



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Ohio voters will decide 3 statewide ballot issues . . . *Redistricting, monopolies & marijuana*

The Ballot Board approved language that will appear before voters who cast ballots on separate legislatively proposed amendments regarding redistricting and monopolies. Voters also will decide a marijuana proposal put forth by initiative petition.

While [language](#) describing the bipartisan backed redistricting proposal was endorsed quickly and without discussion, the panel delved deeper into the wording of the so-called "anti-monopoly" amendment ballot language that was ultimately opposed by Democrats.

The proposal ([HJR 4](#)), which aims to block special economic interests from benefiting from the constitution, is being touted for its potential to thwart a marijuana legalization issue that was also considered by the board on Tuesday.

The [summary](#) laid out in five bullet points, the contents of which Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) questioned. She reprised arguments made during floor votes on the resolution, including that the language is too broad and does not apply only to monopolies as is advertised. Former Sen. Nina Turner joined Rep. Clyde in voting against the summary language as well as the opposition argument that will be published in Ohio newspapers.

Law requires supporting and opposing statements to be published before the election. The proponent argument was prepared by Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina), Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), Rep. Mike Curtin (D-Columbus) and Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus).

Because the leaders of the House and Senate didn't appoint members to prepare an opposition argument, the ballot board was tasked with creating a document to publish.

**Check out the ballot language for
November's statewide issues:**

[State Issue 1 – Redistricting Reform](#)

[State Issue 2 – Monopolies Prohibited
in Constitution](#)

[State Issue 3 – Marijuana Use
Allowed](#)

Rep. Clyde and Sen. Turner said they were disappointed that lawmakers who voted against the resolution weren't approached to represent the opposition and presented an alternative argument.

The alternative argument, which was voted down on party lines, was authored by Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) and Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus). Proclaiming "your rights are under attack," they contended that Issue 2 would silence citizen voices, create unintended consequences and weaken state's rights.

"If it passes, Ohio citizens will no longer be able to demand an up or down vote on commercial rights and benefits in the constitution," the argument said. "This proposal will limit the voice and current rights of Ohio voters."

Attorney Ritchey Hollenbaugh urged the panel to stick with its original argument, saying that the one presented by lawmakers was not accurate on a number of points.

Voters will continue to be able to determine whether they'd like to provide constitutional rights to special economic interests through a two-step election process spelled out in the amendment, he said. Residents would first vote on whether an issue that grants exclusive financial benefit was acceptable and in a subsequent election could vote on that issue.

He added that only commercial interests would be impacted by the resolution and issues pertaining to collective bargaining, minimum wage, taxes, anti-discrimination laws and rights or benefits would not be.

In contending the board's opposition argument, which was approved, Rep. Clyde criticized a particular point that reads: "There is no reason to prevent anyone from amending the Ohio Constitution, even if it is for selfish, personal benefit, so long as the people support it by a majority vote."

House study committee meets in Hamilton County Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council gets attention

The summer travels of a House committee in search of community perspectives on poverty are also informing the Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council on what types of standards it should set in awarding grants to local service organizations. House Community and Family Advancement Committee gathered in Cincinnati where Chairman Rep. Tim Derickson (R-Oxford) said the need for collaboration between community advocates and service providers was at the forefront of the meeting.

The day started out with tours of the highly regarded Oyler School, which partners with health providers to treat students and the community, and CityLink Center, which houses a number of social service agencies in an effort to promote comprehensive case management.

"As a committee, it's very important to know what folks are doing successfully. We know that a number of these agencies exist, but we don't know what a number of them do or what their outcomes are," Rep. Derickson said.

"In these meetings, they can share their outcomes and can prove that what they're doing is successful. That's very valuable I think from a state perspective. Who's doing a good job and being able to recognize that is a big step," he added.

"Not every agency can be everything to everybody who needs help so we need to create a sense of team." He said the witnesses from local agencies are providing insight into how services are best delivered and what type of standards should be set for those organizations that are encouraged to create local councils as part of the Healthier Buckeye Initiative.

He and Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster) co-sponsored the measure (HB 196) that created the initiative, which aims to encourage partnerships between county service providers to offer a more comprehensive approach to providing social services. The statewide advisory council is currently working on setting standards and rules for the local councils and creating applications for the \$11.5 million for grants that were created through the biennium budget (HB 64).

Rep. Derickson said members of the advisory council, including Rep. Amstutz, have been attending his committee's meetings to glean inspiration. "Timing is everything. We're having these summer hearings and we're looking for folks who are already working together, which is the same mission as Healthier Buckeye," he said. "These committee meetings are certainly going to help write those rules."

While it's important that the council doesn't apply a "cookie cutter" approach to its local contingents, the chairman said, standards are being set to ensure certain metrics are being met by the coalitions of service providers that will receive grant funding. "We're not in the business of gambling this money. We want proof based on data that these councils are effective in reaching a community, reaching individuals who may not otherwise get out of poverty,"

Statehouse, Etc.



Governor Kasich names Madrid Legislative Director. Merle Madrid, who most recently directed the governor's Office of Public Liaison, has been named the governor's legislative director. He succeeds Eric Poklar, who has joined Buckeye Health Plan. Mr. Madrid was director of political affairs at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, and worked in the offices of former Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson and former State Treasurer Joe Deters.

Former Representative Beck Sentenced to four years. Thursday, Hamilton County Judge John West sentenced former State Rep. Peter Beck to four years in prison for his conviction on 13 felony counts in a securities fraud case. Mr. Beck, a Republican from Mason, was convicted on the charges earlier this summer, months after resigning the 54th District seat he had held since 2009.

The charges related to Mr. Beck's involvement in seeking investors for a startup software company, Christopher Technologies. Prosecutors charged that Mr. Beck used the investors funds for his campaign and other purposes. The Attorney General's office initially reported that investors lost about \$200,000, however, that figure increased to \$5 million as the case proceeded. Judge West declined to order Mr. Beck to pay restitution in the case, saying investors would have to rely on civil suits in an attempt to recover funds.



Former Rep. Beck

Bills Introduced



- SB 204 DRIVERS LICENSE SUSPENSIONS (Seitz, B.)** To make the suspension of an offender's driver's license for a violation of specified drug offenses discretionary rather than mandatory, to authorize a court to terminate a driver's license suspension imposed for specified drug offenses committed out-of-state, to generally authorize a court to terminate a previously imposed mandatory suspension for specified drug offenses, to provide for the discretionary suspension of an offender's driver's license for possessing nitrous oxide in a motor vehicle, and to make consistent the provisions of law governing the ability of a court to grant limited driving privileges. Am. 925.02, 2925.03, 2925.04, 2925.041, 2925.05, 2925.06, 2925.11, 2925.12, 2925.13, 2925.14, 2925.141, 2925.22, 2925.23, 2925.31, 2925.32, 2925.33, 2925.36, 2925.37, 4510.021, 4510.17, and 4510.31
- HB 301 HEALTH CARE (Henne, M., Huffman, S.)** To require the Department of Administrative Services to make a high deductible health care plan available to state employees and state elected officials. Am. 124.824
- HB 302 ANNEXATION (Henne, M., Butler, J.)** To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. Am. 09.023

Hearing Schedule



Monday, August 24

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record), (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 104, OSU Agricultural Engineering Bldg., 590 Woody Hayes Dr., 1:00 pm

- The committee will hear from witnesses on new and future agricultural technology

Wednesday, August 26

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record), (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), OSU Agricultural Technical Institute Shisler Conf. Center, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, 1:00 pm

- Witness presentations on educational opportunities in agriculture and mentoring the next generation of agricultural leaders

Tuesday, September 1

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record), (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Kent State University, Salem Branch, 2491 OH 45, Salem, 1:00 pm

- Rural/Economic Development

Thursday, September 3

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record), (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Growing Acres Farm, 7391 Monroe Central Road, Eldorado, 1:00 pm

- Fertilizer use & crops

House Healthcare Efficiencies Summer Study Committee, (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-9624), ProMedica Toledo Hospital, 2142 N. Cove Blvd., Toledo, 1:30 pm

- Graduate Medical Education Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 8

House Healthcare Efficiencies Summer Study Committee, (Chr. **Huffman, S.**, 466-9624), Shawnee State University, 940 2nd St., Portsmouth, 1:00 pm

- Behavioral health

Wednesday, September 9

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record), (Chr. **Hill, B.**, 644-6014), Green Valley Gathering Place, 296 Green Valley Drive, Bidwell, 1:00 pm

- Livestock

Wednesday, September 16

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record), (Chr. **Faber, K.**, 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am

House Healthcare Efficiencies Summer Study Committee, (Chr. **Huffman, S.**, 466-9624), MetroHealth Main Campus, 2500 MetroHealth Drive, Cleveland, 12:00 pm

- Medicaid & Aging

Senate Session, (Chr. **Faber, K.**, 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

Tuesday, September 22

Senate Session, (Chr. **Faber, K.**, 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

House Healthcare Efficiencies Summer Study Committee, (Chr. **Huffman, S.**, 466-9624), Mercy Health - Fairfield Complex, 3050 Mack Road, Fairfield, 2:00 pm

- Children's Health, Innovative Medical Savings, and Population Health Management