



County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Restoring the Partnership 2007-2008 Legislative Priorities

County government and state government are partners in the delivery of vital services to the citizens of Ohio. Counties are essentially an arm of state government in delivering health & human services programs; administering justice & prosecuting criminals; improving infrastructure; managing the complex property tax system; and fostering needed economic & community development. In some of these areas, the state/county partnership has been challenged.

In recent years, the state has been shifting more costs to counties in the areas of human services, indigent defense, as well as, court and jail operations. In addition, there have been freezes and a reduction to the Local Government Funds, which help pay for many state-mandated responsibilities performed by counties.

At the same time, counties have been asking the General Assembly for tools to improve efficiency and modernize county operations. Working with lawmakers, counties have made progress, yet there is more work to be done. Counties are basically creatures of state statute and only can act when specifically authorized by state law, unlike home rule municipalities.

To restore and strengthen the state/county partnership, county commissioners are asking the Ohio General Assembly and the Administration for assistance. From a local perspective, we believe the partnership must be anchored by a firm commitment to provide counties with adequate funding, must provide broad flexibility to efficiently deliver services among the diverse 88 counties in this state, and must exhibit constant vigilance to stop unfunded mandates. We look forward to working with lawmakers and the Administration to achieve these objectives.

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Serving Ohio Counties Since 1880

Legislative Priorities

County Commissioners seek the support of the General Assembly and Administration for these Legislative Priorities to better serve the citizens of Ohio and to strengthen the State/County Partnership

Local Government Funds

Restore the state/county partnership by providing a stable, growing revenue source for the LGF's & increase the annual distribution to local governments, which had been frozen

Election Administration

Oppose unfunded mandates & address the growing costs and administrative issues resulting from recent reforms

Administration of Justice

Increase state responsibility for Public Defender services, rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, & incarceration of adults

Services to Children

Increase state support for Children Services & Child Support

Replacement of Lost Tangible Personal Property Tax Revenues

Address the unfinished business of tax reform by providing long-term funding replacement for local revenues lost due to the elimination of the tangible personal property tax

Impact Fees

Authorize counties to levy impact fees to help pay for new infrastructure and capital improvements



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