

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 11, 2019

Political News and Notes

Speaker Confirmed

The tension-filled feud for the House speakership ended Monday as Representative Larry Householder was voted back into the chamber's top position. Householder previously served as Speaker from 2001-2004, and has battled with now former Speaker Ryan Smith for more than a year to regain leadership. The House voted in his favor 52-46, with a majority of the Democratic caucus supporting the winner. Householder received only 26 Republican votes compared to Smith's 34, but received 26 out of the 38 Democrat votes. The split Democratic caucus is considering whether Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, who voted for Smith, will maintain his leadership position.

New General Assembly Begins

In contrast to the dramatic beginning of the lower chamber, the Senate began the 133rd General Assembly with brief remarks from Senate President Obhof. President Obhof touted the bipartisan success of the Senate in the previous two General Assemblies, and stated his desire to continue this trend. He was joined by Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who was re-elected to serve in his position. The session concluded with an appearance by Governor-Elect Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor-Elect Jon Husted.

Ohioans Weigh In On Shutdown

The partial government shutdown is entering its 21st day, tying the record for the longest funding lapse to date. Ohio lawmakers from Senator Sherrod Brown to Governor Kasich have urged President Trump and the federal government to work towards a compromise on issues including border security. At least half of Ohio's congressional delegation has declined their paychecks.

Around the Square

InnovateOhio Leadership

Among the many notifications this week from the DeWine-Husted administration and transition team was the announcement of a newly established office. InnovateOhio will be created with the intent of leveraging technological advancements to improve operations throughout state government. The department will oversee a broad set of technology, efficiency and workforce development issues. DeWine also announced that his Lieutenant Governor-Elect Jon Husted will serve as the Director of InnovateOhio, citing the new technology and cost-saving measures he implemented during his tenure as Secretary of State.

State Revenues On Track

Personal income tax revenues took a slight dip last month due to timing issues and estimated payments, but are projected to bounce back quickly. The personal income tax receipts were down 5.8 percent in December and total tax receipts for the month were about two percent less than expected. Despite these temporary dips, overall tax receipts for FY 2019 and state revenues remain on track or exceeding expectations.

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