

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
October 26, 2018

Election Update

Attorney General Debate

The first and only debate between Attorney General candidates Republican Dave Yost and Democrat Steve Dettelbach occurred on Monday. The two candidates sparred over many divisive issues, including the corrupt ECOT scandal, the opioid crisis, unbid contracts and political litigation. Each highlighted their own work to improve Ohio, with Yost focusing on charter school reform and the attempt to audit JobsOhio, and Dettelbach focusing on his work to fight public corruption and human trafficking as a U.S. attorney.

Fundraising Update

With the exception of the race for State Auditor, Democratic statewide candidates continued to fundraise more than their Republican opponents for the first half of October. However, many Republicans including Mike DeWine still maintain their advantage of having more cash on hand with less than two weeks to go. In the General Assembly races, both chambers are dominated by Republican candidates outspending and outraging their Democratic counterparts. In addition to candidate finances, campaign fundraising efforts from groups supporting and opposing Issue 1 have ramped up in the final push towards November 6th. Groups supporting the effort have raised \$9.76 million in the last reporting period, while the 'Vote No Protect Ohio' group opposed to the initiative has raised just \$1 million.

Political News and Notes

Adult Protective Services Grant

A federal grant totaling more than \$920,000 will be put towards improving the state's adult protective services. The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services announced it will spend \$1.3 million over the next three years on the initiative by improving technology, education, public awareness and community collaboration. The grant and funds will supplement a law put into effect in September that expands the number of professions required to report suspected elder abuse.

Proposed School Funding Bill

Representative Niraj Antani of Miamisburg has proposed legislation that would initiate studying schools' safety measures and climate controls to appropriate construction funding. The bill would require the Department of Education and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to gather information on aspects of school infrastructure, such as air conditioning and accessibility features, so that funding may be more efficiently allocated.

Driving Permit Law

Proponents of a law that would increase the amount of time new drivers would be required to hold a permit hope to have the legislation enacted by year's end. The bill would require drivers under 18 years of age to hold a temporary instruction permit for a year rather than the current six month period. The bill would also impose driving curfews dedicated to ensuring the safety of young drivers.

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