

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

October 20, 2017

Around the Square

Unemployment Compensation Plan

Rep Kirk Schuring gave sponsor testimony this week on his unemployment comp plan, HB 382. In his testimony, he told the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee his bill is preliminary and is based on conversations he's had with labor and business leaders. His plan also includes HJR 4 to establish a bond mechanism the state can borrow from. The intent of his plan is to move the state towards solvency.

Senator Cliff Hite Resigns

Senator Cliff Hite abruptly resigned his senate seat Monday evening. In a Twitter statement, Hite admitted to "inappropriate behavior" and conversations with a female colleague. He additionally added he has been severely ill over the past year, and said the combination of his mistake in judgement and failing health led to his decision to step down. In response to this announcement, Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof announced all senators will be receiving sexual harassment training.

Political News and Notes

Ohio Candidates Update

Rep Dorothy Pelanda announced Monday in an email she is stepping out of the Secretary of State race, leaving Senator Frank LaRose as the only Republican running. Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo has also dropped his candidacy this week, exiting the Ohio Treasurer Race. This now leaves Rep Robert Sprague as the sole Republican running. As it stands, the only contested Republican primary this year will be for Governor as Attorney General Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep Jim Renacci, and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor, are still vying for the nomination.

Pat Tiberi to Resign

U.S. Rep Pat Tiberi announced he will be resigning from his seat sometime before January 31st. His term is set to end in January 2019. Rep Tiberi in his announcement said he is resigning to lead the Ohio Business Roundtable, but hopes to complete a high-profile tax overhaul before he leaves Congress. Governor John Kasich will be tasked with setting up the special election to fill this vacancy.

State Unemployment Down in September

The rate of unemployment for Ohio in September was 5.3%, which was slightly lower than August's 5.4%. The national unemployment rate stood at 4.2% for September, which is an improvement from the 5% rate in September 2016.

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