

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 19, 2018

## Around the Square

### Senate Moves O'Neill Resolution

The Senate on Wednesday approved a resolution to call Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill to testify why he should not be removed from office. Justice O'Neill came under scrutiny after announcing his candidacy for the Democratic Gubernatorial race while still holding his position on the bench, which some have called judicial misconduct. This resolution comes 10 days before the Justice's announced resignation date and passed the Senate 25-8. House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger commented unless the Justice does not uphold his resignation date, they will not be participating in the process of removing Justice O'Neill.

### Kasich Announces DriveOhio

Governor John Kasich signed an executive order this week to establish DriveOhio, a statewide center for advancing "smart mobility" technology. DriveOhio will be run by James Barna, current chief engineer and assistant director of transportation policy at ODOT. It will include autonomous vehicles, semi-autonomous vehicles, and roadways with fiber to allow vehicle-to-vehicle, and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication.

## Political News and Notes

### State in Settlement Talks with Pharmaceutical Companies

Attorney General Mike DeWine announced he has begun settlement discussions with two of the five pharmaceutical companies the state is suing over allegations of illegally marketing opioids. Conversations with Johnson & Johnson and Teva Pharmaceuticals occurred last week. The state is hoping to begin conversations with Allergan and Endo International, but no meetings have been scheduled yet. DeWine added Purdue Pharma is unwilling to have settlement discussions.

### Ohio in Running for Amazon

Amazon on Thursday released its short list of 20 cities in the running to house the company's North American headquarters. Of the 238 cities that submitted a proposal, the company selected Columbus as one of the finalists. The new HQ is expected to bring in 50,000 jobs and an investment of \$5 billion to the city.

### Pillich Announces Running Mate

Former Rep Connie Pillich and democratic candidate for governor announced her running mate, Marion Mayor Scott Schertzer, on Thursday. Schertzer currently serves as the president of the Ohio Municipal League and the two of them have a history of winning in typically Republican territories.

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