



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 8

FEBRUARY 28, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 1-5, 2014	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE , WASHINGTON HILTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 4, 2014	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION RECEPTION, TORTILLA FLATS RESTAURANT – CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 11, 2014	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION , STATEHOUSE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 12, 2014	FUNDING WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS – A 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
MARCH 20, 2014	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 21, 2014	CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 24, 2014	CCAO JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE AND TAXATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES CONFERENCE CALL
MARCH 28, 2014	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, EMBASSY SUITES - AIRPORT, COLUMBUS
APRIL 2014	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
APRIL 11, 2014	CEBCO ANNUAL MEETING, DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS-WORTHINGTON, WORTHINGTON
MAY 15-16, 2014	OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM , DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FUNDING WATER & WASTEWATER PROJECTS

Join CCAO for a one-hour “Funding Water and Wastewater Projects” – part of the 2nd Wednesday Webinar Series - on March 12 at 9:30 a.m. Topics will include: background and purpose of the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), key features of OWDA’s loans, other OWDA funding programs, Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, Drinking Water Assistance Fund, and other public funding programs.

To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/835659718>. If you experience difficulty in connecting to the link above and you wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Program Assistant, at ajones@ccao.org and provide her with your name, title, and email address. Space is limited for this webinar, so register early. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, at bcole@ccao.org. [Read more...](#) [Click here](#) for a complete schedule of 2014 2nd Wednesday Seminars.

OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – MARCH 11

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) invites all county commissioners, county executives, and county council members to a Legislative Reception to be held on March 11, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium. Representatives from the other OCCO member organizations will be in attendance as well as many members of the 130th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders have also been invited.

OCCO strives to unite the associations representing Ohio's county elected officials and judges in order to promote sound, efficient, and fiscally responsible government. It serves as a forum to provide information about issues of importance to county elected officials and allows the members the opportunity to work on legislative issues of mutual concern.

Please RSVP your attendance by March 3, 2014 to Mary Panaggio at (614) 723-2008 or mpanaggio@ralaw.com. [Read more...](#)

IN MEMORIAM

KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS



Ashland County Commissioner Kimberly Ann Edwards passed away on Tuesday, February 25. An Ashland County native, Kim was elected county commissioner in 2007 and was in the last year of her second term at the time of her death. At CCAO, Kim served on the Board of Directors, Health and Human Services Committee, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Commissioners and Sheriffs Taskforce. On the state level, she served on the Public Health Futures Commission.

Prior to being elected county commissioner, Kim held various offices in Hayesville including mayor (2000-2006), council member, and clerk. She also served on the Hillsdale School Board while serving on the Hayesville Council.

Kim will be remembered by many for her life-long passion to serve her community. Notes of sympathy may be sent to her husband, Tom Edwards at 101 N. Mechanic Street, Rt. 6, Ashland, OH 44805. [Click here](#) to leave an online condolence.

DAVID RATLIFF

Former Athens County Commissioner David Ratliff died on Thursday, February 20. Ratliff was appointed to an unexpired term as county commissioner in November 1997, where he served for one year. He had also served as an Athens Township Trustee and as a member of the Athens County Board of Elections. He served on the elections board from January 2012 until his resignation at the end of May 2013. He was also co-owner of Athens Flower Shop. You may sign the online guestbook or leave a private message of sympathy for the family at www.hughesmoquinfuneralhome.com.

STATE ACTIVITIES

SOS SETS HOURS FOR GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING ACROSS STATE

This week, Secretary of State Jon Husted issued [Directive 2014-06](#) that establishes fair and uniform days and hours for in-person absentee voting for the May 6, 2014 Primary Election and November 4, 2014 General Election. Husted adopted the recommendation of the Ohio Association of Elections Officials to set a uniform, in-person early voting schedule for the state's 88 counties that doesn't include Sundays. The directive set the hours at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the last two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

STATE AND COUNTIES TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT BACKLOG

States across the nation are under a tremendous amount of pressure to process hundreds of thousands of potential Medicaid cases from individuals that have applied for healthcare in the federal marketplace. In Ohio, over 110,000 cases are currently pending and that number grows each day.

Over the past several days there have been some significant developments that will impact county operations in order to address this problem. The Governor's Office of Health Transformation, Department of Medicaid, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association have been developing a multi-faceted plan to address the inevitable transfer of cases. Many details have yet to be worked out over the next couple of weeks.

The first of these federal cases were transferred to the state on Wednesday for review. The entire transfer of cases should occur within the next 10 days.

Major steps being taken to assist the counties and state address the federal backlog include:

- State/County team to work the federal files to address federal errors and clean up files as best as possible before sending them to the counties. This team includes county experts to work side by side with state officials to work the initial batch. We expect to gain valuable insight and information on the types of problems counties can expect in handling these cases.
- Develop a multi-county queue to allow counties to voluntarily collaborate to work cases besides those assigned to their agency. Incentives will be provided to assist counties in this collaborative effort. A disproportionate number of these cases will fall on our metro counties and this incentive-based process will provide additional resources to assist all counties meet the demand created from the federal files. Numerous details have yet to be worked out on this new approach.
- Free up access to enhanced funding. The state is working with OJFSDA to overcome barriers which have limited access to the enhanced Medicaid funding (\$7.2 million) included in the state budget.
- Change no-touch parameters to improve results. The state will make modifications to some restrictive rules in the current no-touch system that should increase the volume of no-touch cases, providing relief to cases currently coming through the state system as well as federal transfer cases.
- The state will make additional training available for counties. Many county agencies are currently hiring temporary employees or utilizing support staff to help address backlogs. This training will help bring staffs up to speed in this process.
- The state is making numerous system enhancements based on county recommendations to enhance the system and speed up the process.
- The state has also requested a delay of the March 31st deadline for individuals included in the federal transfer of cases that eventually end up needing coverage through the federal exchange. (March 31st is the current deadline for open enrollment.) As this is federal law and no such waiver authority is

available, such a delay would require a presidential executive order. It is highly unlikely that Ohio would receive any exemptions not provided to all states.

- Over the next few weeks the state and counties will review the process being made on the transfer cases and make modifications as necessary.

This will undoubtedly be a difficult challenge to county operations. Client needs, media attention, advocate pressure, public expectations and system glitches will all contribute to added pressures.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

The U.S. House of Representatives was poised to begin debate this week on the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3370, as amended). Please urge your House Member to vote "yes" on the measure.

H.R. 3370 was originally introduced as a companion bill to the Senate measure (S. 1926)—also known as the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. However, the original legislative text has been replaced with completely new language. The amended bill will be considered under a procedure that will require a 2/3 majority vote to pass and does not allow for any amendments. [Read more...](#)

ONLINE SALES TAX HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 4

The House Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing on March 4, 2014 to “explore alternative solutions on the internet sales tax issue”. Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) created “The Seven Basic Principles on Remote Sales Tax” last September. Since then, he has welcomed ideas about the bill.

1. **Tax Relief:** Using the Internet should not create new or discriminatory taxes not faced in the offline world. Nor should any fresh precedent be created for other areas of interstate taxation by States.
2. **Tech Neutrality:** brick & mortar, exclusively online, and brick & click businesses should all be on equal footing. The sales tax compliance burden on online Internet sellers should not be less, but neither should it be greater than that on similarly situated offline businesses.
3. **No Regulation Without Representation:** Those who would bear state taxation, regulation and compliance burdens should have direct recourse to protest unfair, unwise or discriminatory rates and enforcement.
4. **Simplicity:** Governments should not stifle businesses by shifting onerous compliance requirements onto them; laws should be so simple and compliance so inexpensive and reliable as to render a small business exemption unnecessary.
5. **Tax Competition:** Governments should be encouraged to compete with one another to keep tax rates low and American businesses should not be disadvantaged vis-a-vis their foreign competitors.
6. **States’ Rights:** States should be sovereign within their physical boundaries. In addition, the federal government should not mandate that States impose any sales tax compliance burdens.
7. **Privacy Rights:** Sensitive customer data must be protected.

The [Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013](#) (S. 336 & H.R. 684) would, as currently written, allow states that simplify sales tax to require certain remote retailers to collect and remit sales tax. The bill was approved by the Senate last May and has been waiting for attention in the House since then.

NACo ACTIVITIES

THE ROAD AHEAD: COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND FINANCING

In preparation of the expiration of the federal surface transportation law this year, NACo has released significant new research, which shows that counties need a continuing partnership with the federal government and the states in funding the U.S. transportation system. "[The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing](#)" examines the structure of county funding for transportation projects, challenges and examples of funding and financing solutions. The study also analyzes the nature of county ownership and authority over transportation. This research focuses only on roads and bridges, given that other county transportation assets have different funding mechanisms.

As an integral part of the nation's transportation network, counties own 45 percent of all public roads and 39 percent of all bridges. They are involved in road and bridge ownership in 43 states and own and maintain the majority of public roads in 24 states. [Read more](#) in *County News*.

NACIO 2014 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION CALL FOR ENTRIES



The [National Association of County Information Officers \(NACIO\)](#) is soliciting entries for its 2014 Awards of Excellence competition. This contest recognizes outstanding public relations and public information work being done in counties across the nation. Winners will be announced in June. The awards will be presented at the NACIO reception at the NACo Annual

Conference held on July 11-14, 2014 in Orleans Parish (New Orleans), Louisiana.

The 2014 Awards are a comprehensive look at the initiatives and efforts put forth from January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013, and will recognize excellence in nine categories: Annual Reports, Brochures/Multiple-Page Booklets, Publications, Writing, Graphic Design, Photography, Audiovisual Productions, Special Projects, and Electronic Communications. Each category will include several subcategories. Please note that the projects must have been produced during the calendar year, but it does not have to be a new project. It can be an ongoing program or initiative. Application deadline: April 18, 2014.

The Awards of Excellence are open to county staff whose county is eligible to join the National Association of Counties (NACo), or any staff of an eligible state association of counties. [Click here](#) to read the official contest rules and to download the official application form. For membership information, please contact NACIO Region 1 Director - Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@ccao.org or [click here](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS & ROADMAPS: WHAT'S NEW IN 2014?

The 2014 County Health Rankings will be released on March 26. Do you know where your county will be ranked? Join the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute for a webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014 to learn the rationale behind the Rankings model and new measures and action tools for 2014. You will also learn about the updated communications toolkit and strategies to inform and develop a community health improvement approach in your county. Participants will get access to the embargoed data before its national release. [Register here...](#)

12TH ANNUAL STATE OF THE REGION CONFERENCE

Join Bowling Green State University's Center for Regional Development for the 12th Annual State of the Region Conference to be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd, in Perrysburg. The continental breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. followed by the program from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon featuring keynote speaker Tom Murphy, a Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute and former mayor of the City of Pittsburgh. There is no charge to attend the event. Space is very limited. [Register here...](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Staff Attorney	Fairfield County JFS March 21, 2014
OMB Director	Lucas County March 5, 2014
Registered Dietician/Dietary Manager	Williams County Open until filled
Design Engineer	Geauga County Open until filled
Senior Manager/Sanitary Engineer Dept.	Greene County Open until filled
HR Director	Portage County Open until filled
Child Support Enforcement Program Administrator	Clark County Open until filled (first reading of resumes on March 17, 2014)
HR & Support Services Deputy Director	Stark County JFS Open until filled