

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

October 27, 2017

## Around the Square

### Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty

The Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty met Thursday to hear testimony from Susan Zelman, Executive Director of the Department of Education's Office of Superintendency, Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, and Groundwork Ohio Executive Director Shannon Jones. Zelman shared the importance of mentoring for at-risk students as those who have mentors are 52% less likely to skip a day of school, 37% less likely to skip a class, and 55% more likely to enroll in college. ODE is working on these mentoring connections through the Community Connectors program, which has received \$30 million in grants.

### Campaign Considerations

Reps Craig Riedel and Rob McColley have announced their submissions to fill the now vacant 1st Senate District seat left open by former Senator Cliff Hite. Senate President Larry Obhof said a panel will hold in-person meetings and screen potential candidates in early November. On Tuesday, House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger said he's considering a run for state auditor, setting up a primary between himself and coworker Rep Keith Faber. He added he will make his final decision in the next few weeks.

## Political News and Notes

### Early Voters Up

Secretary of State Jon Husted announced more Ohioans are taking advantage of early voting compared to the 2015 local off-year election. Currently, more than 250,000 absentee ballots have been requested, which is more than 34,000 from 2015. Husted feels the difference can be attributed to the media coverage surrounding Issue 2 and the hundreds of local races this year.

### Drug Company Money on Ballot Issue

Drug companies outspent Issue 2 proponents 4-1 according to Thursday's campaign filings. In total, both the opponents and proponents spent over \$50 million on this issue. In the opposition, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue raised about \$42 million and in favor of the measure, Ohio Taxpayers for Lower Drug Prices raised about \$10.5 million this period.

### Democratic Governor Candidate Debates

The four Democratic candidates for Governor will be participating in two debates this Sunday, one on WBNS-TV and the other in front of Ohio Democratic Party Members. The candidates, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Senator Joe Schiavoni, former Representative Connie Pillich and former U.S. Representative Betty Sutton, are not well known outside their regions, something the party is hoping to change with these debates.

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