

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

December 22, 2017

Around the Square

House Interviews Candidates for Open Seats

15 candidates have been named to fill two vacant Ohio House seats once the Legislature has returned from winter break. The 81st House District, previously occupied by Senator Rob McColley before his appointment, will interview five potential candidates and the 87th House District, previously occupied by former Rep Wes Goodman before he resigned due to sexual misconduct, will interview ten. The House GOP caucus plans to have the new members sworn in on January 17th.

Rep Kelly Joins Leadership

The House Democratic Caucus added Rep Brigid Kelly to the leadership team as Rep Nickie Antonio announced her run for Senate. Replacing Rep Antonio as Minority Whip is Rep Emilia Sykes, who previously served as Assistant Minority Whip. Rep Kelly will be assuming Rep Sykes' former position as Assistant Minority Whip while Minority Leader Fred Strahorn and Assistant Minority Leader Nick Celebrezze will maintain their positions.

Political News and Notes

State Unemployment Dropped

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped to 4.8% in November from 5.1% in October, according to the Office of Budget and Management. The total number of jobs decreased by 5,600 over the course of the month and the number of unemployed workers decreased by 17,000 to 279,000. The U.S. unemployment rate for November was 4.1%, which was unchanged from October.

Renacci Announces Running Mate

U.S. Rep Jim Renacci announced that Cincinnati City Councilwoman Amy Murray will be joining his campaign as lieutenant governor. In his announcement, Renacci complimented Murray on creating jobs throughout her career as a businesswoman and not being a career politician. Renacci is the second candidate to announce a running mate after Attorney General Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Jon Husted announced their joint ticket three weeks ago.

Kasich Fills Oil & Gas Vacancies

Governor John Kasich appointed the final three members of the Oil & Gas Leasing Commission last week. The appointments include former state lawmaker and Ohio BWC administrator Stephen Buehrer, former Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Richard Shank, and oil and gas attorney Matthew W. Warnock. Previously appointed was attorney Michael Wise and the final seat is automatically filled by the head of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Geological Survey, who is currently Thomas Serenko.

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