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# CIDS

## County Information and Data Service

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 1-5, 2008	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, RAYBURN BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO STATEHOOD DAY
APRIL 6-12, 2008	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
JUNE 8-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, LAKE COUNTY (PAINESVILLE)
AUGUST 6, 2008	CCAO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, OAKHAVEN GOLF CLUB, DELAWARE COUNTY (DELAWARE)

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK – APRIL 6-12

In 2008, the National County Government Week's theme is "Protecting Our Children." Counties can show their residents the many ways they work to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of children in sensible and cost-effective ways.

National County Government Week (NCGW) is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1991, the goal of county government week is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

There are activities at the national, state and local levels during county government week. More than 1,000 counties annually participate in NCGW by holding a variety of programs and events. These include tours of county facilities, presentations in

schools, meetings with business and community leaders, recognition programs for volunteers, briefings on environmental projects, and adoption of proclamations. For more information go to [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) and click on the story on the front page.

#### NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The 110th Congress, Second Session will hit town next January and a great number of programs that assist counties will be under intense scrutiny. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of "those who show up decide," you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference!

The NACo Legislative Conference will be held March 1-5, 2008 at the Hilton Washington. For more information about the conference go to [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

### OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5 in the Rayburn House Office Building – Room B369. Letters of invitation have been sent to the Ohio Congressional Delegation. Call now to make your appointments to meet with them during the conference!

Attendance at the breakfast is open to all Ohio conference attendees and their traveling companions. For more information about the conference or to register for the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 775-1904 or [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).

### **STATE ACTIVITIES**

#### OHIO STATEHOOD DAY – MARCH 5

What are you doing for Statehood Day? Join history advocates and professionals from across the state on March 5, 2008 for Statehood Day – the date in 1803 when Ohio became the nation's 17<sup>th</sup> state. Statehood Day provides a great opportunity to highlight the importance of Ohio's history and help demonstrate how history impacts local communities through economic re-development, education, attracting tourism and adding to Ohioans' quality of life.

Last year, 150 of Ohio's state and local history and heritage advocates joined together in Columbus on Statehood Day to communicate a message to state legislators that history works. Activities include a briefing about the legislative issues important to history advocates as well as pertinent historic information about Ohio's statehood. Following a luncheon, the group will spend the afternoon meeting in teams with state legislators and their

aides. Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to be the guest speaker.

Statehood Day 2008 activities will take place in the Statehouse Atrium, lasting from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. Participants will take part in a brief program before joining others in small group meetings with state legislators and Strickland Administration officials will be arranged by the Ohio Historical Society. For more information and an agenda go to <http://www.ohiohistory.org/about/lu/sd.html>. There is no charge to attend the event. Please RSVP your attendance by February 25 to Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations, Ohio Historical Society, at (614) 297-2355 or [tkleismit@ohiohistory.org](mailto:tkleismit@ohiohistory.org).

### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY ON THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS

In light of today's global economy and the desire to educate students for success in higher education and careers and as fully participating citizens, the Ohio State Board of Education is asking stakeholders from all aspects of the business community to provide input into policy recommendations and next steps.

The web address ([https://webapp1.ode.state.oh.us/odesurvey/survey\\_s/Edge\\_Survey.asp](https://webapp1.ode.state.oh.us/odesurvey/survey_s/Edge_Survey.asp)) links to a brief survey that asks respondents to offer comments on the types of skills, knowledge and behaviors that employees need today to be successful in the workplace and also what will be needed in the future to ensure that Ohio is competitive in the new global economy. The State Board of Education will use the results from the survey to help develop policy recommendations and define next steps in reforming Ohio's education system.

The survey link will be active until early February. For more information please contact: Marianne E. White, Management Analyst Supervisor, Ohio Department of Education, Office of Policy and Accountability, 25 South Front Street, Mail Stop 708, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 995-9944, fax (614) 728-2627, or [marianne.white@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:marianne.white@ode.state.oh.us).

## FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

### DIGITAL TELEVISION: THE SWITCH IS COMING!

Television broadcasters are in the midst of exciting and dramatic changes as they prepare for the February 17, 2009 digital television (DTV) transition, the federally mandated switch from analog to digital television broadcasting. This means conventional (analog) television broadcasting, as we currently know it, will come to an end.

The new upgraded digital technology will offer a myriad of consumer advantages, including crystal clear pictures and CD-quality sound, as well as multiple programming choices, HDTV and interactive options. The transition will also make additional spectrum available for advanced wireless applications. Nationally, 1,611 television stations have already transitioned from analog to digital.

In Ohio, there are approximately 720,000 households that receive free over-the-air television and are at risk of losing television reception if they do not take the necessary steps to transition to digital. Nationally, more than 34 million households will be affected by the DTV transition, including approximately 70 million television sets, according to data released by the National Association of Broadcasters. Importantly, those most disproportionately affected by the DTV transition will be seniors, minority populations, the economically disadvantaged and those living in rural areas.

Television sets connected to cable or satellite should not be affected, and will continue to receive broadcast programming after that date. But, television sets that are not connected to cable, satellite, a telephone company television service provider or do not have a built-in digital tuner, will need a converter box to continue receiving broadcast television signals after the transition occurs.

Prior to the February 2009 transition date, consumers who do not subscribe to cable or satellite television, but who receive free, broadcast-

only TV reception will have three options to navigate the DTV transition:

- (1) Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner;
- (2) Purchase a set-top converter box that will convert the digital signal into analog for an existing television set; or
- (3) Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider, in which case analog sets will continue to function.

Beginning in early 2008, consumers can purchase a DTV converter box that plugs into an existing analog set and allows continued free television reception. At that time, the federal government will provide households up to two \$40 coupons that can be used toward the purchase of these boxes. The boxes will be available at retail stores that sell electronic equipment. TV converter boxes are not expected to be available in retail stores until late February or early March. Coupons will expire within 90 days from the date it is issued.

### IRS 2008 STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2008 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 48.5 cents per mile for 2007. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 20 cents in 2007. The rate for miles driven in service of charitable organizations has remained the same.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile; the standard rate for

medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by a study. The mileage rate for charitable miles is set by law. Revenue Procedure 2007-70 ([www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-07-70.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-07-70.pdf)) contains additional information on these standard mileage rates.

## **NACo ACTIVITIES**

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

The NACo Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Begun in 1970, the Achievement Award Program promotes and recognizes innovative and successful programs that modernize and streamline county government and increase services to citizens. Last year eight Ohio counties won 20 NACo Achievement Awards.

Applications must be postmarked by **February 15, 2008**. Send applications to: 2008 Achievement Awards, National Association of Counties, P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. For more information please contact Deseree Gardner, NACo Research Associate, at (202) 942-4228 or e-mail [dgardner@naco.org](mailto:dgardner@naco.org) or fax your application to the NACo Research Division at (202) 737-0480. Copies of the application may be obtained from the NACo website at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

### NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

Counties across the nation are invited to submit their best communication efforts for recognition by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), an affiliate of NACo. Entry categories for the Awards of Excellence Competition include: annual reports, brochure & multiple-page booklets, internal & external publications, writing, graphic design, photography, audiovisual productions, special projects, and computer media. Submissions must have been completed from January 1 to December 31, 2007. Entries must be primarily the work of the entrant with outside assistance strictly limited to support functions, such as typesetting and printing.

Deadlines and entry fees:

- NACIO members - \$35 (by 5:00 p.m. on March 7) or \$50 (after March 7); or
- Non-members - \$50 (by 5:00 p.m. on March 7) or \$65 (after March 7).

No entries will be accepted after March 28, 2008. Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.nacio.org](http://www.nacio.org). For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).

## **CONFERENCE**

### 2008 NPELRA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

The National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA) will hold the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference on April 13-17, 2008 in Clearwater, FL. "Under the NPELRA Umbrella" will feature a diverse menu of more than thirty timely and relevant session topics including:

- Thinking Outside the Box – The Art of Vision
- FLSA-Hot Topics & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Privacy for Police & Fire
- Winning Contract Language
- Off-Duty Conduct & It's Impact on the Workplace
- Performance Management in Public Sector Labor Relations & Human Resources

For more information about the conference go to [www.npelra.org](http://www.npelra.org). NPELRA provides professional development, networking, and advocacy services to labor relations and human resources professionals, so that public sector employers may deliver the most efficient and effective services to citizens & taxpayers.

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

### SENIOR PLANNER

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Senior Planner. Under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the Commission, the Senior Planner serves as

Secretary to the Commission and is responsible for the following: Providing professional service to the public, leadership in all aspects of planning, administering regulations and managing staff, and working with the Commission's committee and local and other units of government.

This is a full-time position requiring a minimum of a four-year degree from an accredited university or college in planning or a related field; minimum of five years of experience with the varied aspects of planning in a regional/county planning commission or a similar organization; minimum of three years of administrative responsibility for staff; demonstrated professional development through certification by at least one statewide or national organization for planners and through other similar activities; ability to project a high level of professionalism and sensitivity in dealing with the public, developers, governmental officials and members of the Commission; computer experience and aptitude as demonstrated by proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher and Access as well as Arc View GIS and other similar tools; and a valid Ohio Driver's License and an acceptable driving record.

Position description and application are available on the County's website [www.co.knox.oh.us/jobs](http://www.co.knox.oh.us/jobs) or can be obtained by contacting [epmarth@ecr.net](mailto:epmarth@ecr.net) or at 117 East High Street, Suite 161 in Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Completed applications with attached resumes must be returned to the above address on or before **February 1, 2008**. EOE.

### ENGINEER

The Union County Engineer is currently accepting applications for an Engineer position. This position requires a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering (preferably civil) from an ABET accredited program with an Engineering Intern designation and the ability to obtain an Ohio Professional Engineer's license.

This engineering position may include tasks such as hydraulic modeling/drainage calculations, bridge design, roadway design, building plan review, wastewater design, AutoCAD drafting, subdivision plan review, construction inspection, project

management and other civil engineering related duties.

This is an unclassified salaried position. Compensation will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications. An application for employment is available at the Engineer's Office or by visiting our website (<http://www.co.union.oh.us>). Deadline for the submission of an application and resume is **February 8, 2008**. Submissions may be mailed or emailed (in a .pdf format) to the Union County Engineer, County Office Building, 233 West Sixth Street, Marysville, OH 43040, (937) 645-3018 or email [engineer@co.union.oh.us](mailto:engineer@co.union.oh.us). EOE.

### DOG WARDEN

Putnam County is seeking to fill position of Dog Warden. Responsibilities include: Enforcing laws for licensing and control of dog populations, investigating and resolving complaints and claims about dogs, picking up stray dogs, overseeing the dog shelter and performing other duties as assigned and/or required by law. Qualifications include: Must have high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, and ability to read road maps, knowledge of dog behavior, dog laws, and safe practices when handling dogs; ability to verbally communicate, keep written records, and maintain positive public relations. Applicant must be able to qualify with a firearm. Salary DOQ. Putnam County is Equal Opportunity Employer. Send resume to: Putnam County Commissioners' Office, 245 E. Main Street – Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875. Deadline is **February 1, 2008**. EOE.

***Statement of Positions, Principles and Recommendations  
of the Ohio Association of Election Officials  
in response to the EVEREST Report and Recommendations***

***Overview***

The Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE) is a bipartisan organization representing Ohio's 88 county boards of elections. The bylaws of the organization establish the duties of the legislative committee, officers and trustees. Section 4 of the bylaws empowers the trustees to vote on positions of the association. They have done so with regard to this paper, and have agreed to its contents without a dissenting vote. While we understand that the views and opinions of our association vary greatly by both board and individual, this document represents the **official** position of the organization in response to the EVEREST report and recommendations as voted on by the board of trustees. We value the right of each of our members to express their opinions but respectfully request that this document be cited by policy makers, media, and stakeholders as the officially sanctioned positions of this organization.

These positions, principles and recommendations are made by Ohio's election professionals who bring to the table hundreds of years of collective experience in administering elections. The opinions presented seek to create an elections system that is transparent and user friendly. While ease of administration is always a concern as it impacts the ability of election officials and voters to implement and understand their voting systems, it is not at the heart of this document. The document lays forth our thoughts and recommendations for how to best achieve the underlying goal of our association, which is *servicing our voters*. With them in mind, we submit this document.

***Response to the EVEREST report and findings***

- ✓ **Position:** The OAEO believes that the EVEREST report and findings have accomplished their original intent by exposing weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the voting systems used in Ohio. Accordingly it is a useful starting point for discussions on how to respond to, remediate and mitigate those vulnerabilities. Because the report only points out the *possibility* and not the *probability* of an attack, the Secretary of State has pointed out that the task of determining probability falls to that office, local election administrators, state policy makers and other interested parties.
- ✓ **Position:** The OAEO believes that many of the findings in the EVEREST report can be mitigated through enhanced and consistent application of security procedures by local boards of elections. Those that cannot be addressed by such procedures should be discussed with the long-term goal of providing stability and reliability to the elections systems in Ohio. This discussion must include the multitude of interested parties who have a vested interest in Ohio's elections.
- ✓ **Position:** The EVEREST report must be considered in the context of the first federally-approved testing and accreditation procedures as laid forth in the Help America Vote Act. Recently the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission adopted

new voting system standards, and only began testing equipment in 2006. Local election officials should carefully consider the new testing guidelines and balance them against the EVEREST report.

***Principles of the OAEO in consideration  
of the EVEREST report and recommendations.***

- ✓ **Principle:** The OAEO has long held the belief that decisions regarding the type of equipment used in each county should be made by those individual counties. While we recognize that certification of voting systems is within the purview of the Board of Voting Machine Examiners, the Ohio Revised Code is clear that the purchase and selection of equipment for each county resides with that county.
- ✓ **Principle:** In keeping with the above stated principle, any county that wishes to change voting systems as a result of the EVEREST report should have the ability to do so while working through the necessary processes at the local level.
- ✓ **Principle:** Decentralization of voting systems in Ohio not only affirms local control, it also acts as a de facto security system. Ohio's counties run five different voting systems provided by three different vendors. Thus, the ability for malicious groups and individuals to wreak havoc on our elections is stymied by the variety of machinery and multitude of technologies employed.
- ✓ **Principle:** We are encouraged that the Secretary of State is leaning less and less towards central count optical scan voting. The OAEO believes central count optical scan voting should not be used as the primary voting system in Ohio. We believe offering a second chance to voters is one of the great advantages of both precinct count optical scan and DRE machines. The Help America Vote Act made clear that second chance voting is paramount to our voting process, and we believe that central count optical scan denies Ohio's voters that benefit.
- ✓ **Principle:** Costs must be accounted for when recommending any changes to the voting system. In recent years, Ohio's elections officials and county commissioners have been assailed by unfunded and underfunded mandates from both the state and federal governments. This has caused a critical erosion of local resources available to fund elections. Any and all changes mandated by the state in the wake of the EVEREST report must be *fully* funded by the state. In light of increased state mandates, ongoing state support for elections should be considered. Furthermore, a cost/benefit analysis should be undertaken to determine the extent to which proposed solutions to security issues solve the problems they seek to fix.
- ✓ **Principle:** Changes to the elections system should be made incrementally and in a manner that is as least disruptive to the system as possible. The OAEO *does not* believe that the status quo is acceptable when it comes to increasing the security of our elections processes and systems. To the contrary, EVEREST has lain before us numerous and real concerns that must be addressed as quickly as possible. We do not object to reasonable and well-timed changes to the elections system. However, radical change, implemented in a way that does not account for the numerous deadlines that must be met in running elections can do more harm

than good. Any changes must be considered in the context of maintaining the continuity of the elections planning already taking place for future elections.

### *Recommendations by the OAE0*

- ✓ **Recommendation:** The Secretary of State should convene an elections security forum in conjunction with the summer conference of election officials. The forum should include members of the Secretary of State's staff, local election officials, representatives of voting rights groups, computer experts, academics, county commissioners, legislators, and other groups that have a stake in Ohio's elections. The goal should be to create a round table environment where security issues can be discussed and vetted.
- ✓ **Recommendation:** The Secretary of State should immediately form a work group of local election officials to discuss best practices and procedures for securing the various voting systems in Ohio. This work group should use the EVEREST report to prioritize security flaws in both voting technology and elections procedures. No later than May 15, 2008, the Secretary of State should issue a report to election officials outlining the findings of the group and recommending security practices and procedures to be employed for risk mitigation strategies.
- ✓ **Recommendation:** After issuing the best practices and procedures report, and before July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the Secretary of State should require boards of elections to submit security and risk mitigation plans to the Secretary of State's office. These plans should be reviewed and implemented prior to the 2008 General Election.
- ✓ **Recommendation:** Legislation should be considered to allow counties to pilot Colorado-style vote centers or super precincts in the May 2009 primary. We wholeheartedly agree that vote centers hold much promise in some counties. However, Ohio's demographic make-up dictates that one size does not fit all when it comes to implementing vote centers. Thus, the legislation should lay out general guidelines for their use and make their implementation permissive on a county-by-county basis. It is important that any legislation maintain uniformity of rights while providing maximum flexibility to boards with regard to the placement and location of voting centers.
- ✓ **Recommendation:** Legislation should be considered allowing for in-person early voting to be piloted in limited counties in the May 2009 primary election. The OAE0 has long believed that expanding voting beyond election day, when done in a way that is cost effective and well planned, can be of tremendous benefit to Ohio's voters. The legislation should lay out general guidelines for early voting while leaving some discretion to counties in its implementation. It is critical that the Secretary of State, local election officials and county commissioners have a say in the formation of the legislation, as it will take a cooperative effort of all three groups to successfully implement early voting in Ohio.
- ✓ **Recommendation:** Legislation allowing all mail special elections should be passed. The OAE0 has worked for many years to craft legislation to allow this to take place. Ohio Senate Bill 182 should be the vehicle for accomplishing this goal. We urge the General Assembly to pass this legislation in its current form.



## ***Conclusion***

Elections are at the heart of our democracy and as such evoke strong emotional reactions from those who administer them, those who evaluate and observe them, and those who participate in them. We anticipate and urge that this document will be viewed as a good faith effort to improve the confidence and trust that we all place in our elections system.