

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
May 11, 2018

## Around the Square

### Fireworks Bill Raises Concern

Sponsored by Reps Seitz and Sweeney, HB 226 would legalize common fireworks as existing law fails to reflect the realities of consumer firework use. Some argue that because citizens already are using fireworks, lawmakers should legalize them and adopt new safety requirements. Opponents of the bill spoke Tuesday saying the legalization would result in a sharp uptick in injuries, as one witness told members that her four-year-old son died after a firework's base tipped over and was launched into a crowd. Chairman Coley stated that there has been no discussion yet among the Republican caucus, making it unclear if this bill has the support to pass.

### Kasich Signs Autonomous Vehicle Executive Order

On Wednesday, Governor Kasich signed an executive order to establish rules for autonomous vehicle testing in an effort to continually promote driverless cars and technology in Ohio. It also lays out safety parameters for such projects and creates a voluntary pilot program linking local governments to participating companies. This order follows one signed by the Governor in January, which created a statewide smart mobility resource center called DriveOhio. The director of the Department of Public Safety indicated that on average three people die in traffic crashes per day in the state, and almost every death can be linked to a mistake by a driver. Governor Kasich hopes that this technology will save lives and prevent senseless death.

## Political News and Notes

### Primary Elections Turnout

The Secretary of State's office released early Wednesday the final tally of the unofficial vote count, reporting that 1,660,059 ballots were cast in the primary, a 20.9% turnout. Highest turnout by county included Meigs at 35% and Geauga at 30.7%. Counties among lower turnout included Holmes, Butler, and Lucas. A total of 26,744 ballots were cast absentee. County election boards reported that 12,564 provisional ballots, which by law can't be counted until 10 days after the election, were cast statewide. The turnout total matched the expectations of the Secretary of State's office.

### Ohio On Track To Meet Revenue Expectations

Preliminary revenue reports from the Office of Budget and Management show that Ohio is on track to meet its revenue expectations as the fiscal year enters into its final months. Personal income tax receipts were 11.7% above what analysts expected for the month of April. Budget Director Tim Keen claims that personal income tax gains stem from a better tax filing season in addition to stronger revenue from withholding. Auto sales and use tax receipts were also a strong driver, up 13.3% from initial projections. Total tax receipts FY 18 to date are 2.2% above their level through the same point in the prior fiscal year, with April's total up 9.3% from last year.

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