

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
July 20, 2018

Around the Square

House Plans Summer Session

Ohio House Speaker Ryan Smith scheduled a rare mid-summer session for next Tuesday to deliberate on a number of issues. The House plans to finalize legislation surrounding payday lending, including deciding on changes made by the Senate earlier this month. The chamber will also seat Todd Smith, who will represent the 43rd District and replace former Representative Jeff Rezabeck, who left his position to serve as a Montgomery County juvenile court judge.

Political News and Notes

Chamber Plans for Economic Innovation

On Wednesday, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation released a set of policy proposals aimed at accelerating economic innovation throughout the state. The proposal, titled “Ohio Bold: A Blueprint for Accelerating the Innovation Economy,” outlines plans to create four statewide innovation hubs, update the state tax code with product creation incentives, further invest in the Entrepreneurial Signatures Program and retain talent based on industry demands. Ohio private sector annual GDP growth for the past 17 years has been below the national average of 8.8 percent. The policies outlined in this plan are directed at increasing Ohio’s population growth, per capital income, and median household income over time.

Hamilton County Sales Tax on the Ballot

Over 37,000 signatures were submitted to the Hamilton County Auditor on Wednesday in opposition to a sales tax hike. In an effort to address a budget deficit of almost \$28 million, a vote to increase the sales tax within the county by 0.2 percent was passed by two county commissioners in June. The Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes (COAST) was joined by several members of the Hamilton County GOP and anti-tax advocates in the submission of signatures. The groups will need 23,629 of the signatures to be valid, registered voters in order for the measure to be included on the November ballot.

Mayors Propose Ideas for Next Governor

Members of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, including Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, announced policy recommendations for the next governor on Thursday. The group called on candidates for governor Attorney General Mike DeWine and Richard Cordray to increase funding for local initiatives and collaborate with municipalities to drive economic growth, if elected. The mayors also proposed a Home Rule Compact, creation of an Office of Drug Policy, a bipartisan coalition to address transportation infrastructure and initiatives to reduce gun violence. The group also focused on improving relationships and partnership between the state and local governments.

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