

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 26, 2018

Around the Square

Obhof Anticipates Tight Capital Budget

Senate President Larry Obhof announced Wednesday he believes the capital budget this year will be smaller than the \$2.6 billion spending bill in the last General Assembly. He added he believes it will be in a similar range, expecting perhaps 10% or so less. The bill is anticipated to be introduced sometime next month, with President Obhof speculating it will be passed by the second or third week of March.

Redistricting Proposal Continues

The Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee heard testimony on SJR 5, the Senate proposal for redistricting reform. Senator Matt Huffman, sponsor of the resolution, feels progress is being made and is committed to producing a bipartisan solution. One of the issues that still needs to be addressed, according to the Senator, is the number of splits permissible within counties and the percentage of minority party support to extend into a 10-year map. Hearings will continue for the measure that needs to be approved by February 7th to make it onto the May ballot.

Candidates Announce for Hughes Seat

Rep Jim Hughes announced his official candidacy for Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge, forgoing another run for his 24th House District seat. Looking to replace the Columbus-area Rep include Republican Erik Yassenoff, a small business owner and previous deputy director of general services for the Department of Administrative Services. On the Democratic side, business owner Mary B. Relotto and public health policy researcher Allison Russo are also vying for the seat.

Political News and Notes

Kasich Replaces O'Neill

Governor John Kasich on Thursday announced he plans to appoint Seventh District Court of Appeals Judge Mary DeGenaro to replace Justice Bill O'Neill, who is expected to vacate his seat this week. Justice DeGenaro's appointment leaves no Democrats on the bench and marks the fourth time in Ohio's history that women have outnumbered men on the state's highest court.

Ohio Business Roundup

Several Ohio businesses saw an increase in 2017. Cincinnati-based company Proctor & Gamble saw a 3% uptick in net sales, amounting to \$17.4 billion in the second quarter with \$3.7 billion in operating cash flow. Huntington Bank saw a \$1.2 billion, or 67% increase, in net income for 2017. Community Investors Bancorp and Peoples Bancorp both saw increases in 2017 as well.

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