

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
September 29, 2017

Around the Square

BWC Urges Employer Rate Cut

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation recommended a 6.1% average premium rate reduction for public employers on Thursday. This has the potential to save employers approximately \$12 million in workers' compensation next year. The determination for rate cuts will vary based on manual classification, program participation, recent claims history, and other factors. The recommendation is projected to gather \$181.8 million in State Insurance Fund premiums per year. The board is expected to take up this recommendation on September 28th.

Democrats Set Second Debate

The Ohio Democratic Party announced on Monday their plans to hold a second debate for their gubernatorial candidates on October 29th as part of the party's annual state dinner. The event will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center where more than 1,000 are expected to attend. Tickets to the event can be found on the party's website. The Republican candidates are expected to participate in their first forum at Genoa Baptist Church on October 8th.

Richardson Announces for Treasurer

Rob Richardson announced his candidacy for Ohio Treasurer on Wednesday. An attorney, Richardson becomes the first Democratic candidate for the office. On the Republican side, Rep Robert Sprague and Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo have announced their candidacies. Richardson was a member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees for nine years and listed restructuring loans for students to make college more affordable as one of his priorities if elected.

Political News and Notes

Amazon Announces Southwest Center

Amazon has announced it plans to locate one of its new fulfillment centers in Monroe, Ohio. The state recently approved a 1.39 percent tax credit for 10 years for the development and execution of the project. The center is expected to bring more than 1,000 jobs to pack and ship larger customer items such as sports equipment, gardening tools, and pet food.

Health Care Company Owes Ohio Millions

Ohio Auditor Dave Yost announced Healing Touch HealthCare Ltd., located in Southwest Ohio, owes the state almost \$4 million in overpayments. The company claimed \$8.5 million in Medicaid reimbursements from the state from 2013 to 2015, however state auditors discovered this was \$3.7 million, or \$3.9 million with interest, over actual numbers. The findings have been referred to the Ohio Attorney General's office.

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