

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

February 3, 2017

Around the Square

Get to Know Scott Lipps: State Representative

Scott Lipps is serving his first term as Representative of Ohio's 62nd District. Lipps has been a small business owner in Franklin for over twenty years. He was elected to the Franklin City Council in 2000 and served as Mayor for two terms. Lipps received his Bachelor's degree at the College of Wooster and went on to pursue his Master's at DePaul University. He is involved in his local Masonic and Shriners philanthropic organizations as well as the NFIB State Board, Optimists and Rotary Club, and the Farm Bureau, among others.

Get to Know Rick Carfagna: State Representative

Representative Rick Carfagna is serving his first term in Ohio's 68th House District seat. A former Legislative Service Commission Fellow, Carfagna worked both in the House as a legislative aide and at Time Warner Cable as a Government Relations Manager. While in the House, Carfagna staffed the Public Utilities Committee. Carfagna was also elected as a Genoa Township Trustee twice and served three terms as Board President. A Columbus native, he is active on the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Development Task Force and other organizations in the area.

Executive Budget Proposal Released

Governor John Kasich released his executive budget proposal for the biennium on Monday and hearings have begun in the House to discuss its content. This week, the House Finance Committee heard testimony from Tim Keen, Director of the Office of Budget and Management on the state biennial operating budget as well as testimony from Jerry Wray, Director of the Department of Transportation on the overall transportation budget. This upcoming week, House Finance is expected to hold committee hearings on education topics, Medicaid, and tax discussions.

Political News and Notes

PUCO Approves Next Phase of AEP Ohio's Smart Grid Initiative

The Public Utilities Commission approved the next phase of AEP's smart grid initiative, which entails the installation of 900,000 smart meters over the next four years. Additionally, 70 electric distribution circuits will be outfitted to reduce outages and 17 circuits to improve efficiency. This approval also sets a \$24 a month opt-out charge for the next group of meters with a one-time \$43 fee for those looking to keep their old meters. The estimated household cost will average 42 cents a month for the first year, and reaching \$2.90 per month by the fifth year.

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