

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

November 10, 2017

## Around the Square

### Federal Regulations Give Medicaid Leeway

Federal regulations set this week will give states more leeway in creating new policies in their Medicaid programs, specifically for Ohio this could mean the imposition of work requirements for enrollees. The state will still need to gain approval for this waiver request, but these new regulations could make it easier to obtain it. The budget passed this year requires the Department of Medicaid to create a work requirement waiver program, something administration officials said they plan to have ready early next year.

### Mental Health Taskforce Meets

Michael Woody, president of the CIT International Board of Directors, presented in front of the Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness on Monday. Woody told members Ohio is one of the leaders in crisis intervention training nationally with 43% of law enforcement officers taking part in CIT since it's beginning in 2000. Ruth Simera of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence at Northeast Ohio Medical University and Karhlton Moore, executive director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services, also spoke in front of the task force to provide information and updates on their efforts.

### Six Apply for Hite's Seat

Rep Rob McColley and Rep Craig Riedel submitted applications for the vacant 1st Senate District seat. Additional applicants include Paulding County Commissioner Roy Klopfenstein, Craig Kupferberg, principal of Findlay High School, Jeff Smalley, and Frank Miller. A Senate Republican screening committee will review applications and interview candidates to select former Senator Hite's potential replacement. The Senate caucus will confirm the appointment.

## Political News and Notes

### Receipts Match Expected

Tax receipts match what analysts expected for October according to the Office of Budget and Management. Budget Director Tim Keen noted the state collected more than \$1.78 billion in taxes last month with personal income tax coming in stronger than a year ago. The state's non-auto sales tax was about 1/3% below anticipated.

### Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for Tuesday's election was 29.86%, the second lowest for a general election since 1978. According to Secretary of State Jon Husted, a total of 2,361,029 ballots were cast. Tuesday's election featured two statewide ballot issues and some high profile mayoral races.

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