

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

June 30, 2017

Around the Square

Budget Passed

The 2018-19 Biennium Budget bill received legislative approval on Wednesday from both chambers following the Conference Committee's report released on Tuesday night. The House and Senate approved the final version during their respective sessions Wednesday. The House voted 59-38 to adopt the measure with all Democrats and seven Republicans in opposition. The Senate approved the report by a vote of 24-8-1, mostly along party lines. One Senate Republican voted no, while one Senate Democrat voted yes. Both chambers may hold session next week to go over Governor John Kasich's vetoes. Until then, the legislature is expected to remain on recess until September.

ODH Audit Reveals \$1.1 Million in Savings

The Ohio Department of Health, in their audit by State Auditor Dave Yost, has the potential to save up \$1.1 million in additional revenue by using data-driven decision-making for their long-term facilities and expanding their online birth and death certificate filing system. Lance Himes, Director of the Department of Health, concurred with the findings by the auditor's office and commented some of the labeled improvements are already in the process of being changed.

ODA Could Generate \$500,000 in Additional Revenue

State Auditor Dave Yost in a performance audit of the Ohio Department of Agriculture found by consolidating office and laboratory space and renting out remaining areas, the department could gain an additional \$492,253 in revenue each year. The audit was conducted from February to June this year.

Political News and Notes

DeWine Announces for Governor

Attorney General Mike DeWine formally announced his gubernatorial bid at his annual ice cream social this past Sunday. DeWine joins a crowded GOP race with U.S. Rep Jim Renacci, Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, and Secretary of State Jon Husted having announcing their candidacies earlier this year. In his announcement, DeWine focused on the economy, education and the opioid crisis as his top priorities.

ECOT Loses Appeal

The Educational Classroom of Tomorrow filed a lawsuit with the Franklin County Common Pleas Court to block the Ohio Department of Education from collecting \$60 million in overpayments, but lost this appeal as of Thursday. State Auditor Dave Yost announced he and the Attorney General's office are opening an investigation to ensure ECOT is not using state-provided funds to pay for television ads attacking ODE.

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