September 8, 2025

Commissioners and CCAO staff spent this last Friday in Mercer County! The group heard from State Representative Angie King and discussed many county policy issues, including cybersecurity and the need for state-county partnership in developing a property tax reform package.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CCAO hosts webinar on federal SNAP, Medicaid changes through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

On July 4, President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) into law. Among many provisions, the bill provides for major cost shifts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a key human services program, and makes several changes to Medicaid.

CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Reedy held a webinar last week to discuss the impact that these changes will have on county JFS operations and possible budget implications.

As a result of the OBBBA, the federal share of SNAP administration will decrease from 50% to 25%, resulting in a larger cost burden on state and county governments across the country. This change becomes effective October 1, 2026, during the current state biennium. If no additional funds become available, counties could see a loss of $47 million per year for SNAP administration.

Additionally, OBBBA requires states to begin contributing to the benefit costs of the SNAP program for the first time in the program's history. The state's share will be determined by the state's error rate in SNAP payments. This change is effective October 1, 2027, during the next state biennium and next gubernatorial administration.

The webinar and slide deck are available on CCAO's Webinars page and can be directly accessed at the links below.

- Webinar Recording
- Slide Deck

If you have questions about the potential impact of these changes, please contact Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org. CCAO will continue to update members on the implementation of these provisions.

Milo Training in Ashland County: Real-World Scenarios, Real-Time Decisions

Corrections officers in Ashland County are stepping into Milo Response Training — a cutting-edge simulation that tests how they handle split-second decisions inside the jail. From suicide prevention to lockdown refusals and mental-health crises, Milo immerses officers in realistic scenarios and then guides them through better, safer responses.

Best of all, this training is provided at ***no cost to CORSA members***. It's a powerful tool to reduce liability, improve safety, and protect both officers and inmates.

Read the full article to see how Milo is making a difference for Ohio counties.

CCAO to host budget briefings in each region during September and October

In the coming weeks, the CCAO Policy Team will host five regional meetings to discuss policy issues and funding included in the state operating budget.

Commissioners, executives, council members, and key county staff are invited to attend these events. The schedule for the events is as follows:

9:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration & Networking
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Budget Overview Presentation Part 1
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Break
11:10 am – 12:10 pm	Budget Overview Presentation Part 2
12:10 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch with county updates and "Ask the Policy Team"

During the presentation portion, the Policy Team will cover many topics including:

- Property tax changes
- Sales tax changes
- Indigent defense
- Next Generation 9-1-1
- Children services
- Child care
- ADAMH board funding changes
- Economic development programs
- Water quality
- County official pay
- New cybersecurity requirements
- And more!

SEPTEMBER 15 – NORTHWEST REGION
Allen County OhioMeansJobs
951 Commerce Pkwy, Lima, OH 45804

SEPTEMBER 22– NORTHEAST REGION
Reed Memorial Library / Jenkins Room
167 East Main Street, Ravenna, OH 44266

SEPTEMBER 29 – SOUTHWEST REGION
Greene County, Media Room
541 Ledbetter Rd., Xenia, OH 45385

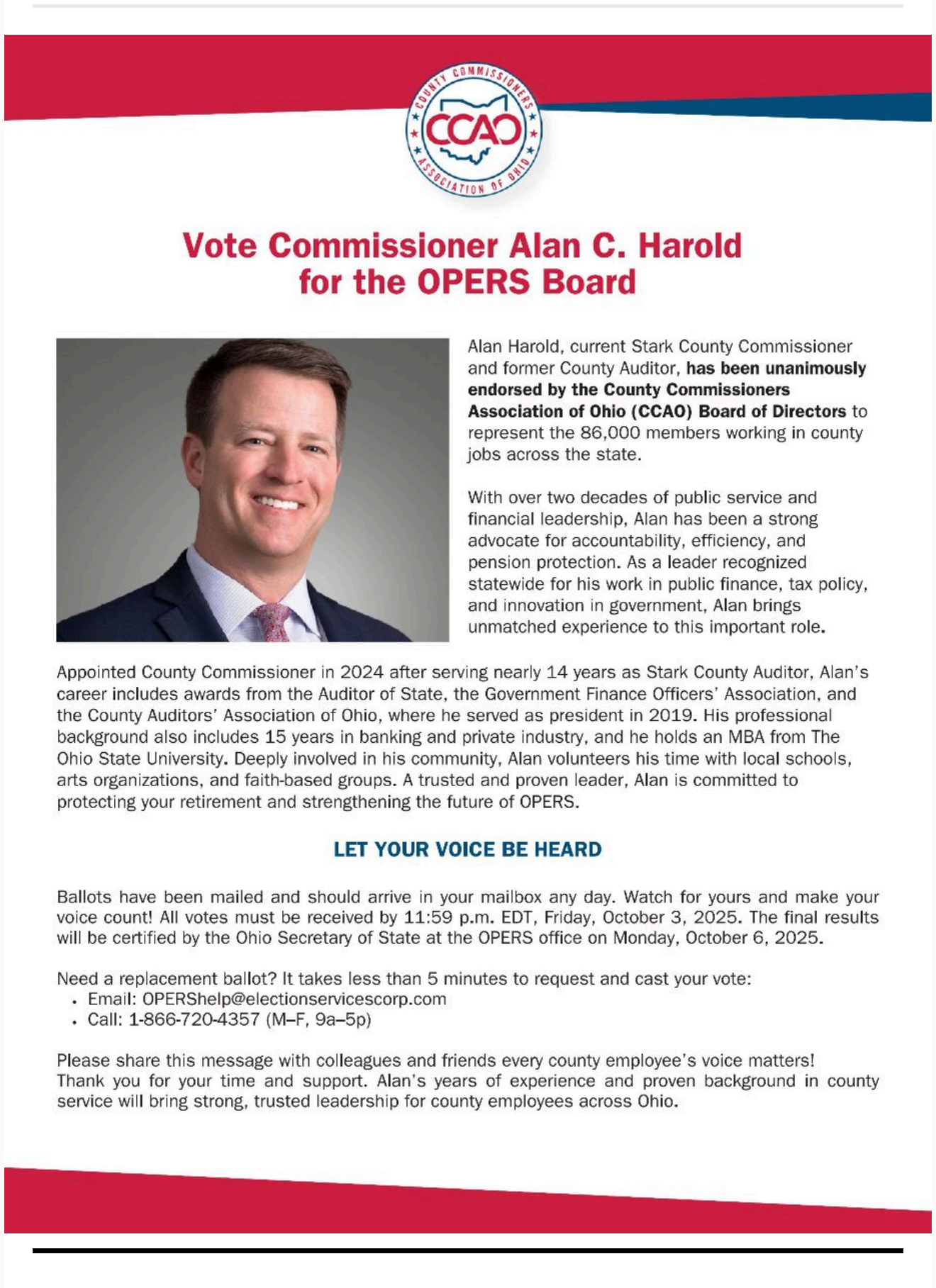
OCTOBER 03 – CENTRAL REGION
Delaware County Byxbe Meeting Room
1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015

OCTOBER 06 – SOUTHEAST REGION
Parks Edge Event Center
601 E Main St., Jackson, OH 45640

If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to Karla Dunbar at kdunbar@ccao.org or 614-221-5627 and specify which event you plan to attend. Please also include any dietary requirements in your RSVP.

If you have questions about content or the implementation of the state budget, please contact policy@ccao.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



CCAO

Vote Commissioner Alan C. Harold for the OPERS Board

Alan Harold, current Stark County Commissioner and former County Auditor, **has been unanimously endorsed by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board of Directors** to represent the 86,000 members working in county jobs across the state.

With over two decades of public service and financial leadership, Alan has been a strong advocate for accountability, efficiency, and pension protection. As a leader recognized statewide for his work in public finance, tax policy, and innovation in government, Alan brings unmatched experience to this important role.

Appointed County Commissioner in 2024 after serving nearly 14 years as Stark County Auditor, Alan's career includes awards from the Auditor of State, the Government Finance Officers' Association, and the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, where he served as president in 2019. His professional background also includes 15 years in banking and private industry, and he holds an MBA from The Ohio State University. Deeply involved in his community, Alan volunteers his time with local schools, arts organizations, and faith-based groups. A trusted and proven leader, Alan is committed to protecting your retirement and strengthening the future of OPERS.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Ballots have been mailed and should arrive in your mailbox any day. Watch for yours and make your voice count! All votes must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT, Friday, October 3, 2025. The final results will be certified by the Ohio Secretary of State at the OPERS office on Monday, October 6, 2025.

Need a replacement ballot? It takes less than 5 minutes to request and cast your vote:
- Email: OPERShelp@electionservicescorp.com
- Call: 1-866-720-4357 (M–F, 9a–5p)

Please share this message with colleagues and friends every county employee's voice matters! Thank you for your time and support. Alan's years of experience and proven background in county service will bring strong, trusted leadership for county employees across Ohio.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

JobsOhio
Ohio's Economic Development Corporation

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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FEMA reform bill moves to U.S. House floor

An omnibus Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reform bill has moved to the full U.S. House of Representatives floor. The bill makes several changes of note to counties. A full NACo analysis of the bill is available here.

A key change the bill would make is that the Public Assistance Program, the funds distributed in the wake of a disaster, would transition from a reimbursement model to a grant model. NACo believes that a grant model would allow funds to flow to counties quicker than the current model and simplifies project management.

The FEMA Administrator would also be given more authority to direct a greater proportion of disaster funds to economically distressed areas and rural areas. These areas are more likely to struggle to afford repair and rebuild efforts than others, so a greater effort to prioritize relief to them may be beneficial.

We encourage counties to review NACo's analysis of the bill. If a county wishes to express support for the bill, NACo has also provided a letter template that can customized and sent to your Congressional delegation.

Applicants sought for Federal Healthcare Advisory Committee

Last month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the creation of a new Healthcare Advisory Committee, aimed at providing expert guidance on pressing healthcare challenges. This new committee represents an important opportunity for counties to have a voice in shaping federal healthcare policy.

Counties are on the front lines of public health and chronic disease prevention. As the owners and administrators of core safety-net programs — including local health departments, hospitals, health centers, long-term care and behavioral health facilities — counties bring a unique, day-to-day perspective on how these systems function. This responsibility makes county voices essential in shaping national policy that supports healthier communities and ensures federal reforms are practical, effective and responsive to residents' needs.

HHS is currently seeking self-nominations and third-party nominations to serve on the Healthcare Advisory Committee. The deadline for applications is September 22, 2025. Information on the nomination process and application components can be found here.

NACo encourages county officials and staff with relevant expertise to consider applying.

If you are planning to apply, reach out to NACo Legislative Director for Health, Blaire Bryant (bbryant@naco.org), to discuss your interest and how NACo may be able to support you in the application process.

Department of Public Safety reminder about licensure requirements for private security

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding organizations around the state that security providers must be licensed by DPS's Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS) unit. Providing security services without a license from PISGS is illegal.

A license from PISGS ensures that the security provider has the required experience and expertise, that all of the provider's employees have passed background checks, and that the provider is properly insured. Registered security guards are given state-issued electronic ID cards that show the company they are authorized to work for, the expiration of their license, and whether or not they are permitted to carry a firearm.

More information about PISGS can be found on the unit's website.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Heritage Ohio hosting annual conference in Stark County in October

From October 14 to October 16 (Tuesday to Thursday), Heritage Ohio will be hosting its annual conference in Canton. The conference will focus on how communities can revitalize un- or underused historic properties.

Sessions at the conference include, among others, the following:

- Examples of how Opportunity Zones, tax increment financing (TIFs), and other incentive programs have helped transform downtowns;
- A guide to applying for federal historic preservation tax credits;
- Case studies on the cities of Canton, Huron, and Troy; and
- How Ohio's building code regulations applies to historic properties.

Registration is open now and costs $350 for Heritage Ohio members and $400 for non-members. Registration can also be made for individual days.

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

Commissioners interviewing firms for remodel at $6.25M office building

Crescent News, September 3, 2025

Defiance County commissioners met with a northwest Ohio architectural firm to discuss office reconfiguration in the WesBanco building they've purchased on Elliott Road.

The topic was the subject of commissioners' regular Wednesday study session.

On hand were representatives of Schmid Architects, Inc., Sandusky, which is seeking a design contract with commissioners to remodel the 57,000 square-foot Elliott Road as well as the county's Adult Probation department on Court Street. Commissioners recently approved the purchase of the Elliott Road building for $6.25 million.

Commissioners plan to lease part of it to a private entity, but will use the remainder to house their own offices — after relocating from Court Street (next to the county courthouse).

They plan to close the building purchase with WesBanco in November, but would like to move their offices to the space as soon as possible. What county offices will relocate there is still under consideration.

The plan is to renovate the Adult Probation offices on Court Street, then move the county's Juvenile Probation department into commissioners present office on Court Street, which was remodeled in recent years.

Commissioner Mick Pocratsky said he didn't see the Elliott Road building fill up immediately, suggesting that improvements be made over time.

"I'm not so sure it couldn't be a phased thing out there," he said, "because I don't think we envision filling the place up." He added that commissioners could be "remodeling years down the road" as needed.

Northeast District

County commissioners briefly discuss property tax, potential relief solutions

Medina Gazette, September 3, 2025

As Medina County residents receive their reappraisal letters in the mail, the Medina County commissioners plans to discuss potential rollbacks to help residents.

During the weekly Medina County commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, Medina County commissioner Steve Hambley brought up property taxes for discussion, stating that the notices had gone out the previous week.

County commissioners throughout the state have talked about the increased property taxes, Hambley said, who added Medina County is at a historic high.

The county is anticipating a $3.6 million increase in inside millage, Hambley said, based on rough estimations.

In statewide discussions, county officials discussed more targeted tax relief. Hambley said four Ohio counties have rolled back their inside mileage, reducing it for the year.

"We do have this year an opportunity to potentially roll back some of our inside millage," Hambley said.

John Hunter of the Medina County Auditor's Office said the counties that have rolled back have lived with the increases for a year. He said that by the deadline to roll back, Medina County won't have the actual numbers of the increase.

If the county were to roll back, Hambley said the elected officials the county budgets for would have to defend any increase to their budget. Right now, he said, the county needs to tighten its belt, and if some property tax relief is in order, it needs to be looked at.

Central District

County road project in 4 townships

Delaware Gazette, September 5, 2025

The Delaware County Board of Commissioners approved a project agreement for improvements to Stockwell Road at its meeting on Aug. 18.

The parties involved are the county commissioners, the Board of Trustees of the Delaware County Transportation Improvement District (TID), and the trustees of four townships: Berkshire, Kingston, Porter and Trenton.

"The Townships seek to improve Stockwell Road (Township Road 50) by reconstructing, grading, widening and paving an approximately 4,665-foot-long section of Stockwell Road, from a point beginning at the intersection with S.R. 61 to the intersection of Stockwell Road and Creek Road (Township Road 53), and ancillary roadway and drainage improvements necessary to complete the Project," the resolution read.

The west section of the road (21%) consists of Stockwell between Berkshire and Kingston from state Route 61 to the four corners of the townships. The remaining east section would be between Porter and Trenton to the intersection of Stockwell and Creek roads.

The Delaware County engineer estimates the project will cost up to $1,152,000.

A Roadway Grant Assistance Program (RGAP) from the county will be applied if the joint project receives an Ohio Public Works Commission grant. Trenton, in cooperation with Berkshire, Kingston and Porter, is applying for the grant.

Southwest District

Wind, solar farms banned in unincorporated territory in Clark County

Springfield News-Sun, September 4, 2025

Large wind and solar farms are now restricted from being built in the unincorporated areas of all of Clark County's 10 townships for at least two years.

Clark County commissioners approved Wednesday by a 2-1 vote to restrict "all large wind farms, large solar farms or economically significant wind farm facility developments as described in substitute Senate Bill 52 ... excluding all brownfield, landfill, barrel fill and contiguous land proposed within the restricted areas" for two years expiring on Dec. 31, 2027. This resolution will go into effect in 30 days.

Commission President Sasha Rittenhouse and Commissioner Charles Patterson voted in favor of the ban, while Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt voted against it.

"I want everybody in the room to understand I have people that I admire and respect on both sides of this. This is the hardest decision I think I've had to make (and) not one second have I taken this lightly," said Rittenhouse.

Clark County Commissioners (left to right) Charles Patterson, President Sasha Rittenhouse and Melanie Flax Wilt held a public hearing Sept. 3 to consider designating proposed restricted areas for all large wind farm, large solar farm or economically significant wind farm facility developments. Brooke Spurlock/Staff
ExploreClark County Commissioners hold public hearing on restricting large solar & wind farms

In 2022, Clark County commissioners unanimously rejected a proposal to ban creation of large solar and wind farms in unincorporated parts of the county. This meant property owners in unincorporated areas of Clark County could lease or sell their land for potential large wind and solar facilities if they wish.

If commission takes no action after the two years, the previous resolution from 2022 would go back into effect.

No projects have come to commission since that resolution was passed three years ago.

Southeast District

Final approvals pending as brand-new Harrison County Jail prepares for opening

WTOV, September 3, 2025

The Harrison County Jail is making its last adjustments to completely open and to house prisoners.

The jail had its ribbon cutting in early June after construction of the building wrapped up.

Now, 3 months later, corrections officers are completing training and Commissioner Dustin Corder said the final decisions are being made.

"We have everything pretty much lined up," he said. "The healthcare is set. The only kind of caveat is the finalization of the meal service. It's in the prosecutor's hands now and just waiting on a signature. Once that happens, the commissioners will sign off on it, and then they have 60 days to get ready to come in. So, assuming that happens soon here, we're looking at some time in the middle of October, late October or early November. "

The last jail in Harrison County was built in 1928 and until now, the county's money hasn't been put back into its own facility but surrounding counties.

Officials anticipate that the jail will reduce annual outsourcing costs previously exceeding $500,000 by bringing inmates back under local oversight.

"Most of our prisoners are housed in Monroe and Jefferson over the years," Harrison County Sheriff Mark Touville said. "It's going to keep our people here, it's going to keep more deputies on the road, and it's just really good for Harrison County to be able to be self-sustained "

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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SEPTEMBER 12
CORSA Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 15
CCAO Post Budget Briefing - Allen County

SEPTEMBER 19
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER 22
CCAO Post Budget Briefing - Portage County

SEPTEMBER 26
Northeast District Meeting - Huron County

SEPTEMBER 29
CCAO Post Budget Briefing - Greene County

OCTOBER 3
CCAO Post Budget Briefing - Delaware County

OCTOBER 6
CCAO Post Budget Briefing - Jackson County

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