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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 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO STATEHOOD DAY
APRIL 6-12, 2008	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
APRIL 21, 2008	NW OHIO COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, MERCER COUNTY (CELINA)
MAY 5, 2008	SE OHIO COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, (ZANESVILLE)
JUNE 8-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, LAKE COUNTY (PAINESVILLE)
JULY 11-15, 2008	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, KANSAS CITY (JACKSON COUNTY), MISSOURI

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### APPOINTMENT OF 2008 CCAO STANDING COMMITTEES – FORMS DUE FEBRUARY 22

CCAO President Dan Troy (Lake) would like your assistance in development of and response to public policy proposals by participation in one of CCAO's standing committees. The standing committees have two primary purposes:

- 1) To serve as an informational resource by providing a forum to discuss issues of importance to members. Committee members have the opportunity to not only share problems, but also to learn how other commissioners have responded to them.

The issue discussion process in the committees will often utilize our affiliates, other elected officials, and state agency personnel as educational resources.

- 2) To review and formulate recommendations on legislative proposals.

Last week, information was sent to each Board of County Commissioners explaining that CCAO has reduced the number of committees to insure better attendance. Also, the protocol has been modified to allow each standing committee the ability to refer its recommendations to the CCAO Board of Trustees for approval. In the past, committee recommendations were channeled through the CCAO Legislative Committee prior to Board consideration. This change will empower the

committees to have their recommendations directly considered by the Board of Trustees and eliminate redundancy.

2008 CCAO Standing Committees:

- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Fiscal, Economic Development & Infrastructure
- General Government & Operations
- Human Services & Workforce Development
- Metropolitan & Regional Affairs
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Typically, committee membership has stayed fairly consistent during an even-numbered year, as there is limited turn-over in the ranks of county officials and the general assembly is in mid-term. But, as a result of these structural changes, **your involvement is needed**. Please read the complete memo, which includes DRAFT membership lists, posted on the front page of the CCAO website ([www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)). Please return the "2008 CCAO Standing Committee" form to CCAO by **Friday, February 22**.

Please note: If you are requesting to serve on the General Government & Operations Committee (former Legislative Committee), please hold the date of February 14 for the first meeting. For purposes of this first meeting, the membership list for the 2007 Legislative Committee will serve as the foundation. (See following article.)

For more information about CCAO Standing Committees please contact Cheryl Subler, Managing Director, Policy, at (614) 220-7980, (888) 757-1904 or [csubler@ccao.org](mailto:csubler@ccao.org)

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:  
STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

The 110th Congress, Second Session has hit town and a great number of programs that assist counties are 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. **Online registration is open until February 20**. 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. Please pre-register your attendance for the breakfast. 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) 757-1904 or [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).

**STATE ACTIVITIES**

OHIO STATEHOUSE MUSEUM PHOTO  
PROJECT

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) has developed a design plan to create updated, high-tech, interactive exhibits and educational programs at the Ohio Statehouse to *Enrich the Experience* of school children and visitors. CSRAB and CCAO have partnered on this project are seeking the assistance of all counties. Information is posted on CCAO's front page at [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org).

The new Ohio Statehouse Museum will be housed on the ground level and will interpret the Statehouse as the *People's House, a Stage for Democratic Action and the Seat of Ohio's State Government*. Exhibits will shine a light on the core values that form the foundation for Ohio's democracy and highlight Ohioans from every

county and region of the state. The design plan will highlight individuals who have come to serve their fellow citizens and make a difference either as governors, legislators, business people, farmers, concerned citizens and even school children.

The Ohio Statehouse Web site highlights plans of the interactive museum, including a fly-through video. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Web site portal is featured on the front page and under the education tab of the Statehouse Web site – [www.ohiostatehouse.org](http://www.ohiostatehouse.org). The new Ohio Statehouse Museum is scheduled to be completed in early March 2009.

**How can counties participate?** Throughout the Museum, a series of graphic face panels will highlight Ohioans who have, are or will be participating in the democratic process. CSRAB and CCAO are asking for your assistance in collecting these images. Photos are requested that represent Ohioans from all races, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, professions, educational backgrounds and regions of the state. The images will include some of Ohio's first citizens as well as some of its most recent.

Some images will be entered into a touch screen database so that Statehouse visitors may look up each individual and learn something about him or her. It is anticipated that the images will be rotated on a regular basis to keep the exhibit fresh and reflect the continued vibrancy of Ohio's democratic process. Specifically, your county is invited to submit the images of up to 25 individuals. Please review the memo and criteria sheet for detailed information.

In order to maintain the aggressive design schedule, we ask that all submissions must be received by CSRAB by **April 1, 2008**. An enclosed photo release waiver form must accompany images of all persons under the age of 18. This form may be reproduced for your use.

Thank you for participating in this project and helping to *Enrich the Experience* of school children and visitors of all ages at Ohio's Statehouse for generations to come. If you have any questions, please contact the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board at (614) 752-9777.

## CHIEF JUSTICE ISSUES MODEL FOR FORECLOSURE MEDIATION; ATTORNEYS GENERAL FAULT LENDERS ON CRISIS RESPONSE

A model mediation program has been distributed by the Ohio Supreme Court to state courts for use in home foreclosure cases. The model was developed in light of the national foreclosure crisis and related collapse of the subprime lending market, which has hit Ohio particularly hard. Home foreclosures in the state increased 40% last year compared to 2003, according to the Supreme Court. All but three of Ohio's 88 counties say the number of foreclosures increase in 2007, the court reported. The counties with the highest number were Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit.

"Mediation will assist courts in managing the explosion of foreclosure cases on their dockets for a more efficient administration of justice while assisting Ohio's most vulnerable homeowners facing the prospect of losing their homes," according to Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. "I am calling on all judges in Ohio who have jurisdiction over foreclosure cases to utilize the model in their courtroom by modifying it to meet the needs and resources of their communities."

A Foreclosure Working Group of the Supreme Court's Dispute Resolution Section and Advisory Committee developed the model, which the court said is the first of its kind in the nation. The model entails best practices, documents, forms, guidance on when mediation is appropriate and other information that can be tailored by each court to suit their purposes. Additionally, the high court said it is offering free assistance toward public education and training related to foreclosure cases. More information is available on the Ohio Supreme Court of Ohio website at [www.scotnet.state.oh.us](http://www.scotnet.state.oh.us).

"We are providing the tools to facilitate the use of mediation at the local level in resolving foreclosure cases, giving these cases the same access to mediation that has been regularly available in other types of civil cases for more than a decade," Mr. Moyer said. Gov. Ted Strickland recognized the chief justice's efforts Wednesday in his second State of the State Address.

## OHIO EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS REFUTE FLAWED TAX FOUNDATION STUDY

The Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) have reacted to a recently released study that portrayed Ohio in a negative light for business taxes. The Tax Foundation's 2008 Business "Climate" Index rated Ohio as the fifth worst state in the nation in terms of a favorable tax climate for business. Responding with a study of their own titled, "Why the Findings Don't Add Up," the education groups disputed the illogical claims of the Tax Foundation study.

This rebuttal analysis was commissioned by the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI), a non-profit research organization formed in 1997 to provide reliable research and analysis regarding public policy and tax issues that affect schools. The response to the Tax Foundation, prepared by the firm Driscoll & Fleeter, presented a point-by-point criticism of the "Climate" Index and its conclusions.

The Tax Foundation study ranked Ohio number 46 among all states for their so-called Business Tax "Climate" (50 being the worst). Yet the tax cuts and the total elimination of some business taxes in exchange for one that was seen as more "business friendly" eluded the Tax Foundation findings. Education advocates saw the report as harmful to the state in many ways, especially because the name (2008 Business Tax Climate Index) implies that the information is current.

ETPI has responded to previous Tax Foundation reports that have consistently given Ohio unfavorable marks for its business tax policy. In 2004, ETPI's "Setting the Record Straight" criticized the Tax Foundation's ranking at that time that put Ohio at number 48 of all states for the worst business tax climate.

Here are links to the final version of the ETPI report and executive summary: Full Report: <http://www.etpiohio.org/Library/IssBrf/ETPIFullAnalysis.pdf> or Executive Summary: <http://www.etpiohio.org/Library/IssBrf/ExecSummary.pdf>

## FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES ROUNDTABLES

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) is committed to supporting faith-based and community organizations that are delivering services and meeting needs throughout Ohio. In an effort to better engage local faith-based and community leaders, GOFBCI is hosting informational meetings in Mahoning County (Youngstown), Columbiana County (Columbiana), and Franklin County (Columbus) to learn more about what you're doing and how the office might help.

### **Regional Roundtables**

- **February 20, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Mahoning County (Youngstown)**  
Regency House, 3704 Mahoning Avenue, Austintown
- **February 20, 2008 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Columbiana County (Columbiana)**  
Salem Community House, 1098 North Ellsworth Avenue, Salem
- **March 6, 2008 - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Franklin County (Columbus)**  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Conference Center, 4200 Surface Road, Columbus

RSVP to attend a meeting in your area. Please contact Stacy Schad at (614) 644-3973 or [Stacy.Schad@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schad@governor.ohio.gov).

### **FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S PROPOSED FY2009 BUDGET

According to an analysis by the National Association of Counties (NACo), President Bush's proposed \$3.1 trillion budget to Congress leaves domestic spending flat. Analysts indicate that given this is his last budget Congress will ignore many of the recommendations presented. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) has already said the Senate can stall until the President leaves office, avoiding a presidential veto, and instead pass omnibus legislation that continues existing funding.

The President's budget always has relevance, and some of his proposals stand a chance of being enacted. The President proposed his spending plan on February 4.

Some key points to consider are serious reductions proposed to health care programs, justice, homeland security, housing, EPA, waste water grant funding, elections funding, rural development funding, PILT, CDBG, and transportation and infrastructure funding.

These essential resources that counties depend on to meet their constituents' needs could face serious cuts or even elimination. To read a copy of NACo's analysis of the budget go [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) and click on the article on the front page. At the end of the article is a link to a FY08 Budget vs. FY09 Budget comparison chart.

#### USDA ANNOUNCES \$24.7 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Rural Utilities Service announced the availability of \$24.7 million in grants to rural communities to strengthen distance learning and telemedicine (DLT) programs in rural America. The specialized health care and enhanced educational opportunities brought by modern technologies saves lives and promotes opportunities essential to the advancement of rural areas. USDA Rural Development's funding for distance learning and telemedicine will help to bring technology into rural America to build strong and vibrant communities.

Telemedicine technology makes it possible for doctors to examine and direct the treatment of patients without being physically present. The distance learning program finances equipment to expand educational resources to students and educational institutions in isolated rural areas. Over the past seven years, \$177 million has been invested in local distance learning and telemedicine programs, allowing 3,635 rural educational facilities to expand their access to modern telecommunications technology, and 1,650 health care institutions to develop technologies needed to enhance local medical care.

Applications for the \$24.7 million in grants must be received by April 14, 2008 and will compete nationally for funding. View <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm> for additional information on the distance learning and telemedicine program.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

#### **NACo ACTIVITIES**

##### ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD

The NACo Arts and Culture Award program is designed to encourage counties to submit successful programs that have used arts and cultural activities to address not only the quality of life, but also social problems in their communities. Cuyahoga County won the award in 2005 for their "Arts and Culture as Economic Development Grant Program" project.

Eligibility is extended not only to outstanding arts and historical preservation programs, but also to innovative funding processes that have been used to fund arts and cultural programs. Both ongoing and onetime projects are eligible for the award, but must meet the following requirements:

- The program or project must have been initiated since January 2002.
- County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program or project.

Each program will be evaluated based on: demonstrated community impact, innovation, community/county partnership, leadership, and transferability. Application deadline: **April 11,**

**2008.** The winning county will be presented with an award during a special awards ceremony held during NACo's Annual Conference.

For more information please contact Deseree Gardner, Research Associate, NACo, 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW – Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 942-4228, fax (202) 393-2630, or [dgardner@naco.org](mailto:dgardner@naco.org). Download the 2008 Arts and Culture Award Program Application at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). Click on Awards>Arts and Culture Awards.

### 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).

### **SEMINAR/MEETINGS**

#### COUNTY CONSTRUCTION & FINANCE SEMINAR

Bricker & Eckler LLP will present a "County Construction & Finance Seminar" on March 12, 2008 at the Confluence Park Restaurant, 679 West

Spring Street, in Columbus. As a benefit of being a co-sponsor of the seminar, CCAO members will receive a discount on tuition.

Seminar topics: Legislative Update (*presented by CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Brad Cole*), Basics of Public Contracting Law, Hiring a Design Professional, Construction Surety Bonds, Land Acquisition/Eminent Domain, Sustainability Efforts – Going Green and Renewing Infrastructure, Basic County Bond Law, Tax Abatement, and Tax Increment Financing.

Tuition (includes seminar materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments): \$115 or \$95 for public and sponsoring organizations. For more information please contact Megan Heiser, Bricker & Eckler, at (800) 844-5292 or [http://www.bricker.com/seminars/brochures/countycvmonst\\_3-12-08.pdf](http://www.bricker.com/seminars/brochures/countycvmonst_3-12-08.pdf).

### OPERATION: O.H.I.O. TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Ohio Adjutant General Gregory Wayt invites community leaders, organizations and local citizens to attend "Operation: O.H.I.O." (Ohio Helps Its Own or O-OHIO), a town hall meeting in your area focusing on how we can work together in support of Ohio's military families. The purpose of each town hall event is to provide the opportunity for all Ohioans to assist our military families and to provide information on the current system of support. An interactive forum and review of existing support structure will provide community leaders, organizations and local citizens an opportunity to ensure the needs of Ohio's military families are met.

Town Hall Meeting Schedule – All meetings are scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

- **March 5, 2008** – Medina Performing Arts Center, 777 East Union Street, Medina
- **March 13, 2008** – Hocking College Student Center, 3301 Hocking Parkway, Nelsonville
- **March 18, 2008** – Dublin Scioto High School, 4000 Hard Road, Dublin
- **April 1, 2008** – Owens Community College Performing Arts Auditorium, 30335 Oregon Road, Perrysburg

- **April 15, 2008** – Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering
- **May 20, 2008** – First Church of God, 3100 Princeton Road, Hamilton

For more information please contact the Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-7000 or [www.ohionationalguard.com/family](http://www.ohionationalguard.com/family).

**CLASSIFIEDS**

DIRECTOR OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

The Jefferson County Commissioners will be accepting applications for a full time unclassified salaried position for the Director of the Jefferson County Department of Job and Family Services. Applicant should have completion of undergraduate major core coursework in one of the following or a related field: Business administration, public administration, human services, human resources, psychology, sociology, social work, education or finance, work experience may be considered in lieu of a degree. Also, requires an additional five years of administrative/managerial experience to include responsibility of managing the fiscal aspects of an organization, agency, program or operational area and assisting in developing and implementing policies, programs, rules and/or regulations in a State or County Department of Job and Family Services preferred. At least two years of the five years must have been as a supervisor over subordinate staff and/or contractors.

Application forms and a complete job description are available at the Office of the Board of Commissioners, 301 Market Street, Steubenville, OH 43952, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday. Application deadline is **Friday, February 22, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** EOE.

DIRECTOR OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

Under the control and direction of the Board of County Commissioners, the county Director of Job and Family Services shall have full charge of the county Department of Job and Family Services. The Director will administer the Human Services, Children Services, and Child Support Enforcement

functions with a staff of over 500 employees. Programs include Ohio Works First, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Emergency Assistance, Title XX, Day Care, Work Programs, and Child Protective Services.

Minimum Qualifications: Completion of undergraduate major core coursework in one of the following or a related field: business administration, public administration, human services, human resources, psychology, sociology, social work, education or finance. Also requires an additional five years of administrative/managerial experience to include responsibility for managing the fiscal aspects of an organization, agency, program or operational area and assisting in developing and implementing policies, programs, laws, rules and/or regulations. At least two of the five years must have been as a supervisor over subordinate staff and/or contractors.

Resumes must be received by **3:30 p.m. on February 29, 2008** and sent to the attention of: Personnel Manager, Board of Stark County Commissioners, 110 Central Plaza S., Suite 240, Canton, OH 44702. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE. EOE.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR

The Licking County Board of Commissioners seek candidates with proven leadership, management and communication skills for the position of Director to lead the Child Support Enforcement Agency. The successful candidate will have demonstrated experience in planning and directing an agency's programs and maintain a standard of professional practices.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field. Six to eight years of senior management/executive experience with a history of progressive, responsible and successful performance of duties in the public or private sector, preferably in a bargaining unit environment. Also experience in managing the fiscal aspects of an organization, agency, program, or operational area and developing and/or implementing policies, programs, laws, rules and/or regulations.

Salary is commensurate with experience. Applications with resume and cover letter will be accepted until the position is filled. This is an unclassified position reporting directly to the Board of Commissioners.

Successful candidates will be subject to Licking County's pre-employment drug screen. A complete job description can be obtained by visiting our website [www.lcounty.com](http://www.lcounty.com) or visiting the Human Resources Department. Applications can be printed from the website at [www.lcounty.com](http://www.lcounty.com) or can be picked up at: Licking County Human Resources Department, 20 South Second Street - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor, Newark, OH 43055. EOE.

### 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 **March 31, 2008**. EOE.