

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
August 24, 2018

## Political News and Notes

### Congressional District Winner Declared

Earlier today, Republican State Senator Troy Balderson was declared the winner of the closely contested special election in Ohio's 12th Congressional District. Balderson defeated Democrat Danny O'Connor by a slim margin of 1,680 votes. The final results were released more than two weeks after the August 7th election date, delayed in order to count thousands of provisional and absentee ballots. An automatic recount will not be necessary, as the vote margin is greater than 0.5 percentage points. Balderson and O'Connor are already gearing up to face off again on November 6th in the general election.

### Secretary of State Candidates Outline Priorities

At a Voting-Issues Forum in Beachwood on Wednesday night, the two candidates for Ohio's next Secretary of State discussed the biggest challenges to democracy that Ohioans face. Democratic State Representative Kathleen Clyde and Republican State Senator Frank LaRose largely agreed on many of the problems voters face. Both candidates were of the opinion that gerrymandering, despite being a huge challenge to election integrity, should hopefully be solved by the constitutional amendment approved by voters earlier this year. They also agreed that work remains to be done on the lack of transparency in campaign finance laws and the lack of civility in politics overall. The two disagreed on specific ballot usage, Clyde stating her favorability towards paper ballots and LaRose preferring a minimum statewide standard that allows counties to choose a method.

### Attorney General Sues ECOT Founder

In the final chapter of the drama surrounding the failed online education provider ECOT, Attorney General Mike DeWine filed a suit on Tuesday against founder Bill Lager. The lawsuit is intended to recover millions of dollars lost to the e-school from the state, claiming Lager violated his fiduciary duty to ECOT and broke state law by barring public officials from contracts. The complaint was filed in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court after DeWine received the go-ahead from Judge Michael Holbrook.

## Upcoming Events

The Midwestern Governors Association Summit, chaired by Ohio's own Governor Kasich, will be coming to Columbus this September. The upcoming summit is entitled "The Smartland: Prepared, Agile and Empowered for the Future", and will include discussions on transformation within workforce, transportation and energy. Thought leaders from these sectors, including keynote speakers President and CEO of Ford Motor Company Jim Hackett and the Founder and President of Udacity Sebastian Thrun, will be attending. Byers Minton hopes that you will join us on September 19-20 to engage in this productive dialogue. Registration for the MGA Summit and further details can be found at <https://www.midwesterngovernors.org/Agile-Workforce/>.

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