

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
September 21, 2018

Political News and Notes

Medicaid Releases PBM Report

The Ohio Department of Medicaid released a redacted version of a report detailing spending by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) on Tuesday. The report shows that PBMs received more than \$223.7 million from the department over a year, and found that the program may have saved the state \$145 million compared to other fee-for-service programs. The full public release of the report will depend on the outcome of a lawsuit between ODM and the two pharmaceutical companies involved, scheduled for a hearing in December.

School Spending

A report released by the State Auditor's office earlier this week details that 93 percent of Ohio school districts will be spending more than they take in within the next five years. Only 43 out of the 612 school districts are projected to have a budget surplus by fiscal year 2022. The Ohio Performance Team, run through the auditor's office, has made recommendations to save districts more than \$138 million during that period. Recommendations include increasing class sizes, repurposing administrative buildings, and raising extracurricular fees. The State Auditor has suggested district officials seek additional audits based on the projections.

Midwestern Governor's Association Annual Meeting

The Midwestern Governor's Association's annual summit, entitled "The Smartland: Prepared, Agile and Empowered for the Future", took place this Wednesday and Thursday in Columbus at COSI. The summit focused on workforce, infrastructure, education and energy issues, and included remarks from Ohio's own Governor John Kasich among others. The association discussed ways to bridge the education-workforce gap with technology and use energy to drive innovative economic development.

Election Update

With only 46 days until the general election, Ohio races at the federal and state level are heating up. A poll released on Tuesday by Baldwin Wallace University showed Senator Sherrod Brown up by almost 20 percentage points over Representative Jim Renacci. The governor's race between Mike DeWine and Richard Cordray has been extremely close for the past several months, but the Baldwin Wallace poll had DeWine taking a slight lead with 42 percentage points to Cordray's 37 percentage points. The two gubernatorial candidates had their first of three planned debates on Wednesday at the University of Dayton. The next two debates will likely include further discussion on issues such as the opioid crisis, healthcare, education and the workforce. Byers Minton has summarized each candidate's stances on major issues in our new **Gubernatorial Candidate Issue Update**- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YGcqO3NmrkW4iGXVI7n9bV45b-eT8yN9/view?usp=sharing>.

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