

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

September 8, 2017

Around the Square

Committee Backs Transportation Plan

The Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee approved Senate Resolution 175 that would create a Hyperloop to connect Columbus to Chicago and Pittsburgh. The Hyperloop would be a low pressure tube either underground or in a tunnel, and would transport passengers and cargo up to 700mph. This resolution will likely be on the floor quickly as Ohio is currently in a competition for the location of this Hyperloop. Hyperloop One, the company sponsoring, and private investors will fully fund the project and are expected to announce the selected location this month.

Bocchieri Announces for Senate

Rep John Bocchieri announced on Monday at the Mahoning Valley War Vets Memorial his candidacy for the Ohio Senate to replace term-limited Senator Joe Schiavoni. Bocchieri had previously served the Senate before getting elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and serving one term. He is up against Republican businessman Michael Rulli for the seat.

Political News and Notes

State Income Tax Above Estimates

The Office of Budget and Management released their preliminary numbers on tax revenues and August is up higher than projected. The state took in about \$1.97 billion in receipts, a 1.3% increase from estimates. Sales tax came in at \$817.2 million, 2.5% raise. Alcoholic beverage sales tax had the highest margin at \$1.2 million, or 27.2% above projections.

Congressional Race Announcements

Melissa Ackison has announced her candidacy for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's seat, making her the third Republican to do so. A business owner from Marysville, Ackison seeks to repeal the Affordable Care Act and reform Medicaid. She will be going up against Cleveland banker Mike Gibbons and Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel. Former NFL player and OSU wide receiver Anthony Gonzales announced in a Facebook post his run for the U.S. House of Representatives. He seeks to replace U.S. Rep Jim Renacci for the 16th District seat.

Ohio Universities Call on Congress

In the wake of the U.S. Attorney General's office announcing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program will no longer accept new applicants, several University leaders in the state have called on the Ohio Congressional delegation to pass legislation to restore the program. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services noted approximately 5,000 Ohioans were protected.

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