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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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**November 10, 2016**

## **Most lawmakers running in local races fare well**

State lawmakers running for local posts nearly ran the table on Tuesday, with just one going down in defeat. The lone loss came in Stark County, where Canton Township Trustee Bill Smith secured an unofficial 57.5-42.5% victory over Rep. Stephen Slesnick (D-Canton) in the race for a seat on the Stark County Board of Commissioners.

The House's second highest-ranking Republican, Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster), secured a seat on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners after defeating David Keifer by a preliminary margin of about 70-30%. Mr. Keifer sought Rep. Amstutz's House seat in the March primary election but was defeated by Scott Wiggam, who went on to win the general election race.

In Huron County, Rep. Terry Boose (R-Norwalk) bested Democrat Howard Smith in the race for a seat on the Huron County Board of Commissioners by about a margin of 64-36%, preliminary results show.

In Franklin County, Rep. Kevin Boyce (D-Columbus) won the general election against Terry Boyd 58 to 42% to be county commissioner.

Democratic lawmaker, Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati), is ahead of Hamilton County Commissioner Dennis Deters by a margin of 50.2 - 49.8% in the unofficial results.

Term-limited Rep. Bill Hayes (R-Harrison Twp.) defeated his Democratic opponent, attorney Chris Shook, by a margin of 63.6-36.4% for the Licking County prosecutor's office.

Sen. Shannon Jones (R-Springboro) was uncontested for a seat on the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

# ELECTION



# 2016

## Republican majority increases in Ohio Senate

Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump's surprisingly strong win in Ohio was mirrored down ticket in legislative races, as the GOP was able to add to historically large majorities in both the House and Senate. The majority party picked up a seat in both chambers, moving the dial to 24-9 districts in the Senate and 66-33 in the House.

Senate Democrats lost Sen. Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville) amid a surge of disaffected voters in Appalachian regions of the state who went overwhelmingly for Mr. Trump. The new Senator in the 30th District will be Frank Hoagland, a business owner and former Navy SEAL from Adena.

In the only other two Senate races deemed even remotely competitive, former Rep. Matt Dolan defeated Democrat Emily Hagan in the 24th District and Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) bested Kathy Johnson in the 16th District. Both Republicans won by similarly comfortable margins.

Aside from the 30th District, none of the others changed hands. All the even-numbered districts in the 33-seat Senate were up for grabs this cycle.

## GOP sizable advantage in Ohio House grows



Republicans maintained their strong majority in the House on Tuesday night, defeating their Democratic challengers in what were believed to be competitive districts. The influx of new GOP House members boosts the Republicans' seat advantage in the Ohio House to 66-33.

The tightest race of the evening was for incumbent Republican Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson), who was trailing early on, but eventually overtook Hudson Councilman Casey Weinstein, to hold onto the 37th District.

Among the other contests where Democrats were looking to eat away at the GOP's supermajority in the House, appointed Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) easily held the 89th District seat against Democrat Lawrence Hartlaub, the Ottawa County Auditor.

House Republicans currently enjoy a large enough majority in the House to override governor vetoes and send issues to the ballot, but having 66 members come January affords them the possibility of passing emergency legislation without the support of Democrats.

## CCAO has concerns during “lame duck” session

CCAO initially will be focusing on two issues, and we encourage our members to discuss these with their legislators:

1. **The significant concern we have with SB 235** as passed by the Senate. SB 235 would allow the owner of commercial and industrial property to freeze the valuation of that property until such property is issued an occupancy permit or other conditions are met, though reset on a ten year basis. The exemption to the property owner would be granted as a matter of right without a limit on the level or duration of the exemption and require no local approval, tax exemption agreement, private sector commitment of investment or jobs. CCAO has joined with 13 other local government organizations to express these concerns in a [letter](#) to House Members.
2. **Obtaining House passage of SB 220** which would let public deferred compensation programs offer a Roth option to participants.

### SB 235

#### Property tax proposal to freeze valuation for certain commercial/industrial property

**Sponsors:** Sen. Beagle and Sen. Coley

**CCAO Position:** **OPPOSED**

**Status:** House Rules Committee

#### Key Provisions:

- Freezes valuation for industrial and commercial property that has received infrastructure improvements but has not been developed vertically or received an occupancy permit.

#### CCAO Concerns:

- Legislation automatically provides favorable tax treatment if certain conditions are met, without input or control by local governments. In addition, the bill as drafted does not provide for a local agreement between the property owner and political subdivision, which would denote the percentage of tax valuation granted for a specific time period. Moreover, there is concern about how this tool works with other economic incentives.

## Ohio’s child protective challenges featured in Stateline report

In an article entitled, [Why More Grandparents Are Raising Children](#), The PEW Charitable Trusts’ *Stateline* reports on the increase in grandparents raising children due to opiate addiction.

Angela Sausser, Executive Director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and Kim Wilhelm, Protective Services Administrator for Licking County Department of Job and Family Services are both featured in the article. The pair touch on the importance of placing children with close relatives to minimize the trauma of losing their nuclear family and how this is becoming more difficult because opiate addiction is affecting more branches of the family tree.

The article also highlights the challenges grandparents face when they receive custody and the efforts some states are making to help. Notable stats from the article:

- In 2015, 2.9 million kids in the U.S. were being raised by their grandparents.
- An estimated 2.4 million Americans are addicted to opioids.

For more information please contact CCAO staffer Kate Neithammer at [kneithammer@ccao.org](mailto:kneithammer@ccao.org).

## Bills Introduced



### SB 361

Track

#### **LICENSE PLATE** ([THOMAS, C.](#))

To create the "Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness" license plate.

### HJR 9

Track

#### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS** ([AMSTUTZ, R.](#), [CURTIN, M.](#))

Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to adopt the recommendation of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission relative to the issuance of general obligation bonds to pay the costs of facilities for mental health and developmental disabilities, parks and recreation, and housing of agencies of state government.

### HJR 10

Track

#### **OBSOLETE BOND PROVISIONS** ([AMSTUTZ, R.](#), [CURTIN, M.](#))

Proposing to enact Section 18 of Article VIII and to repeal Sections 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2j, and 2k of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to adopt the recommendation of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission that obsolete bond-authorizing provisions be eliminated.

### HJR 11

Track

#### **SINKING FUND** ([AMSTUTZ, R.](#), [CURTIN, M.](#))

Proposing to amend Section 2 and to repeal Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to adopt the recommendation of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission that certain provisions concerning the sinking fund and the Sinking Fund Commission be eliminated.

### HJR 12

Track

#### **COURTS OF CONCILIATION** ([AMSTUTZ, R.](#), [CURTIN, M.](#))

Proposing to repeal Sections 19 and 22 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to adopt the recommendation of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission to eliminate the authority of the General Assembly to establish courts of conciliation and to eliminate the authority of the Governor to appoint a supreme court commission.

### HB 612

Track

#### **DISASTER BUSINESS EXEMPTION** ([RYAN, S.](#))

To exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster

## HB 613

Track

### **SUNSET REVIEW LAW** (*AMSTUTZ, R.*)

To revise and renew the Sunset Review Law, to require that a Sunset Review Committee be convened to function during each oddnumbered General Assembly, and to declare an emergency.

## Hearing Schedule



### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

#### Senate Session

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), [\(614\) 466-4900](#)), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

#### House Session

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

#### Senate Session

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), [\(614\) 466-4900](#)), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

#### House Session

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), [\(614\) 466-3357](#)), House Chamber, 1:00 pm