



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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209 East State Street · Columbus OH 43215-4309 · Phone: 614-221-5627 · Fax: 614-221-6986 · www.ccao.org

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Gas tax suspended for 90 days, \$725 million appropriated to maintain continuity of funding

On Thursday, Governor DeWine signed [House Bill 519](#) into law. The bill was passed on Wednesday as the vehicle for a 90-day suspension of the motor fuel tax ("gas tax"). The bill included an emergency clause allowing it to become effective immediately upon the governor's signature. The suspension will begin three days after the bill's effective date, meaning it will begin on Sunday, October 4, and run through Saturday, January 2, 2027.

The gas tax suspension was originally introduced as House Bill 1019 and Senate Bill 475. After an abbreviated committee process, the provisions were amended into HB 519, which originally concerned the evidentiary value and criminal classification of possessing tools used to commit motor vehicle theft.

HB 519 appropriates \$725 million from the state's General Revenue Fund to hold the gas tax formula harmless.

[The Legislative Service Commission estimates](#) that the actual foregone revenue will be about \$698 million, meaning the appropriation may provide more transportation funding that would otherwise be generated.

Counties receive about 11.8% of the total gas tax revenue, which is then distributed evenly among the 88 counties. Based on LSC's estimated foregone revenue, each county would lose about \$927,272 (a total of \$81.6 million). Replacement funds included in the bill will make counties whole.

During the Senate committee process, the [County Engineers Association raised concerns](#) about the timeline of the replacement revenue's disbursement. Gas tax revenue flows through the formula on a two-month delay. Since the tax is suspended for October, November, and December, the \$725 million will begin being distributed as revenue for December 2026, January 2027, and February 2027.

CCAO will work in coordination with the County Engineers Association of Ohio to inform members of any practical difficulties that may arise from the distribution timeline.

CCAO publishes Candidates Briefing Guide

Ahead of each general election, CCAO publishes a [Candidates Briefing Guide](#) and distributes it to candidates for General Assembly seats. The Guide is intended to introduce incoming freshman legislators to counties and CCAO priorities, while also serving to provide an additional advocacy document to returning lawmakers.

This cycle's Briefing Guide centers stability of county revenue streams, addressing cost pressures, supporting the justice and public safety systems, and modernizing county government as priorities to enhance the state-county partnership.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 1020](#) (Representative Dani Isaacsohn): To temporarily suspend the motor fuel tax, to repeal the law requiring the escheatment of unclaimed funds to the state and the funding of the Brook Park project and major sports facilities projects, to create an electric bill credit, to increase the homestead exemption amount and income limit, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.
- [House Bill 1022](#) (Representatives Mark Hiner and David Thomas): To modify the rules governing property tax refunds.