



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Candidates file for leg races: familiar names but new faces

Term limits have increased turnover in the Statehouse, but name recognition is as important as ever to winning elections, which may explain the growing number of incumbents' relatives filing to run for the House this year. Following is an article largely compiled by Gongwer News Service highlighting candidates who have filed for legislative races.

House Minority Leader Tracey Heard (D-Columbus), who is serving out her final term, has recruited her husband, Howard Heard, to campaign for her spot in the 26th District. However, he first has to face primary challengers Hearcel Craig, a Columbus councilman, and Frederick LaMarr.

Rep. Barbara Boyd's (D-Cleveland Heights) daughter Janine is also hoping to fill her mother's shoes, but first has to win a four-way primary against David Biel, Sean Malone, and Isaac Powell.



Council Member
Frank Comunale

Emilia Sykes, daughter of Rep. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron), is seeking to be the third member of her family to hold a seat from Summit County. However, she faces Summit County Council Member Frank Comunale in the primary election.

Michele LePore-Hagan, wife of Rep. Bob Hagan (D-Youngstown), filed to keep her term-limited husband's seat in the family. She will go up against three other reported candidates, including Youngstown Councilwoman Janet Tarpley, in a May primary. Whoever wins that election will not face a Republican challenger as none filed in the 58th House District.

Meanwhile Rick Redfern, older brother of Rep. Chris Redfern (D-Port Clinton), chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party, is challenging Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City).

Some Republican candidates are also hoping family ties will help pull them into the Statehouse.

Nathan Manning, son of Sen. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), is unopposed in the primary and will campaign against Democrat Brendan Mackin for the seat being left open by term-limited Matt Lundy (D-Elyria).

Sarah LaTourette, the daughter of former Congressman Steve LaTourette, is favored to maintain GOP control in the 78th district as Rep. Matt Lynch (R-Bainbridge Twp.) campaigns against U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce (R-Russell Township).

Miami County Coroner Stephen Huffman, who is running for Rep. Richard Adam's (R-Troy) vacant seat, is a first cousin of Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), according to the House Republican caucus.

By The Numbers: Preliminary election filings show that more than a quarter of the candidates campaigning in the state's 99 House districts will face a spring primary, while a handful of incumbents will go unchallenged through the November election.

Those who filed by the Tuesday deadline include 52 Republican incumbents and 26 Democratic incumbents along with numerous challengers who are eyeing those seats.

Of the 18 expected Republican primaries, seven involve incumbents, while three Democratic incumbents are among the 11 possible primaries on the minority side of the aisle.

Republicans filed in all but five heavily Democratic House districts, while Democrats ceded 10 very conservative districts unopposed.

Familiar Names: As usual, the candidate filings reveal a number of former members and local government officeholders on the ballot. Some of these include:

- Medina County Commissioner Steve Hambley has filed for Speaker Batchelder's open house seat.
- Former legislator and Allen County Commissioner Robert Cupp, who lost his seat on the Ohio Supreme Court two years ago, filed for Rep. Huffman's seat. He faces Republican Kurt Neeper in the primary.
- Former Rep. Ed Jerse, who recently served as Cuyahoga County's director of regional collaboration, will face former Rep. Kenny Yuko in a primary race for Senator Nina Turner's (D-Cleveland) seat. Senator Turner is seeking the position of Secretary of State against Jon Husted, who currently holds the seat and is seeking re-election.
- George Phillips, former Cuyahoga County Council Services Coordinator, is challenging Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) in the fall election. Rep.



Commissioner
Steve Hambley

Rogers is seeking his second term in the Ohio House. Prior to that he served as Lake County deputy treasurer and Lake County assistant prosecutor.

- Former Ohio Democratic Party chairman David Leland, who served in the 115th General Assembly, recently announced his plans to make a comeback by campaigning for the seat currently held by state treasurer candidate Rep. John Carney (D-Columbus).
- Former Rep. Tom Brinkman will challenge Rep. Peter Stautberg (R-Cincinnati) in a second attempt to win back his old House seat.
- Former Republican Rep. Randy Law filed for the open seat left vacant by Rep. Tom Letson (D-Warren).
- Rep. Mike Dovilla, (R-Berea) will square off once again with Democrat Matt Patten, who served one term in the House, and former House Republican Craig Newbold will go against Rep. Nick Barborak (D-Lisbon), who won the 5th district from him in the 2012 election.
- Hocking County Prosecutor and Democrat Laina Fetherolf-Rogers of Laurelville will take on Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville).
- Licking County Treasurer Scott Ryan is seeking the Ohio House seat left open by Rep. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) due to term limits.

Sales tax holiday fiscal note released, witnesses submit written testimony

A fiscal note prepared by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission on the sales tax holiday legislation ([SB243](#)) sponsored by Senator Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) predicts annual revenue losses to the state general revenue fund of up to \$31 million per year and an additional revenue loss of up to \$7 million per year to counties and transit authorities if the sales tax holiday legislation is adopted. An additional loss of up to \$1 million dollars per year would be experienced by the Local Government Fund (LGF) and the Public Library Fund (PLF).

[SB 243](#) proposes a sales tax holiday of three days duration beginning on the first Friday of August on items of clothing up to \$100 each, items of school supplies up to \$20 each, personal computers of up to \$750 each, and computer accessories of up to \$750 each. This legislation is promoted by retail merchants to encourage shopping each year during an otherwise slow retail shopping period. The legislation is timed to coincide with back-to-school shopping and it is claimed that the sales tax holiday will save Ohio families with children tens of millions



Senator
Kevin Bacon

in sales taxes that would otherwise be paid on school supplies, clothing, personal computers, and computer accessories. According to retail interests, 18 other states provide for some type of sales tax holiday in their tax law.

Submitting written proponent testimony to the Senate Ways and Means Committee were Kohl's Department stores which was also testifying on behalf of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, the Ohio Grocers Association, and the Ohio Restaurant Association. All three sets of testimony emphasized that the sales tax holiday provides a stimulus to retail sales that benefits industries that support the retail trade infrastructure as well as consumers who save sales taxes on exempt items.

If you would like further information about this legislation, please contact Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research at bcole@ccao.org

Statehouse Etcetera



Severance Tax. The House Ways and Means Committee cancelled its hearing on [HB 375](#) due to weather. It appears that a substitute bill will be available sometime during the next week. Representative Brian Hill presented a proposal to the bill's sponsor, Representative Matt Huffman, for allocation of the severance tax to those counties impacted by the shale play development. CCAO, The Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township have been working closely with Representative Hill in helping him to prepare his proposal.

For additional information on severance tax legislation please contact either Cheryl Subler or John Leutz of the CCAO staff at csubler@ccao.org or jleutz@ccao.org

Legislation of Interest



[HB 426](#) ■ **INSPECTOR GENERAL** ([Barborak, N.](#), [Pillich, C.](#)) To prohibit an appointing authority from taking disciplinary action against public employees who report a noncriminal law, violation or misuse of public resources to the Inspector General. Am. 124.341

[HB 427](#) ■ **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS** ([Budish, A.](#)) To expand the authorized use of money in the Infrastructure Fund (derived from proceeds from Ohio Turnpike revenue bonds) to include infrastructure projects that consist of the maintenance or repair of existing infrastructure, and to modify the process for approval of infrastructure projects. Am. 5537.01, 5537.03, 5537.04, 5537.08, and 5537.13, to enact new section 5537.18, and to repeal section 5537.18

Upcoming Legislative Committee Calendar



Tuesday, February 11

Senate Energy & Natural Resources, (Chr. [Balderson, T.](#), 466-8076), South Hearing Rm., 9:15 am

SCR 25 ■ **GREEN BUILDINGS** ([Jecker, J.](#)) To urge, for Ohio state agencies and other government entities, the use of green building rating systems, codes, or standards that are consistent with state energy efficiency and environmental performance objectives and policies that meet American National Standards Institute voluntary consensus standard procedures. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony**

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions, (Chr. [Hughes, J.](#), 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 10:00 am

SB 100 ■ **PROMPT PAYMENT** ([Tavares, C.](#)) To specify that the Ohio prompt payment law applies to payment of claims by Medicaid managed care organizations. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

HCR 40 ■ **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To acknowledge the Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards 67 and 68 and to pledge the General Assembly's continued support of Ohio's public employers and retirement systems in their mission to provide secure and sustainable retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to Ohio's public employees. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

House Policy & Legislative Oversight, (Chr. [Dovilla, M.](#), 466-4895), Rm. 115, 1:00 pm

HB 250 ■ **ABSENTEE VOTING** ([Becker, J.](#)) To reduce the days for absent voting. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

SB 216 ■ **PROVISIONAL BALLOTS** ([Seitz, B.](#)) To revise the law concerning provisional ballots and to specify permitted procedures for a voting location that serves more than one precinct. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

SB 205 ■ **ABSENTEE BALLOTS** ([Coley, B.](#)) To revise the law concerning the mailing of absent voter's ballots and applications for those ballots and to clarify that an elector generally is responsible to complete the elector's absent voter's ballot documents --**6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

SB 238 ■ **ABSENTEE VOTING** ([LaRose, F.](#)) To reduce the days for absent voting. --**5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

House State & Local Government: Shared Services & Government Efficiency Sub., (Chr. [Maag, R.](#), 466-6023), Rm. 113, 1:00 pm

HB 321 ■ **GOVERNMENT RECORDS** ([Duffey, M.](#), [Hagan, C.](#)) To create the DataOhio Board, and to specify requirements for posting public records online. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony**

HB 322 ■ **UNIFORM ACCOUNTING** ([Duffey, M.](#), [Hagan, C.](#)) To require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices. --**3rd Hearing-Presentation from State Auditor's Office-All testimony**

HB 323 ■ **PUBLIC DATA** ([Duffey, M.](#), [Hagan, C.](#)) To establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony**

HB 324 ■ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION** ([Duffey, M.](#)) To establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and to make an appropriation. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony**

House Ways & Means, (Chr. Beck, P., 644-6027), Rm. 116, 1:30 pm

HB 375 ■ **OIL & GAS SEVERANCE TAX** ([Huffman, M.](#)) To levy a severance tax on well owners of oil and gas severed from horizontal wells, to create a nonrefundable income tax credit for the amount of horizontal well severance tax paid, to repeal a cost recovery assessment imposed on oil and gas well owners, to reduce the severance tax rate on natural gas extracted from nonhorizontal wells, to exclude from the tax base of the commercial activity tax gross receipts from the sale of oil or natural gas severed through use of a horizontal well, and to make an appropriation. **--6th Hearing-Possible substitute**

Senate Finance, (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm

SB 210 ■ **INCOME TAX RATES** ([Widener, C.](#)) To provide for a permanent income tax rate reduction of 4% for all tax brackets beginning in 2014. **--2nd Hearing-Proponent**

House State & Local Government, (Chr. Blair, T., 466-6504), Rm. 121, 3:00 pm

SB 155 ■ **VIDEO MEETINGS** ([Burke, D.](#)) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference. **--1st Hearing-Sponsor**

HB 289 ■ **DEVELOPMENT ZONES** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To require subdivisions to obtain written approval from owners and lessees of real property located within a proposed or existing joint economic development zone (JEDZ) or joint economic development district (JEDD) before approving, amending, or renewing the JEDZ or JEDD contract, to require that income tax revenue derived from a JEDZ or JEDD approved, amended, or renewed after the bill's effective date be used to carry out the JEDZ or JEDD economic development plan before being used for other purposes, and to institute contiguity requirements for which subdivisions may create a JEDZ or JEDD **--6th Hearing-All testimony**

HB 198 ■ **INCENTIVE DISTRICTS** ([Butler, J.](#)) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before adopting the TIF resolution, and to permit such owners to exclude their parcels from the incentive district by submitting a written response. **--4th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote**

Wednesday, February 12

House Ways & Means, (Chr. Beck, P., 644-6027), Rm. 116, 4:00 pm or after session

HB 375 ■ **OIL & GAS SEVERANCE TAX** ([Huffman, M.](#)) To levy a severance tax on well owners of oil and gas severed from horizontal wells, to create a nonrefundable income tax credit for the amount of horizontal well severance tax paid, to repeal a cost recovery assessment imposed on oil and gas well owners, to reduce the severance tax rate on natural gas extracted from nonhorizontal wells, to exclude from the tax base of the commercial activity tax gross receipts from the sale of oil or natural gas severed through use of a horizontal well, and to make an appropriation. **--7th Hearing-All testimony**