

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
April 27, 2018

## Around the Square

### Date Set For Next Speaker

After Cliff Rosenberger's resignation earlier this month, House Republicans will vote on May 15 to choose its next speaker to fill in for the remainder of the year. It is likely that the results of the May 8 primaries will influence who gets the gavel. The race could come down to two candidates who have been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith and Rep. Larry Householder. There is also a possibility for a term-limited placeholder speaker, such as Rep. Dorothy Pelanda who has expressed interest in the role.

### Governor Urges Gun Safety Legislation

Governor Kasich urged legislators on Tuesday to put a set of gun safety proposals up for a vote. The proposals supported by the Governor, specifically the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have received pushback from some Republican members but according to Governor Kasich, he still expects the proposal to become law. Senate President Larry Obhof said he doesn't expect that particular proposal to come to the floor, but everything is on the table and members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

### BWC Announces Rebates

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced Tuesday plans to distribute premium rebates totaling \$1.5 billion to employers this summer, an increase from \$1.1 billion returned last year. The bureau said around \$48 million would be distributed to schools and \$111 million would go to local government entities. This rebate is its largest in 20 years, with the bureau touting a total of \$8 billion in rebates, rate cuts, grants, and other savings in the past seven years. Investment strategies, the stock market, and safety and accident prevention initiatives have helped the bureau to reduce the program's costs. The BWC's Board of Directors will vote on the plan at its May 24 meeting and checks will likely be mailed later this summer.

## Political News and Notes

### DeWine, Cordray Lead In Fundraising

Campaign finance reports filed Thursday show Attorney General Mike DeWine and democrat Richard Cordray outpacing their rivals in the gubernatorial race. DeWine heads into the final days of the primary with \$7.4 million on hand after spending \$5 million, and Cordray with \$1.6 million on hand. Lt. Governor Mary Taylor reported raising \$419,496 after spending \$4.9 million, leaving her with nearly \$2 million. Dennis Kucinich, known as being Cordray's top primary challenger, raised \$592,126 with currently \$274,754 on hand. These filings cover all campaign activity from January 1-April 18.

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