

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 27, 2017

Around the Square

Get to Know Derek Merrin: State Representative

Representative Derek Merrin is currently serving his first full term for District 47 of the Ohio House. He was first appointed to the Ohio House in 2016. Merrin began his political career at a young age, having been elected to the Waterville City Council in 2005 when he was just 19 years old. Two years later, he was elected as the Mayor of Waterville at age 21 becoming the youngest sitting mayor in the state of Ohio. After serving as Mayor, Merrin went on to serve as the northwest Ohio representative for State Auditor David Yost. Merrin received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and his Master's from Bowling Green State University.

Get to Know Dick Stein: State Representative

Representative Dick Stein is a first term legislator serving Ohio's 57th House District. A small business owner, Stein has managed his business Stein Photography for the past 38 years. He earned his professional master's and craftsman degrees from the Professional Photographers of America. Stein has also served on the Huron County Republican Party Central Committee and worked extensively with a voter education group called "If You Believe." While serving in the Legislature, Stein aims to focus on lowering taxes, energy costs, and aiding local government.

Kasich Announces K-12 Funding Increase

Governor John Kasich announced Tuesday that K-12 schools will receive an annual 1% state funding increase in the upcoming budget. This increase comes to about \$100 million a year and, according to the Governor, shows education as a priority in an otherwise tight budget cycle. Kasich added in this budget he would like to focus on connecting students and businesses to promote long-term readiness for the career force.

Political News and Notes

Nominating Council Gives 5 Names for PUCO Seats

A nominating council named 5 people as potential candidates to fulfill the two upcoming vacancies on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Those nominees are energy and telecommunications attorney Daniel Conway, IGS Energy Vice President Lawrence Friedeman, CPA and former PUCO staffer Edward Hess, ARC Industries board member Raymond Lawton, and DAS Deputy Director Gregory Williams. Governor Kasich has 30 days to name the new members and be sent to the Senate for confirmation.

Yost Announces Race for Attorney General

State Auditor Dave Yost formally announced his candidacy for the Attorney General of Ohio on Tuesday. Yost has become the first official candidate for the post as current Attorney General Mike DeWine is term limited. Prior to becoming Auditor, Yost worked at the *Columbus Citizen Journal* and as a Delaware County prosecutor for eight years.

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