

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
October 12, 2018

## Election Update

### Gubernatorial Debate

The third and final Ohio gubernatorial debate between major party candidates Republican Mike DeWine and Democrat Richard Cordray took place this past Monday. The candidates traded similar attacks to their first two debates and did not discuss many new political positions. They did, however, expand their differencing stances on several aforementioned issues, including abortion, health care and state budgeting. The final debate cemented the two candidates as familiar rivals racing neck-and-neck towards the November finish line.

### Issue 1 Fiscal Analysis

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management conducted a required fiscal analysis of the “Issue 1” ballot measure to reduce sentences for certain drug-related criminal activity. Proponents of the ballot measure claim that it could potentially save the state millions of dollars as funds are redirected through the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Yet the OBM fiscal analysis found that changes made through the ballot measure would likely not occur as intended and may even result in much larger additional costs. The report also detailed that the costs, rather than diminishing, may just shift from state governments to local government entities that will not be protected by the amendment’s appropriations.

## Political News and Notes

### Court Upholds Voting Process

Earlier this year, the United States Supreme Court upheld Ohio’s process of culling its voters rolls. The United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio upheld the Supreme Court’s ruling on Wednesday, instructing Secretary of State Jon Husted to continue the same review and renewal process of state voter rolls. The A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) argued that Ohio’s confirmation notices sent to inactive voters violated the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The group also sought to have inactive voters reinstated in certain cases. The Southern District’s decision was 5-4 along ideological lines, with Judge George Smith delivering the final ruling.

### Domestic Violence Network Report

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network released a report detailing statistics on domestic violence this week, including 91 deaths in the last year alone. This number has decreased from 116 fatalities the year prior. Advocates called on lawmakers to use the state budget to provide funding for domestic violence prevention and education services. The advocacy group touted legislative efforts such as Senate Bill 207 to expand offenses related to felonious assault, and called on lawmakers and the state’s administration to enact change through operating budgets and additional funding methods.

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