

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

August 18, 2017

Around the Square

Speaker Race Continues

Three main candidates have been identified thus far for the House Speaker race with current Speaker Cliff Rosenberger being term limited. Representatives Ryan Smith, Rob McColley, and Larry Householder have already begun fundraising for the race, however Ryan Smith is the only member to confirm his candidacy. In terms of fundraising, Larry Householder currently has the edge while Ryan Smith is furthest along in speaking to caucus members.

Board Approves Statewide Ballot Issues

The Ballot Board on Thursday approved two statewide issues to appear on the November ballot. The Board unanimously approved issue 1, otherwise known as "Marsy's Law" and issue 2, the "Ohio Drug Price Relief Act". Marsy's law is a constitutional amendment to clarify rights of crime victims and the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act is a statutory proposal to curb drug costs.

Political News and Notes

Gubernatorial Candidate Forum Set

The first forum for the four GOP gubernatorial candidates has been set for October 8th in Columbus. The forum will feature pollster Frank Luntz, who will ask each candidate questions for about 15 to 20 minutes. The event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Genoa Baptist Church and will be broadcast live on 98.9FM The Answer and 104.5FM/880AM The Word. The Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates will have their first primary on September 12 at Martins Ferry High School in Belmont County.

Neal Announces Against Stivers

Rick Neal, a democratic former international aid worker, has launched a campaign against U.S. Representative Steve Stivers for the 15th Congressional District seat. Neal has worked with the Peace Corps, working in Morocco, Afghanistan, Congo, and Liberia. In his campaign announcement, Neal set better-paying jobs, the opioid epidemic, and affordable healthcare as his top priorities.

Facebook to Build Data Center

Facebook announced on Tuesday it plans on developing a \$750 million data center in New Albany, making it the 10th data center in the country. The 22-acre center will begin services in 2019, and is expected to employ 100 people. The data center will also be powered entirely by renewable energy. Rachel Peterson, spokesperson for the company, said the decision to build in New Albany was due to location, government support, workforce talent, and accessibility to renewable energy sources.

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