

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
November 2, 2018

Election Update

As the final week before the election draws to a close, Ohio candidates on both sides are making their final stands. The tight contest for Governor has drawn attention from around the nation, including that of President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Elizabeth Warren, who have all campaigned or plan to campaign in Ohio for their respective party's candidate. A recent poll by Baldwin Wallace University has DeWine narrowly besting Cordray, while Democrats take the lead in other statewide contests. Early voting has been reported to be up 55 percent from 2014, the last non-presidential election year where a governor's race was held. Absentee voting is also outpacing 2014 numbers, with 1.2 million ballots requested and 737,000 already cast.

Voter Rolls

On Wednesday, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that certain Ohio county boards of election must count provisional ballots cast by voters previously purged from the state's voter rolls. Individuals that were taken off the voter rolls between 2011 and 2015 must be counted if they still live in the same county as their last registration and are not ineligible to vote for another reason. Voters that fall under the exception will have the opportunity to vote next week.

Political News and Notes

House Bills Passed to Senate Committee

The Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee will examine several House bills after the election and determine if they should be considered by the full Senate. Committee Chair Senator Dave Burke stated that multiple bills are in position to move forward, such as legislation creating a program to build awareness surrounding palliative care, epinephrine provisions and licensure requirements for out-of-state medical professionals.

Federal Funding for Opioid Epidemic

On Monday, nearly \$55.8 million in federal grant money was approved for use by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to combat the opiate crisis in Ohio. The funding is the first year of two in which the state expects to receive approximately \$110 million in total. Programs that will be supported by the funding include workforce development, expanded telemedicine efforts, recovery housing, family services and addiction treatment. The plans to support these various programs were developed after assessing the successes and failures of the last funding effort of a similar kind in the 21st Century CURES Act.

Programs Receive Tax Breaks

Thirteen new multi-year tax credits are expected to create 3,000 new jobs, almost \$900 million in investments and \$120 million in new annual payroll in Ohio. The Tax Credit Authority awarded credits to several Ohio companies including Crown Equipment, Chewy, Rimeco Products and Kohl's Department Stores.

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