

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE AUGUST 28, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 113,725 confirmed cases
- 13,221 hospitalizations
- 3,819 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 5.9 million cases
- 181,000 fatalities

World:

- 24.5 million cases
- 832,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Governor DeWine Press Conference
- House Session
- Senate Session (if needed)

Wednesday:

- House Session (if needed)
- Senate Session

Thursday:

- Governor DeWine Press Conference
- Weekly Unemployment Report

Friday:

LaRose Files Householder Election Complaints

After a top down review of former Speaker Larry Householders campaign finance filings, Secretary of State Frank LaRose referred 162 alleged campaign finance violations to the Elections Commission for review. Entities named in the complaints include Friends of Larry Householder, the Growth & Opportunity PAC, the Hardworking Americans Committee, and Generation Now. Most of the violations center around if various members of Team Householder, including the Speaker himself converted campaign dollars illegally for personal use.

HB 6 Repeal but Maybe Not Replace

Members of House and Senate Leadership have been meeting this week to discuss plans around a potential repeal and replace of HB 6. HB 6 is at the center of state and federal criminal investigations relating to money paid in to a Householder controlled 501 c(4). Both Speaker Cupp and Senate President Obhof have said that a review of HB 6 is paramount and that changes including a full repeal and replace of the legislation is high on the priority list. The Senate and House are set to meet next week with the Senate likely to take up repeal first. Outstanding questions include: 1). Will both chambers replace the language and if so with what? 2). Will a replacement include the subsidy for the nuclear generation plants? 3). Will renewable standards be part of a replacement bill?

Dewine Articles of Impeachment

A group of conservative legislators introduced a resolution to impeach Governor DeWine over his administration's handling of the coronavirus response. Sponsoring members include Republican Representatives John Becker, Nino Vitale, Candice Keller, and Paul Zeltwanger. The resolution was loudly criticized by other members of the Republican House caucus including Speaker of the House Bob Cupp. The resolution is not expected to receive serious consideration in the House, but it does increase pressure on House members to address additional limitations on the Governor's Emergency powers relating to health and safety limitations on Ohio Businesses. Note: The following day Rep. Vitale was accused of campaign finance violations by Secretary of State LaRose. Those violations will be investigated by the Election Commission and potentially by the Franklin County prosecutor.

Introduced Bills

HB 752 – Petition Circulators: To prohibit a person from taking certain actions to prevent the circulation of an election petition.

SB 354 – Brownfield Sites: To require the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study to determine where brownfield sites are located in this state and to make an appropriation.

SB 355 – Clean Ohio Grant: To make an appropriation to the Development Services Agency to award Clean Ohio Revitalization Grants.

SB 356 – Tax Foreclosures: To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations.

SB 357 – Coronavirus Funds: To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions and to declare an emergency.

SB 358 – Education Laws: To make changes to education law for the 2020-2021 school year in response to implications from COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

SB 359 – Assault: Regarding a civil action for a law enforcement officer based on a civil rights abridgement or false complaint, and modifications to "assault," "felonious assault," and "intimidation" regarding conduct committed because a person is or is perceived to be an emergency service responder, public servant, family member, or co-worker.