



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Governor Kasich announces he is running for president

The nation's political attention shifted to Columbus Tuesday for Gov. John Kasich's presidential campaign announcement at Ohio State University. Mr. Kasich, the 16th GOP candidate to declare for the 2016 election, delivered his campaign speech at the Ohio Union, the university's main student center.

During his 45 minute speech, Kasich drew continuous rounds of applause from the friendly crowd of a few thousand as he spoke about people that have influenced his life and shared a string of anecdotes about his time in public office. He said too many Americans question the "American dream" that is no longer easily within reach. Layoffs, student debt, health care costs and drug addiction were among the barriers he listed as standing in the way of Americans and their potential. At the same time, he called for compassion, urging conservatives to lift up the drug addicted, the mentally ill and the working poor. "There are some people that say just work harder or pull yourself up by your bootstraps," he said. "I believe in all that. But some people just don't have the fortune that many of us have."

Some of his remarks mirrored those from his 2015 State of the State speech, in which he spoke of the renewed hope of the people of Wilmington - a city hit hard by the recession. During that speech, he said the city's rebound reflected the growing health Ohio has experienced under his leadership. The governor said he would seek to replicate that progress across the U.S. as president. "The sun's coming up," he said of the people of Wilmington. "It hasn't reached its zenith but the sun is rising and the sun is going to rise to the zenith in America again."



Gov. Kasich also used his speech to expand on his political resume, touching on his years as a state senator and his 18 years in the U.S. House, including time on the House Budget Committee. He also briefly mentioned his work at Lehman Brothers after leaving Congress. All of those experiences, Gov. Kasich said, have shaped him to be a candidate ready for a competitive run at America's highest office. "I have to humbly tell you I believe I do have the skills, the experience and the testing which shapes you and prepares you for the most important job in the world and I believe I know how to work and help restore this great United States," he said.

Before Gov. Kasich took the stage, former U.S. Sen. John Sununu, a New Hampshire heavy weight who has thrown his support behind Kasich who served with Kasich on the House Budget Committee, praised the governor's leadership and experience. "That, most of all, is what America needs today: A president that doesn't need any on-the-job training," Mr. Sununu said. "John Kasich is that leader. He's ready. He's strong. He's tough. He's honest."

Gov. Kasich said that, should he reach the White House, his main goal would be ensuring the country's economic health. He indicated support for a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget to ensure "Congress will start doing its job."

"If I'm president - or maybe I should say when I am president - I promise you my top priority will be getting this country on the path to fiscal independence, strength and we will rebuild the economy of this country because creating jobs is our highest moral purpose," he said.

Kasich lags behind most contenders in national polls. His name recognition is expected to receive a boost from his official announcement, but it remains to be seen whether he'll be eligible to participate in a Fox News GOP debate set for Aug. 6 in Cleveland. Gov. Kasich, in his speech, addressed those questioning how he'll manage against such odds. Whether it was his first election to the state Senate in 1978, his effort to balance the federal budget as a U.S. representative or his 2010 gubernatorial run against an incumbent after a 10-year absence from politics, Gov. Kasich said, "All of my life people have told me you can't do something... They said it couldn't be done and we proved them wrong."

"We're going to take the lessons of the heartland and straighten out Washington D.C.," he told supporters. "Together, we'll prove them wrong again, won't we?"

Enhanced case management and work program to focus on young adults

(Originally printed in the 7/17/2015 edition of Gongwer.)

Low-income Ohioans between ages 16 and 24 could soon be required to participate in a program designed to move them off public assistance and into the workforce. The state budget bill ([HB 64](#)) created the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program which will seek to reduce transition-aged youths' contact with public assistance while better connecting them with gainful, long-term employment. The program will focus on 16- to-24-year-olds who

are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible.

The Department of Job & Family Services' Office of Human Services Innovation estimates that the program, which will take effect in July 2016, will impact at least 23,000 Ohioans - the number who had contact with TANF and WIOA summer youth programs in the past year. The JFS director is to administer federal WIOA over the biennium and, in consultation with the Office of Workforce Transformation, to create, coordinate and supervise the CCMEP. It also requires that the program, to the extent funds are available, make certain employment and training services available to participants in accordance with assessments of their needs; and work-eligible individuals participate in the program as a condition of participating in Ohio Works First. OWF participants who are not work-eligible and those receiving benefits and services under the Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program would be permitted to voluntarily participate in CCMEP.

Each board of county commissioners, must pick a local participating agency to serve as the lead for the program by May 15, 2016. ODJFS will develop an evaluation system through the public rulemaking process and is working with stakeholders to develop performance measures and assessment tools.

Although the program isn't technically a pilot, limiting it to younger adults will allow the state to effectively implement changes and measure results. Comprehensive case management and employment efforts will likely be expanded to other populations pending the success of the program.

Congressional redistricting plan introduced

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley Twp.) and Sen. Tom Sawyer (D-Akron) introduced [SJR 2](#) this week, which is designed to bring more openness and equity to Ohio's congressional mapmaking process by creating a bipartisan commission that would be responsible for drawing Ohio's Congressional districts. "Our goal is to establish a redistricting process that works for Ohioans, not politicians," Sen. LaRose said in a statement. The sponsors are hoping to ride the momentum generated last year when lawmakers in both chambers adopted a similar resolution (HJR12, 130th General Assembly) to create a seven person commission to redraw state legislative districts. That resolution is to be voted on at this November's election. SJR 2 proposes that the same commission - comprised of the governor, secretary of state, state auditor and four members appointed by majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate - would undertake the role of determining congressional districts. "This resolution follows the same bipartisan blueprint for drawing state legislative lines that the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved last year," Sen. Sawyer said. "With that in mind, we hope it will receive the same strong support from our fellow lawmakers."



Sen. Frank LaRose



Sen. Tom Sawyer

Like with last year's reapportionment measure, the new resolution would require any 10-year redistricting plan to receive the support of four members including two minority members of the redistricting commission. If the vote is not bipartisan, an "impasse" provision will allow the map to go into effect for four years after which the commission would reconvene to redraw the map for the remaining six years.

Maps drawn under the impasse procedure would be subjected to more stringent standards, with the aim of constraining possible partisan excesses and the sponsors claim that SJR 2 ultimately puts safeguards in place to ensure the drawing of logical, compact districts.

The resolution has been long awaited by political watchers, but lawmakers hesitated to propose a plan before a resolution was reached in a recent US Supreme Court case, *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, that questioned the constitutionality of such an approach taken by the state of Arizona. The Supreme Court determined in a 5-4 ruling that an Arizona commission similar to that of the proposed Ohio commission was constitutional and that it restored "the core principle of republican government" by rooting out gerrymandering and returning authority to voters.

Energy Mandates Study Committee holds final hearing

The push and pull over Ohio's green energy standards continued this week at the last meeting of the Energy Mandates Study Committee, where members heard doubts about the requirement and a new report was released in their defense. Members of the panel said afterward they still aren't sure which way they are leaning in terms of developing a report. Since February, the committee has fielded testimony concerning whether lawmakers should take action on Ohio's renewable energy portfolio standards, including energy efficiency and peak demand reduction mandates. After a two-year freeze, the RPS will return to effect in 2017 if lawmakers take no action.

A report from the study committee is due Sept. 30. The committee's recommendations could call for the reinstatement or repeal of the RPS or could lie somewhere in between. "I'd say everything's definitely still on the table," co-chair Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) told reporters after the meeting. Co-chair Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) said it would be "premature" to say which way the committee might lean and believes that both sides brought real things that need to be considered



Sen. Troy Balderson

During the final hearing, Ryan Yonk of Utah State University and Greg Lawson of the Buckeye Institute told the panel measures like Ohio's RPS have an overall negative impact on Ohio and other states. Mr. Yonk said his study indicates there was about \$18 billion in 2013 lost from expected real personal income and that Ohio had 29,366 fewer jobs than it would have had

without the RPS. "There can be no doubt that the combined economic effect on an RPS enactment ... is a severe decline in the Ohio economy," Mr. Yonk said. "We demonstrate strong empirical evidence that a Renewable Portfolio Standard has a lasting negative effect on a state economy."

Mr. Lawson, statehouse liaison for the Buckeye Institute, also testified, calling the mandates a "distortion" of the energy market. "These energy mandates - like virtually all government mandates - amount to nothing less than the government picking winners and losers in the marketplace," he said. "Unsurprisingly, such market manipulation and 'bureaucrat-knows-best' thinking has yielded poor results for Ohio, its businesses and its citizens." Mr. Lawson argued that those mandates raise electricity costs, discourage energy innovation and hamper the electric grid's reliability. He also said the industry seems to be self-correcting by moving toward a reduction in emissions without the need for such mandates. "The AEPS is almost certain to harm Ohio's economy and jeopardize the state's road to recovery," Mr. Lawson said. "Renewing the AEPS would be a proactive step to slow the pace of recovery and is simply not worth the risk to Ohio's economy."

The League of Women Voters, Common Cause Ohio, Communities United for Responsible Energy, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, Theis Research and Consulting and LEEDCo submitted a joint letter to the committee, calling the RPS's green provisions "at worst, a very small part of the problem" of rising electricity costs for consumers. Despite the 2008 RPS legislation that deregulated the industry, electric costs have continued to climb, the group argued.

The group's report suggests that the decrease in alternative energy and energy efficiency and peak demand reduction costs corresponds with the two year freeze of the RPS. "This report, as well as testimony presented to the committee, clearly shows (RPS) contributes virtually nothing to the skyrocketing electric rates since deregulation," according to the report. "It is also important to recognize that, while the word 'mandates' implies mandates on electric companies, the very small costs from the legislation are borne by consumers."

All testimony given to the committee is available on the committee's [new website](#). For additional information, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

Flow control to be no longer permitted for recycling materials

The Senate added a provision to the state budget bill ([HB 64](#)) that effectively prohibits solid waste districts from designating certain facilities where waste haulers must deliver recyclable materials that have already been separated out of the waste stream. So-called "flow control" authority was part of the 1988 law that overhauled regulations on waste disposal and encouraged development of recycling programs in the state. Local officials and environmentalists say this will hamper development of the rapidly evolving recycling industry in Ohio. However, private waste management companies that pushed for the amendment to the bill claim it will protect private sector job growth on the recycling front.

Logan County Commissioner John Bayliss, representing CCAO, in his Senate Finance Committee testimony said the measure will override local officials' authority to determine the recycling facility where the materials should be delivered. "To a great degree, the dynamic

public and private recycling programs that Ohioans have today are attributable to the state solid waste law which encouraged the creation of recycling and waste reduction programs across the state over the past 27 years since the enactment of House Bill 592," he said. Commissioner Bayliss said the amendment could particularly harm rural areas that lack the population density and economies of scale to attract private recycling services. "Explicitly prohibiting designations could make it difficult for smaller communities to craft solid waste and recycling solutions to address local needs."



Commissioner John Bayliss

Michael Greenberg, president of environmental consulting firm GT Environmental, said the solid waste districts' flow control authority was important to guarantee that public recycling facilities, especially in rural areas, have adequate revenues to support their debt obligations. The flow control law already has several "safeguards" to prevent private waste haulers from harm. For example, he pointed to the ability for the industry to seek waivers, asserting that county commissioners grant the exemptions in most cases.

"New technologies are coming online and the potential opportunities for Ohio to attract jobs and new industry to our state should not limit the agencies you entrusted with the responsibility to manage our waste and protect the public's health and welfare," he said. "Taking away an essential tool that the people will decide when to use at the local level is short sighted."

Rumpke general counsel Jim Thaxton, testifying on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, painted the opposite picture, saying flow control authority was an outdated remnant of the 1988 law. "At that time, recycling largely meant pulling things from the garbage. In the 27 years since, it has grown into a separate, viable, stand-alone industry, but the statutes and regulations haven't kept pace," he said. Many solid waste districts do not use their authority to designate where recyclable materials should be delivered, and others operate recycling centers or material recovery facilities that freely compete with the private sector, Mr. Thaxton said. However, some districts prevent private waste haulers from even offering their services, he added.

"And now that the value of recyclable commodities is increasing, other districts are considering avenues to claim these materials for themselves, at the expense of private sector companies and jobs," he said. "It is not our desire nor intention to stop or prevent any solid waste management district from offering whatever service they feel is appropriate, but rather to simply ensure that private business has the opportunity to offer its service as an option for recycling."

CCAO opposed the amendment and was disappointed that it was included in the budget bill.

Statehouse Etc.



Blue-green algae alert system put in place - The Environmental Protection Agency outlined a new advisory system to notify the public in the event compounds produced by are found in drinking water. The "multi-tiered" system is the result of an annual review process, the EPA said in a news release. The system includes the following tiers:

- Microcystin detected in treated water
- Microcystin detected in treated drinking water higher than 0.3 micrograms per liter
- Microcystin detected in treated drinking water higher than 1.6 micrograms per liter

In the first case, an advisory will not go into effect and public water systems will adjust their treatment to address the detected microcystin. In the latter two tiers, the public will be advised against drinking the water and public health and emergency response agencies will work to address the issue and keep the public informed.

For more information please click [here](#).

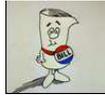
For additional information, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

Marijuana legalization amendment 30,000 signatures short of getting on the ballot – The Secretary of State' office said on Monday that the original petitions filed by ResponsibleOhio met the requirement to submit a sufficient number of signatures from at least half of Ohio's counties but contained only 276,082 valid signatures of the at least 305,591 valid signatures required to secure a spot on the ballot. About 40 percent of the approximate 695,000 signatures originally submitted were valid. ResponsibleOhio, however, alleged "significant discrepancy" between the number of signatures that were submitted and the total counted by several county election boards and claimed it would take the matter to the Ohio Supreme Court.

ESINet Steering Committee to vote on proposed PSAP Operation Rules on August 6 –

The ESINet Steering Committee held a work session this week to review and revise its proposed rules governing PSAP operations that PSAPs will have to comply with in order to continue receiving state funding after January 2018 from the state Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund. The committee will vote on Aug 6 to send the [final rules](#) to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review for approval. The meeting will be by conference call and begin at 11:00 a.m. Those interested in participating in the meeting can call in to 1-614-230-0229 and enter the Meeting ID 81523#.

Bills Introduced



- SB 198** **MUNICIPAL TAXES** ([Jordan, K.](#)) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50
- SB 199** **MILITARY FIREARMS** ([Uecker, J.](#), [Gardner, R.](#)) To specify that an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces: (1) does not need a concealed handgun license to carry a handgun concealed if the member is carrying valid military identification and a certificate indicating successful small arms qualification; and (2) may be sold or furnished a handgun if the member has received military or equivalent small arms training. Am. 1547.69, 2923.12, 2923.121, 2923.122, 2923.123, 2923.126, 2923.16, and 2923.21
- SJR 2** **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING** ([LaRose, F.](#), [Sawyer, T.](#)) Proposing to enact Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Article XIX of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to revise the redistricting process for congressional districts.
- HB 292** **FIREFIGHTER DISABILITY** ([Hagan, C.](#)) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter Am. 124.42, 505.374, 505.375, 505.38, 709.012, 737.08, 737.22, 742.38, 4123.57, 4123.68, and 4766.09.