



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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April 21, 2017

Come to Columbus and speak out for counties on April 26th!

Now is the perfect time for you to come to Columbus to help bolster the momentum around some of our most important legislative priorities. If you are planning to come for the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) legislative reception on April 26th, please consider arriving early to participate in some of the other important meetings happening around the statehouse:

- The House's version of the budget is scheduled for release next week and the House Finance committee will be holding hearings on their changes for most of the day.
- House Session is scheduled for 1:30pm.
- CCAO will be holding a General Government committee meeting at 1pm and a Board meeting at 3pm at our offices.
- The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) will hold their annual legislative reception from 5-7pm in the Statehouse atrium. OCCO will hold a press conference at 4:15pm in the atrium on the elimination of the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax.

If you have questions, please contact [Kate Neithammer](#) at 614-221-5627.

Voting machine funding bill introduced

State Senator Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) introduced SB 135 this week that would provide funding to counties for the replacement of voting equipment which is reaching the end of its useful life.

Obtaining funding to replace aging voting equipment is a top priority for CCAO along with the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO) and our joint committee has been working on developing a plan to replace this equipment for several years. We are appreciative of the initiative taken by Senator LaRose on this critical issue and look forward to working with him to secure passage of the legislation.



Frank LaRose

The current equipment was last purchased in 2005 or 2006 and is becoming obsolete. Although widespread failure is not occurring, minor glitches are becoming more common with each election and the long-term viability of the system has the potential to be compromised. This antiquated equipment is becoming costly to maintain while replacement parts are increasingly hard to find.

"This equipment comprises the essential infrastructure of our democratic process," said Senator LaRose. "It is a shared responsibility of state and local governments to ensure that it is properly

maintained."

The legislation is modeled on the approach, authored by Senator LaRose in House Bill 64 of the last General Assembly and supported by both CCAO and OAE0, for the procurement of electronic poll books. Under the cost sharing partnership, the state would reimburse the counties for 80% of their cost for the acquisition of new voting and tabulation equipment.



The bill contains an appropriation of capital dollars for the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to purchase new voting equipment and to reimburse counties which have recently purchased new equipment. The bill calls for the state to provide 80 percent of the equipment cost, while counties would fund the remaining 20 percent.

The bill makes a supplemental operating appropriation for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium of \$7 million and a capital appropriation for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium of \$82 million.

The Department of Administrative Services will manage the program and the funding will be allocated to each board of elections in proportion to the number of registered voters in each county as recorded in the statewide voter registration database as of July 1, 2017. The operating appropriation will be used to reimburse counties who have already acquired new equipment prior to the effective date of the bill. For voting equipment purchased after the effective date of the bill, counties will be able to utilize state term contract pricing and will be reimbursed for the selected voting machines and any other necessary equipment or services selected by their board of elections.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Subler or John Leutz at 614-221-5627.

Medicaid managed care sales tax advocacy

86 of Ohio's 88 counties have sent letters or passed resolutions asking the state to protect counties from the negative impact of the Medicaid managed care organization sales tax loss. A big thank you to all the counties who advocated for this priority and helped send this important message to their legislators in Columbus.



Statehouse, Etc.



Yuko to serve as Senate Minority Leader -



Kenny Yuko

Senate Democrats will have a new leader once the legislature reconvenes next week following spring recess. Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) announced Wednesday that he was stepping down from his leadership post to focus on his gubernatorial run in 2018.

He will be replaced by Senator Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.), who will officially assume leadership of the nine-member caucus on April 26, the date of the next Senate session. The caucus said Sen. Yuko, who is not currently in leadership, was elected unanimously.

Sen. Yuko has represented the 25th Senate District since 2016. He previously served eight years in the House before facing term limits in 2012. Earlier in his career he spent 25 years as a union organizer.

Drug Abuse Prevention, Recovery Programs Receive Federal Funds - Ohio will soon receive more than \$26 million in federal funding designed to fight the opioid crisis. The money, appropriated by the 21st Century CURES Act, comes through grants administered by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fight the drug problem. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has **said** it will use the funding to focus on certain areas, including medication-assisted treatment, prevention, recovery supports, workforce development and trauma among first responders.

The funds will be used for statewide activities with an emphasis being placed on counties with the highest rates of overdose deaths and greatest treatment needs, and local projects will be identified by local ADAMHS boards. County-based funding will include different tiers based on overdose death rates and need for treatment, according to an ODMHAS **fact sheet**.

Bills Introduced



SB 135

VOTING EQUIPMENT (LAROSE, F.)

To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.

Hearing Schedule



MONDAY, APRIL 24

[House Rules & Reference](#)

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3506), Rm. 119, 1:00 pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

[House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development](#)

(Chr. [Dever, J.](#), (614) 466-8120), Rm. 114, 9:00 am

[HB 46](#)

COUNTY INVESTMENTS ([SPRAGUE, R.](#))

To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for investment of county inactive moneys. --3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested Party-Possible vote

[HB 104](#)

CREDIT ACCOUNT DEBT ([SCHAFFER, T.](#))

To allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit accounts when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit account lender. --3rd Hearing-All Testimony-Possible vote

[House Ways & Means](#)

(Chr. [Schaffer, T.](#), (614) 466-8100), Rm. 121, 9:00 am

[HB 116](#)

SALES TAX ([MERRIN, D.](#))

To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax. --3rd Hearing-All Testimony-Possible vote

[HB 118](#)

PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS ([MERRIN, D.](#))

To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. --3rd Hearing-All Testimony-Possible vote

[House State & Local Government](#)

(Chr. [Anielski, M.](#), (614) 644-6041), Rm. 122, 10:00 am

[HB 122](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ([HAMBLEY, S.](#), [ROGERS, J.](#))

To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

[HB 139](#)

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE ([PERALES, R.](#), [KELLER, C.](#))

To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

[House Finance](#)

(Chr. [Smith, R.](#), (614) 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10:00 am

[HB 49](#)

BIENNIAL BUDGET ([SMITH, R.](#))

To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. --10th Hearing-Possible substitute

[House Session](#)

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3357), House Chamber, 2:00 pm

[House Public Utilities](#)

(Chr. [Seitz, B.](#), (614) 466-8258), Rm. 116, 3:00 pm or after session

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

[House Health](#)

(Chr. [Huffman, S.](#), (614) 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9:00 am

[HB 167](#)

OPIOID MEDICATIONS ([EDWARDS, J.](#))

Regarding addiction treatment and opioid prescribing by physicians and dentists. --1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral

[House Finance](#)

(Chr. [Smith, R.](#), (614) 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9:00 am

[HB 28](#)

IC BUDGET ([BRINKMAN, T.](#))

To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs. --3rd Hearing-Possible amendments & vote

[HB 49](#)

BIENNIAL BUDGET ([SMITH, R.](#))

To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. --11th Hearing-All testimony

[Senate Rules & Reference](#)

(Chr. [Obhof, L.](#), (614) 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am

[Senate Session](#)

(Chr. [Obhof, L.](#), (614) 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

[House Finance](#)

(Chr. [Smith, R.](#), (614) 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9:00 am

[HB 49](#)

BIENNIAL BUDGET ([SMITH, R.](#))

To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. --12th Hearing-All testimony

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 [House Finance](#)

(Chr. [Smith, R.](#), (614) 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9:00 am

- If needed