

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

December 30, 2016

## Around the Square

### Get to Know Matt Huffman: State Senator

Republican Matt Huffman ran unopposed for Ohio's 12th Senate District seat. Former State Representative Huffman served from 2007 to 2014. In his term, Huffman served as the Speaker Pro Tempore, Majority Floor Leader, and chaired the House Rules and Reference Committee. Prior to joining the legislature, Huffman was president of the Lima City Council for seven years. He earned his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the University of Cincinnati School of Law. He is a lawyer with the firm Huffman, Kelley, Brock & Gotschalk.

### Get to Know Thomas West: State Representative

Democrat Thomas West won Ohio's 49th House District seat. Currently, West serves on the Canton City Council as the Annexation Chairman. He also serves on the Capital Improvement Committee, Special Improvement District and Canton Community Improvement Corporation. West received a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from the University of Akron. He is also the owner and operator of Pioneer with Vision Consultants, and also owns the Cantonian Restaurant and Lounge. West's priorities include social advocacy and workforce development.

### Kasich Vetoes

Governor John Kasich has vetoed HB 554, the energy legislation that would revise energy standard goals and line-item vetoed an oil and gas tax exemption. Last week Governor Kasich also line-item vetoed the heartbeat restriction on abortions. House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger adjourned session sine die on Wednesday, eliminating the possibility of veto overrides. The Senate also adjourned sine die on Thursday. It is likely both matters related to energy and the oil and gas tax exemption will be taken up in the 132nd General Assembly.

### Senate Priorities

Senate President Larry Obhof announced his priorities in an interview on Wednesday. Among them include reducing the number of income tax brackets, rolling back regulations, and shrinking Ohio's revised code. Both chambers will initially prioritize the budget agenda. Additionally, Obhof looks to resume talks of a flat tax during the budget discussions.

## Political News and Notes

### Online Voter Registration

Ohio will join several other states in allowing citizens the ability to register to vote online. Beginning January 1st, the secretary of state's office will launch an online voter registration system. Jon Husted's office commented the online process will be more secure than paper registration because it automatically checks a voter's eligibility using Bureau of Motor Vehicle records and is cost effective.

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