View this email in your browser

November 17, 2025

CEBCO has received the Ohio Auditor of State award!

The award is presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2024.

Please join us in congratulating Finance and Benefits Manager Thisbe Butcher and her team on this special recognition!

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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New commissioners named in Defiance, Scioto counties

Last week, two vacant county commissioner seats were filled by county central committees.

In Defiance County, a seat became vacant after David Kern resigned in October. The seat will be filled by Matthew Koester, the director of sales, inventory, and operations planning at Davenport Manufacturing, a company initially founded by his father.

Since the term that Commissioner Koester is filling began at the start of the year, an election will be held next year to fill the unexpired term. Commissioner Koester will serve until the winner of that election is seated.

In Scioto County, a seat was vacated by the suspension of Bryan Davis last month. The seat has been filled by Steven "Will" Mault, a lifelong resident of Scioto County who owns and operates two family businesses.

Commissioner Mault will serve until either Davis' suspension is lifted or until the seat becomes permanently vacant (due to the end of the term). The seat that Commissioner Mault is filling was last elected in 2022, so the term will expire at the end of 2026.

Congratulations to both Commissioner Koester and Commissioner Mault, and welcome to CCAO!

CCAO Board of Directors Nominating Committee issues report

Notice from Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner & CCAO Nominating Committee Chair:

Earlier this year CCAO President David Painter (Clermont) appointed me to serve as the Chair of the CCAO Nominating Committee. Also serving on the Committee are:

1. Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner
2. Mike Halleck, Columbiana County Commissioner
3. Steven Hess, Champaign County Commissioner
4. Amy Norris, Harrison County Commissioner

The Committee was charged with recommending candidates for five officer positions and eight regular two-year Board seats. The Committee met on November 7, 2025, 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 2026.

This report will be formally presented at the annual CCAO Business Meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, 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 2026 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 28, 2025. 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.

Copies of the nominating report and the presidential appointment request form are available as a Word Document and a PDF.

REPORT OF CCAO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The CCAO Nominating Committee met on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Members present included: Glenn Miller, Chair (Henry), Pete Gerken (Lucas), Steven Hess (Champaign), Mike Halleck (Columbiana) and Amy Norris (Harrison).

Commissioner Miller requested a motion for the adoption of the following report. Motion by Halleck, seconded by Hess. Motion carried.

CCAO OFFICERS

For President – Denise Driehaus (Hamilton)
For 1st Vice President – Casey Kozlowski (Ashtabula)
For Secretary – Pete Gerken (Lucas)
For Treasurer – Joe Antram (Logan)

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE NOMINATED TO THE OFFICE OF 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Ilene Shapiro (Summit)

PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE ELECTED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

1. Mike Halleck, Columbiana County Commissioner
2. Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
3. Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner
4. Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
5. Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner
6. David Painter, Clermont County Commissioner

FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Tony Anderson, Fayette County Commissioner
2. Melissa Bell, Muskingum County Commissioner
3. Jeff Fix, Fairfield County Commissioner
4. Steve Hambley, Medina County Commissioner
5. Shannon Jones, Warren County Commissioner
6. Gary Merrell, Delaware County Commissioner
7. Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive
8. Donnie Willlis, Jackson County Commissioner

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Miller
Nominating Committee Chair
Henry County Commissioner

CEBCO hiring new Benefits Specialist

The County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) is fielding applications for a new Benefits Specialist position.

The position will be required to respond to inquiries regarding CEBCO programs, assist member counties for benefits service, gather and collate data from member counties, and prepare reports for actuarial consultants.

The position will also involve travel by participating in member county health fairs and conducting regional meeting for brokers and prospective clients.

Applicants for the position must have a Life, Health Annuity Sales License, and 3-5 years experience in health insurance industry is preferred.

The full job description and application portal is available on Indeed. Applications will be accepted through December 12.

Two weeks until the 2025 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference!

Click Here to Register!

Registration Fees:

Full Conference $625

One Day Only $480

Spouse or Guest Flat Fee for Full Conference or One Day Only $300

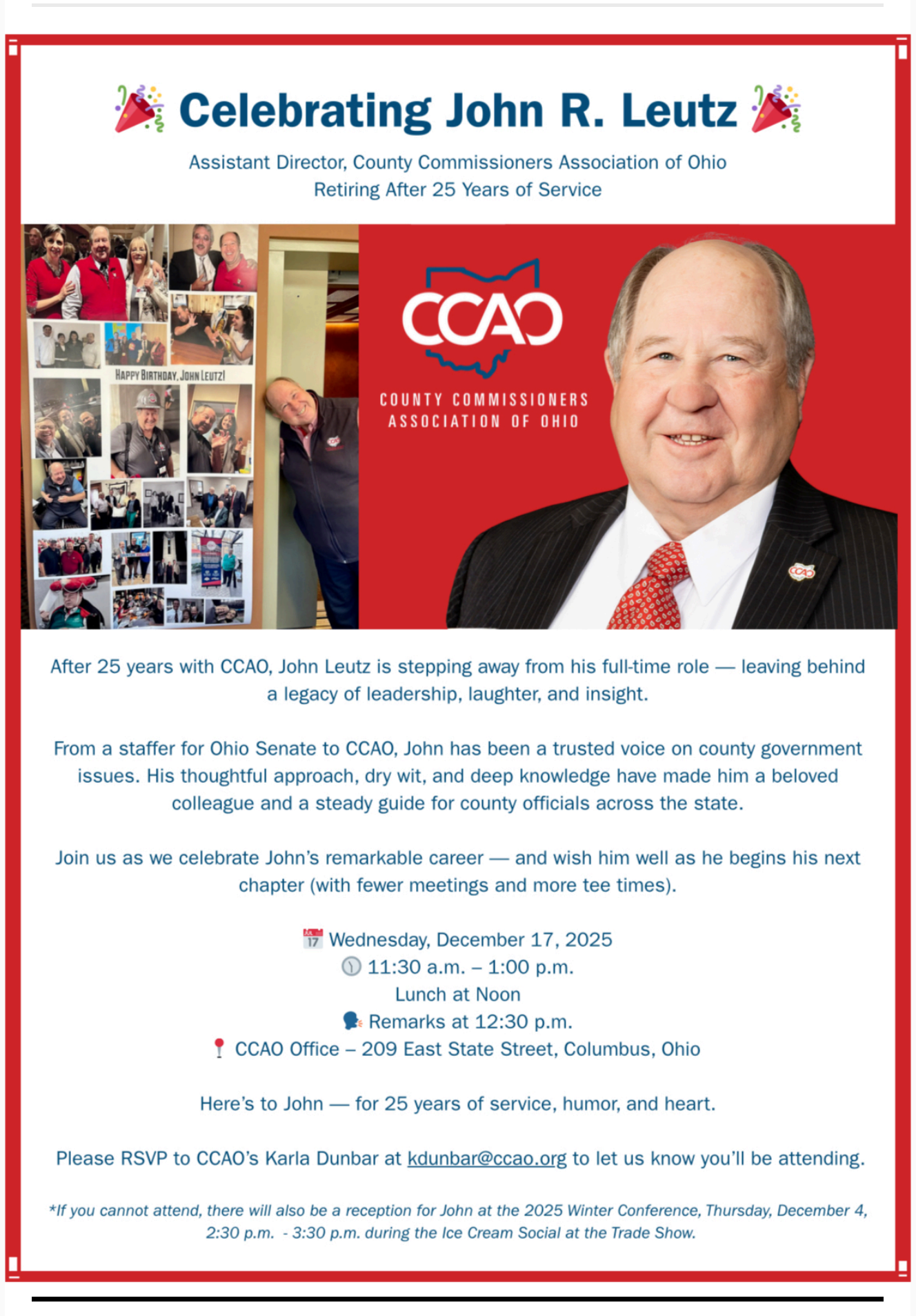
Affiliate Groups Have Option to Choose Meetings Only + Coffee Breaks $175

Sessions at this year's conference will include best practices for energy and economic development, information on data centers, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and changes to the children services landscape.

There will also be five sessions focusing on different aspects of property taxation and the potential ramifications of if property taxation is eliminated. These include hearing from proponents of a potential constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxation, learning how levy-funded agencies manage their budgets, and a legislative update on property tax reforms.

The updated tentative agenda can be viewed here.

There will also be a reception to congratulate CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz on his retirement and thank him for his 25 years of service to the Association. CCAO will also be hosting a separate event to honor John (see flier below).


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN LEUTZ!
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

🎉 Celebrating John R. Leutz 🎉

Assistant Director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
Retiring After 25 Years of Service

After 25 years with CCAO, John Leutz is stepping away from his full-time role — leaving behind a legacy of leadership, laughter, and insight.

From a staffer for Ohio Senate to CCAO, John has been a trusted voice on county government issues. His thoughtful approach, dry wit, and deep knowledge have made him a beloved colleague and a steady guide for county officials across the state.

Join us as we celebrate John's remarkable career — and wish him well as he begins his next chapter (with fewer meetings and more tee times).

📅 Wednesday, December 17, 2025
🕚 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch at Noon
🗣 Remarks at 12:30 p.m.
📍 CCAO Office – 209 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio

Here's to John — for 25 years of service, humor, and heart.

Please RSVP to CCAO's Karla Dunbar at kdunbar@ccao.org to let us know you'll be attending.

**If you cannot attend, there will also be a reception for John at the 2025 Winter Conference, Thursday, December 4, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. during the Ice Cream Social at the Trade Show.*

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

JobsOhio
Ohio's Economic Development Corporation

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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REDD Program overview webinar to be held on Wednesday, guidelines released

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Department of Development will host a webinar about the new Residential Economic Development District (REDD) Program. The program guidelines were recently released and are available here.

The program was created in the most recent state operating budget and is intended for local governments located within 20 miles of a major project to expand housing-related infrastructure, strengthen public safety and community services, or provide capital to support new housing development.

Eligible entities (of which counties are one) may also apply in collaboration with a housing developer, port authority, council of government, regional planning commission, or with one or more other local governments

$10 million is available in funding through the program.

The webinar will cover eligibility requirements, how to apply, and a question-and-answer segment with program staff.

You can register for the webinar here.

Ohio Grants Summit now open for registration

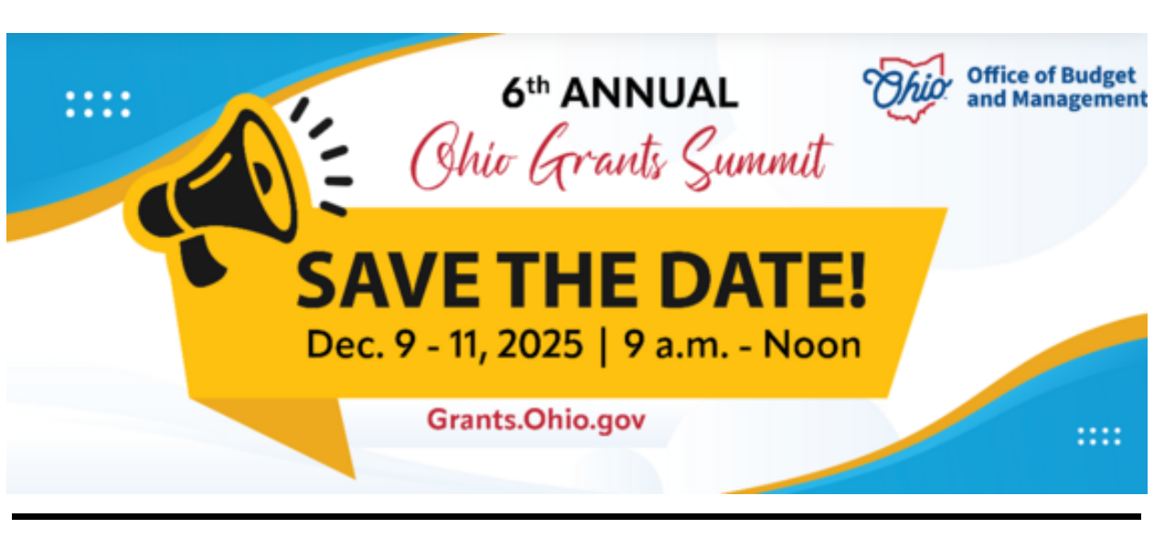
Registration for the 2025 Ohio Grants Summit is now open. The three-day virtual event requires separate registration for each day. The event recordings have traditionally been available on the Ohio Channel as well.

The event will be held from December 9 to December 11 and is hosted by the Office of Budget and Management. Registration for each day is free. Links and brief descriptions of the day's events are below.

Day One: Grant writing strategies and how to utilize AI tools.

Day Two: Fraud prevention, how to close out grants, and insight into the future of federal funding.

Day Three: Burn rate monitoring, transformational grant making, and proper oversight of indirect costs.


6th ANNUAL
Ohio Grants Summit
Ohio Office of Budget and Management
SAVE THE DATE!
Dec. 9 - 11, 2025 | 9 a.m. - Noon
Grants.Ohio.gov

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

Putnam commissioners informed about big increase in EMS design cost

Crescent News, November 10, 2025

Putnam County commissioners discussed a significant change order request for design work on the pending county EMS building addition project during a recent meeting.

The 13,000 square-foot expansion is planned on Thatye Drive in Glandorf with an estimated cost now at $5 million.

The design firm Technicon requested a change order of $47,850 for redrawing building design.

Commissioners' meeting minutes noted that "the redraw was not seen until the final plans were reviewed," and lamented "a lack of communication in the planning phase."

Commissioners vowed to look into the change order request further.

The firm Touchstone also is involved in the planning process.

Commissioners hope to open bids on the project soon.

Northeast District

Lorain County celebrates adoption efforts — and warns that they're at risk if property tax eliminated

Cleveland.com, November 12, 2025

While Lorain County Commissioners on Friday celebrated adoption efforts within the county, they also highlighted a looming concern: the future of property-tax revenue that helps fund children's services.

Commissioner David Moore stressed at the meeting that 52% of Lorain County Children's Services' budget comes from a voter-approved property-tax levy. With state leaders debating whether to eliminate the property tax altogether — and current polling showing 60-40 voter support for dissolving it — he warned that the "good work" being done to help children in the county could be at risk.

"It's easy to say, 'Hey, I don't want to pay property taxes,'" Moore said. "But if people start to see the benefits of what some of those levies do, I think it's important that we do that."

The discussion arose as commissioners proclaimed November as National Adoption Month, recognizing the families, caregivers and staff who help children in Lorain County find stable, loving homes.

Kristen Fox Berki, executive director of Lorain County Children Services, said she hopes the proclamation inspires more people to consider adoption and stressed the impact property tax revenue has on her team's mission.

"With that 52%, we are able to provide a lot of services in the community," Berki said. "All the children who are in our care, we do have to support them."

Central District

Pickaway County introduces harm reduction vending machines

WCMH, November 12, 2025

New vending machines have been placed around Circleville, and they're not filled with snacks or drinks, they'll be stocked with potentially lifesaving tools.

"I saw a need and I wanted to fill the need," said Tiffany Singer, the Post Overdose Response Team Coordinator with Pickaway County Public Health (PCPH).

They're called Harm Reduction Vending Machines. PCPH worked with some partners to place the machines around the community. Some of the supplies they'll be filled with include Narcan kits and fentanyl test strips.

"There is a lot of stigma regarding certain things we're trying to have outreach for and the vending machine is a way for individuals who might be in a moment of crisis to get some sort of assistance without having to face any of that stigma," said Andy Bull, Health Commissioner with PCPH.

The machines are all outside so they can be accessed 24/7. Everything inside them will be free and can be used anonymously. All people will have to enter is their age, gender and zip code.

"That way if there's a zip code that I see more then I can get boots on the ground and do street outreach," Singer said. "Our goal is to help the unhoused and to help people struggling with substance abuse disorder."

Southwest District

MC Commissioners appoint MCBDD members

Miami Valley Today, November 10, 2025

The Miami County Commissioners appointed members to the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) and accepted a quote and authorized custodial services for the Miami County Safety Building and the Miami County Courthouse during their Tuesday, Nov. 4 meeting.

The commissioners reappointed Shawn McKinney of Troy to a second term and named Nate Funderburg of Piqua to the MCBDD board. MCBDD Superintendent Brian Green told the commissioners that the new terms for McKinney and Funderburg will serve terms effective from Jan. 1, 2026, to Dec. 31, 2029.

The commissioners accepted a quote and authorized services for custodial services at the Miami County Safety Building and Miami County Courthouse at the request of the Miami County Facilities Department. Both contracts are with Integrity Service Group, West Milton, authorizing their custodial service in accordance with the Cleaning Services Contract/County Performance Standards. The cost for each service is a $45,600 for a two-year contract with the term beginning Jan. 1, 2026. The agreement may be terminated by either party with a 30-day written notice.

Howlett said Integrity Service Group will provide nighttime services.

The commissioners accepted a quote and authorized a project for a fire alarm system replacement at West Central Juvenile Detention Center at the request of the Facilities and Maintenance Department from SecurCom of Minster. The contract authorizes the purchase of a replacement fire alarm system, including new wiring for new devices at West Central Juvenile Detention Center. The total cost is not to exceed $59,532.

Howlett told the commissioners that the quote from SecurCom was "Not the lowest quote, but we wanted to go with a system we use in all our facilities."

Southeast District

Commissioners authorize dissolution of Athens County Community Cares Fund

Athens Messenger, November 12, 2025

Due to a lack of sufficient staff, the Athens County Board of Commissioners authorized the Athens County Department of Jobs and Family Services (DJFS) to dissolve the Athens County Community Cares Fund.

The Athens County Community Cares Fund is a nonprofit organization operated by the Athens County DJFS to fund programs that are not federally, state or grant funded. Such programs include Winterfest, Operation Full Belly and the Athens County Back to School Bash.

With the switch from a 40 hour to a 36-hour workweek, Athens County DJFS no longer has sufficient capacity to operate the Athens County Community Cares Fund, Jean Demosky, the executive director of Athens County DJFS, explained.

While the commissioners authorized the board of the Athens County Community Cares Fund to dissolve itself, Charlie Adkins, vice-president of the Athens County Board of Commissioners, said he wanted Athens County DJFS to look at re-establishing it in future when it has sufficient staff.

Because Athens County DJFS is a government entity and not a nonprofit like the Athens County Community Cares Fund, it cannot accept donations from individuals and private businesses such as Walmart or Kroger.

To get around this hurdle, Commissioner Chris Chmiel suggested partnering with existing nonprofits in the area such as the Athens County Foundation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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NOVEMBER 21
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 27
Thanksgiving - Holiday

DECEMBER 3
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

DECEMBER 3 - 5
CCAO / CEAO Winter Conference

DECEMBER 25
Christmas - Holiday

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