# **Byers, Minton and Associates**

This Week at the Statehouse December 22, 2016

## **Around the Square**

## Get to Know Stephanie Kunze: State Senator

Republican Stephanie Kunze won Ohio's 16th Senate District after deciding not to run for reelection in the House. Representative Kunze has served two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives where she was a member of the House Finance Committee, Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, Insurance, Rules and Reference and was the State Government Vice Chair. Prior to joining the Legislator, Kunze was a member of the Hilliard City Council and founded Local Level, an organization that connects citizens and businesses.

# **Get to Know Catherine Ingram: State Representative**

Democrat Catherine Ingram defeated Matthew Wahlert to win Ohio's 32nd House District. Ingram has been a member of the Cincinnati Board of Education for over 20 years, serving as both president and vice president during that time. She most recently was the Finance Committee Chair. She also was named to OSBA's All-Ohio School Board. She is an instructor at Northern Kentucky University and received both her Bachelor's degree and Master's from the University of Cincinnati. While in the legislature, Ingram plans to focus on jobs, seniors, and voter protection.

#### **Kasich Signs 17 Bills**

Governor John Kasich signed 17 bills into law this week. Among them was SB 199, a bill that expands concealed carry laws and prohibits employers from placing a ban on employee's parked cars while on property. SB 331, a bill to regulate pet stores and dog retailers, was also signed. Other signed bills include changes to Medicaid in Schools program, creating the Ohio Family Stability Commission, and new requirements for palliative care facilities.

## **Political News and Notes**

# **Ohio Ranked Among Lowest for Economic Freedom**

The Economic Freedom of North America's report indicated Ohioans spend a higher percentage of their paycheck on insurance and retirement than any other state. The Buckeye Institute compiled a review of the report and stated the economic and tax reforms the state has accomplished should improve this ranking. New Hampshire was ranked highest for economic freedom and New York lowest.

## **Inventory of Ohio's Human Services**

The State of Ohio has made available a link on updated health and human services inventory. These programs listed are available to Ohioans during all stages of life to provide safety and security. The link can be found here: <a href="http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=j-BpuTG7now=&tabid=251">http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=j-BpuTG7now=&tabid=251</a>

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.