agreed to a one-year agreement with Artistic Inspirations LLC of Tipp City to provide marketing services for the Miami County Solid Waste District, at a cost not to exceed $30,000. Lococo said the department has been using this company since 2017.

"Is this cost about the same as what we've been paying?" Commissioner Ted Mercer asked Lococo.

"In the past, we used to do two years for $25,000 a year, but we haven't used the full amount in the last four or five years," Lococo responded.

Southeast District

New Athens County 911/EMA center opens

Athens County Independent, March 14, 2025

When Teresa Fouts-Imler became a 911 dispatcher in 1997, the service's facility at 13 West Washington Street in Athens was considered a temporary location. Almost 30 years later, Fouts-Imler is Athens County's 911 director — and the service is still in that spot.

"The current facility where the 911 center is located needs a lot of work," she told the Independent, citing issues with plumbing, wastewater, and electrical service as well as capacity and critical infrastructure. There's no break room for the dispatchers, either.

A new facility is long overdue, she said.

This month, Athens County 911 Emergency Communications and the county's emergency management agency will move into new headquarters at 75 Connett Road in The Plains.

The new facility is equipped with the latest technology. The building is constructed under Federal Emergency Management Agency standards and National Emergency Number Association standards. There is a 72-hour backup generator, a 500-kilowatt generator, ballistic windows and drywalls, a training faculty and more.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Back to Top

MARCH 21
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

MARCH 24
Montgomery County Regional Legislative Briefing
Warren County Regional Legislative Briefing

MARCH 24
Northwest District Meeting

MARCH 28
Noble County Regional Legislative Briefing

MARCH 31
Portage County Regional Legislative Briefing
Lake County Regional Legislative Briefing

APRIL 4
CEBCO Annual Business Meeting
Lucas County Regional Legislative Briefing

APRIL 4
Madison County Regional Legislative Briefing

APRIL 8
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting
OCCO Legislative Reception

APRIL 11
Defiance County Regional Legislative Briefing

Copyright © 2025 CCAO, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.