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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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October 6, 2017

## Electronic Survey seeking County Board of Elections office space costs

CCAO is conducting a [BOE OFFICE SPACE SURVEY](#) to help us quantify board of elections office space costs. As you are aware, CCAO is exploring the concept of counties trading their funding responsibility for administering elections and providing indigent defense in exchange for the state keeping counties' Local Government Funds that would go into their general fund.

While we have obtained reasonably objective data regarding indigent defense, we are having difficulty quantifying the counties' costs in administering elections because there is no data on the space utilized by BOEs.

The survey seeks information about the costs associated with the various types of office space that the board of elections may maintain, and any other information that you would like to provide that impacts how your county provides office space to the BOE.



We ask that your county complete the electronic survey and respond on or before FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017. As of today, 20 counties have responded – thank you!

If you have questions, please contact either Cheryl Subler [csubler@ccao.org](mailto:csubler@ccao.org) or John Leutz [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org).

## 2020 Tax Commission issues final report

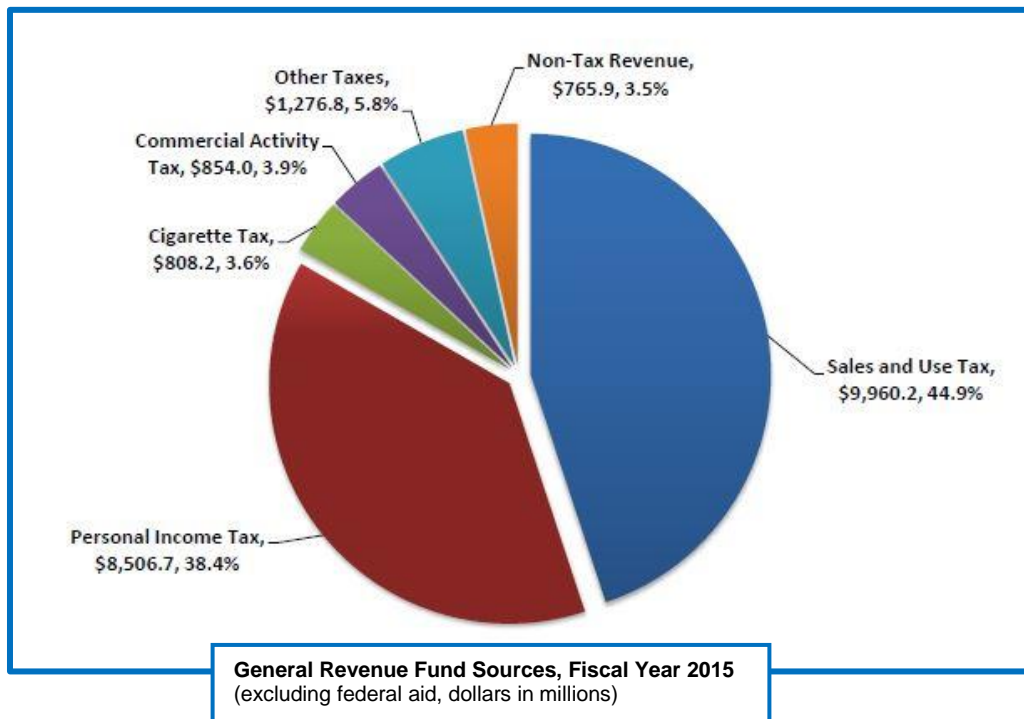
Two years have passed since the 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission was charged with reviewing Ohio's tax system, and now the panel has released its final report. The group was directed to study Ohio's tax structure and policies to measure the potential of a transition to a flat income tax rate.

The Commission held ten public hearings and heard from forty-three individuals representing state and local government, academia, business owners and industry leaders.

The testimony that was submitted during these hearings is incorporated into the report and includes **Highland County Commissioner Shane Wilkin**, who told the Commission in November, "While sales tax dollars have no doubt seen an increase, they have been offset by reductions in other areas. Highland County is now in a situation where we live and die based on the monthly sales tax income. Of our 2016 GRF budget, sales tax represents 65%." Read full testimony [here](#).

**Chris Nichols, Stark County Director of Budget and Management** also addressed the Commission that day, stating "The state of Ohio must not only have a tax code that is fair to those paying the taxes, but also fair to the Counties and other political subdivisions that depend on receiving a share of those taxes, to assist them in providing the many services that the residents and taxpayers of Ohio depend on every day." Read full testimony [here](#).

The Commission was chaired by Senator Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster). Both legislators had positive things to say about the process and the information that was gathered, but at the end of the day, the ultimate recommendation included in the report is that a more thorough review is needed.



The report's summary submits that "The final task for the Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission was to provide recommendations for moving Ohio to a flat tax of either three percent or three and a half percent. Throughout all of the testimony included in this report, there is a clear trend that while potentially beneficial, a transition to a flat tax is challenging with the amount of tax credits and expenditures that are currently available. Ohio forgoes over \$7 billion annually in revenue through more than 120 specific exemptions that are currently in the Ohio Revised Code."

The report goes on to explain that the Tax Expenditure Review Committee (created in [HB 9](#)) has been tasked with reviewing all tax credits and expenditures and this work must be done before Ohio can free up some of the revenue needed to move towards a flat tax rate.

Read the full report [here](#).

## Capital bill process beginning

The Office of Budget and Management (OMB) released its guidance document for preparing the capital budget to state agencies and institutions last week and it spells out a schedule that includes a November 15 deadline for agencies to submit project requests. The time line is as follows:

**September 25, 2017**

***Distribution of guidelines and instructions for preparation of the Capital Budget and long-term Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).***

**November 15, 2017**

***CIP requests due to OBM from all agencies.***

**November 15, 2017 – February 2018**

***OBM reviews and analyzes agency requests and submits recommendations to the Governor.***

**Early 2018**

***Capital Improvements Budget introduction.***

OMB has cautioned the state agencies that since capital bill appropriations directly impact operating budgets via debt service payments on the bond issuances used to support capital expenditures, Governor Kasich's commitment to restrain government spending requires that capital appropriations in the FYs 2019-2020 capital biennium must also be restrained. Consequently, OMB suggests that the capital bill will focus on necessary renovations and upkeep of the state's current capital assets and requested new construction will have to meet an extremely high threshold in order to receive funding.

OMB does acknowledge that the state's financial condition is such that a small portion of the capital budget can support targeted capital projects of local or regional importance. The identification of projects to be considered for inclusion in the capital bill is a cooperative and collaborative process between the administration and the members of the General Assembly. While the administration may consider project recommendations from various parties, such recommendations are subject to a collaborative review with the General Assembly during capital bill development. If counties have specific local projects they desire to propose, you are urged to

begin talking to your members of the General Assembly about the merits of the projects to make them aware and gain their support for inclusion in the state capital budget.



CCAO would ask that funding for elections equipment lead any discussion you have with your legislators regarding the capital budget.

When talking to your state legislators please remind them that your current voting equipment is reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced with new voting technology. Also outline and explain the continuing expenses counties must incur to ensure the proper functioning of this equipment which includes maintenance contracts, a climate-controlled environment for their storage, and proper technology upgrades.

Urge your legislators to provide a funding program similar to the one utilized for the acquisition of electronic pollbooks. This process provided an amount to each county based upon the number of registered voters in the county and reimbursed 85% of the county's costs up to the amount allocated to that county.

For additional information or questions, please contact CCAO staffers Cheryl Subler at [csubler@ccao.org](mailto:csubler@ccao.org) or (614) 220-7980 or John Leutz at [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org) or (614) 220-7994.

## Senator Beagle aims to revamp state law on dangerous dogs

[Senate Bill 195](#), introduced by Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), proposes changes to the law on nuisance, dangerous and vicious dogs. The bill came about after dogs with a history of threatening behavior or documented incidents killed three constituents in the Senator's district.

In a [Gongwer](#) report this week, Beagle was quoted, "Because of these and several other tragic incidents, not only in my district but across the state, I have worked diligently with county and state officials, prosecutors, dog wardens, law enforcement and humane officers, and an array of other individuals and organizations to create a better system to protect innocent Ohioans from dangerous or vicious dogs,"

Senator Beagle went on to discuss how the legislation is not intended to punish good dogs after an isolated incident, but that the current "one time pass" that exists in law today opens up risk for a second person to be harmed. Beagle's law would eliminate this provision and give local authorities more tools to address problem dogs without punishing dogs that are not a serious threat to the community.



Senator Beagle

The bill would:

- Require all calls to a dog warden to lead to an investigation or follow-up.
- Clarify that dog wardens have arrest authority.

- Allow witnesses to provide a notarized affidavit in the event of a dog attack.
- Require dogs deemed to be dangerous to be registered.
- Extend the amount of time violent felons cannot own dogs to five years.

On the punishment side, the legislation would allow owners to be charged with a fifth-degree felony on a first offense under certain conditions.

Other provisions include an exception for farm dogs whose duties were disrupted when another dog comes on its property and a new requirement that dog wardens are to receive 42 hours of initial training and another ten hours of continuing education in a time period to be specified by the Peace Officer Training Commission.

For additional information or questions, please contact CCAO staffer John Leutz at [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org).

## Bills Introduced



### SB 206

#### ***ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS*** (HUFFMAN, M.)

To enact the Ohio Citizen Participation Act to provide protections to persons who engage in certain specified protected communications and to protect the identity of persons who anonymously engage in online communications under certain circumstances.

### SB 208

#### ***WEAPON POSSESSION*** (TERHAR, L.)

To allow a law enforcement officer or investigator, whether on or off duty, to carry a weapon on certain premises open to the public.

### SB 209

#### ***TAX EXEMPTIONS*** (COLEY, B.)

To modify the conditions that determine the relative priority of property tax exemptions when a parcel subject to a tax increment financing arrangement concurrently qualifies for another exemption.

### SB 210

#### ***AUXILIARY CONTAINERS*** (COLEY, B.)

To authorize a person to use an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit a municipal corporation from imposing a tax or fee on auxiliary containers, and to clarify that the existing anti-littering law applies to auxiliary containers.

## SB 213

### ***ECONOMIC PROGRAMS*** (SCHIAVONI, J.)

To enhance economic and employment opportunities and improve local infrastructure in Ohio by providing additional assistance to workforce development and employment programs; establishing a revolving loan program for small businesses seeking to expand operations; extending job tax credits to smaller businesses; enabling expanded participation in public sector contracting by smaller companies; enhancing support for child care centers; funding additional local infrastructure and public transit; authorizing tax incentives for hiring military veterans, for donating money to local programs assisting distressed communities, or for improving distressed property; exempting the homes of disabled veterans from property taxation; terminating the income tax deduction and reduced tax rate for business income; and to make an appropriation.

## HB 365

### ***PAROLE MONITORING*** (HUGHES, J., BOGGS, K.)

*To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; to require the Department to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a state wide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Act.*

## HB 366

### ***CHILD SUPPORT*** (GAVARONE, T.)

*To make changes to the laws governing child support.*

## HB 371

### ***PROPERTY TAX*** (MERRIN, D.)

*To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.*

# Hearing Schedule



## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

### House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

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

#### HB 251

##### **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS** ([GREENSPAN, D.](#))

*To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys. --4th Hearing-All testimony- Possible vote*

### House Ways & Means

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

### House Government Accountability & Oversight

(Chr. [Blessing, L.](#), (614) 466-9091), Rm. 114, 9:30 am

#### HB 341

##### **PUBLIC RECORDS** ([HUFFMAN, S.](#), [CERA, J.](#))

*To include judges as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet. --1st Hearing-Sponsor*

#### HB 312

##### **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING** ([SCHURING, K.](#), [GREENSPAN, D.](#))

*Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. --2nd Hearing-Proponent- Possible substitute*

#### HB 342

##### **TAX LEVIES** ([MERRIN, D.](#))

*To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. --1st Hearing-Sponsor*

#### HCR 10

##### **ANTI-SEMITISM** ([THOMPSON, A.](#), [GREENSPAN, D.](#))

*To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. --2nd Hearing-Proponent*

### House Insurance

(Chr. [Brinkman, T.](#), (614) 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10:00 am

#### HB 269

##### **WORKERS COMPENSATION** ([HENNE, M.](#))

*To rename the entities who carry out workers' compensation functions in this state, to require the Administrator of Worker Safety and Rehabilitation to develop incentives for employers to participate in safety consultations and loss prevention programs, to require an employee who is receiving temporary total disability compensation to comply with a return to work plan, and to make changes with respect to compensation for permanent total disability and death benefits. --2nd Hearing-Proponent*

### HB 268

#### **WORKERS COMPENSATION (HENNE, M.)**

*To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law with respect to self-insuring employers. --2nd Hearing-Possible substitute*

### Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

*(Chr. [LaRose, F.](#), (614) 466-4823), South Hearing Rm., 10:15 am Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Todd Audet, P.E. and David Regula, Transportation Review Advisory Council; Diane Carnes, Ohio Real Estate Commission; George Dixon, III, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission; Todd Poole, State Fire Council and Robert Larrimer, Ohio Architects Board*

### HB 10

#### **CROWDFUNDING (ARNDT, S.)**

*To permit intrastate equity crowdfunding under certain circumstances. --2nd Hearing-Proponent*

### Senate Rules & Reference

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

### House Higher Education & Workforce Development

*(Chr. [Duffey, M.](#), (614) 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11:00 am*

### HB 166

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (REINEKE, B., CUPP, R.)**

*To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week. --6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote*

### SB 3

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE, B., BALDERSON, T.)**

*To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote*

### House Session

*(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 pm*

### Senate Session

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



Senate Energy & Natural Resources

(Chr. Balderson, T., (614) 466-8076), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm or after session

SB 188

**WIND TURBINE SETBACKS** (HITE, C.)

To revise wind turbine setback provisions for economically significant wind farms. --2nd Hearing-  
Proponent

Senate Education

(Chr. Lehner, P., (614) 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 pm