

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

April 5, 2019

## Around the Square

### Husted Appointment

This week Governor Mike DeWine appointed Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted to fill another top state job. Husted will serve as the director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, a cabinet level post, whose programs are a part of twelve state agencies. The programs encompassed by the Office of Workforce Transformation focus on retraining workers and connecting them with job openings for in-demand occupations. Husted will not receive any additional payment for this role, and he will continue to serve as the director of InnovateOhio, a new state agency focused on making government operations more efficient through data analytics and technology. Furthermore, he will oversee the Common Sense Initiative, which is aimed at reviewing state regulations in order to eliminate them or make them less harmful to businesses.

## Political News and Notes

### Transportation Budget

On Wednesday, Governor DeWine signed the state's two-year transportation budget with no line item vetoes less than 24 hours after the Ohio General Assembly passed the legislation. The budget was passed after the Sunday deadline due to contentious negotiations between the House and Senate. This budget will go into effect at the start of July, and includes a 10.5 cents-per-gallon increase in gas tax and twenty cent-per-gallon increase in diesel tax. The current gas and diesel tax is 28 cents-per-gallon. DeWine allowed a provision that eliminates Ohio's requirement for a front license plate despite protest from law enforcement leaders. He also allowed for further restriction on the use of red-light traffic cameras, against the wishes of local government leaders, including many mayors.

### State Takeovers

State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria testified this week before the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education, which led to several committee members asking him questions about the state's current system of placing failing local school districts under state control. DeMaria said that under the current budget proposal, schools that receive one "F" grade on their state report card will be reviewed and receive specialized intervention and resource utilization to provide the support the district specifically needs. Under the current system, districts that receive three consecutive failing grades have a state appointed CEO take over the district, which DeMaria called "one-size-fits all." The new system, if passed, is tailored to each struggling district and allows those already under state control to find an alternative intervention.

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