



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Additional legislative action needed on sales tax increment change

CCAO is asking our members to touch base with their legislators in the House and Senate regarding language in the state budget bill passed earlier this year that will change the increment that counties can use to levy permissive sales tax.

The budget bill language amended three sections of the county and transit authority permissive sales tax law to give counties and transit authorities' flexibility to levy a sales tax in increments of one-tenth of one percent (0.10). This was designed to enable counties to calibrate their sales tax rate to generate the revenue in a manner that might better fit their needs.



An unintended result of this change is that counties that may have previously levied a quarter percent (0.25) increase for a specified number of years will no longer be able to seek a renewal after April 1, 2017, since the quarter percent will no longer be authorized. Also, any county or transit authority that is at a quarter, three quarters, or one and a quarter under any of these sections will not be able to access the final increment of .05 percent.

CCAO has proposed the following solution:

1. Leave in the law the authority to levy a 0.10 sales tax rate.
2. Allow existing sales tax levies to be renewed at the rate they were originally enacted.

3. Allow entities seeking to increase the sales tax rate up to statutory caps to have an alternative increment to 0.10 percent.

Please reach out to your members of the House and Senate and let them know that this is an important issue that needs to be addressed soon.

If you have questions please reach out to CCAO staffer Brad Cole at 614-221-5627.

October state tax receipts match up with estimates



The state's tax receipts in October were about in line with projected estimates. Non-auto sales tax receipts were a little below projections while income tax receipts were nearly dead-on. The state collected slightly more than \$1.78 billion in taxes for the month, according to [preliminary revenue tables](#) released by the Office of Budget and Management. The total was \$3.37 million, or just 0.2%, more than anticipated.

Personal income tax revenue was nearly exactly what was projected, at about \$638.7 million. For the fiscal year to date, income tax receipts have totaled \$2.7 billion, about 0.6% more than expected. Budget [Director Tim Keen](#) said the personal income tax appears to be stronger than it was a year ago and that withholding is performing much better than it did last year.

The non-auto sales tax lagged slightly behind estimates, coming in at \$700.8 million, about 1.3% below what was anticipated. For the fiscal year so far, the state has brought in nearly \$2.9 billion, about 0.5% below estimates. Auto sales and use taxes, however, were \$9.6 million above estimates in October, or 8.6%, and up \$21.5 million for the year to date, and their performance allowed overall sales and use taxes to remain slightly above estimates.

Commercial activity tax receipts also finished well above what was anticipated in October at \$61.4 million, which was 24.9% above estimates while taxes on kilowatt hours, totaling \$28.26 million, were \$4.7 million, or 14.4%, below projections.

If you have questions please contact CCAO staffer John Leutz at 614-221-5627.

Casino revenues down

Overall revenue declined at Ohio's casinos in October, though totals remained above October numbers from the previous year. The total for all casinos was \$66.5 million. This is a drop from September's \$67.1 million, but up from \$62.6 million the previous October, according to the Ohio Casino Control Commission.



- Hollywood Columbus led casinos in revenue at \$17.8 million, although it dropped from \$18.3 million the month before. The casino did take in more than the \$17.6 million it had the previous October.

- Hollywood Toledo saw a slight drop to \$16.1 million in October from \$16.3 million in September, with revenue up from \$15.3 million in October 2016.
- JACK Cleveland was the only casino to see an increase, rising to \$16.9 million in October from just under \$16.8 million the previous month. The casino had taken in \$15.4 million the October before.
- JACK Cincinnati saw its revenue stay steady from September to October, with both months at about \$15.7 million. This was a gain from the previous October's \$14.3 million.

Bills Introduced



[SB 228](#) SOLID WASTE FEES ([EKLUND, J.](#))

To increase one of the state fees levied on the transfer or disposal of solid waste in Ohio, the proceeds of which are deposited into the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund, and to make an appropriation.

[HB 406](#) ADDRESS RECORDS ([LANESE, L.](#))

To include forensic evaluation examiners and mental health evaluation providers 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.

[HB 409](#) VETERAN TREATMENT ([BUTLER, J.](#), [PERALES, R.](#))

To permit courts to create veterans treatment courts and to allow courts to divert certain criminal defendants to participate in veterans treatment court.

[HB 410](#) TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS ([SEITZ, B.](#), [BUTLER, J.](#))

To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

Hearing Schedule



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

[Senate Session](#)