

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 18, 2019

Around the Square

New Administration Sworn In

The 70th Governor of Ohio and all statewide elected officials were sworn in at midnight on Monday at various inauguration ceremonies. Governor Mike Dewine spoke on the unity and optimism he hopes his administration will bring during a ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse, emphasizing his inauguration theme of 'Faith, Family and Friends'. The governor issued multiple executive orders prioritizing children's initiatives, the opioid crisis and discrimination issues shortly after taking oath. Lt Governor Jon Husted, Attorney General Dave Yost, State Auditor Keith Faber and Secretary of State Frank LaRose have all hit the ground running as well after their own inaugural events this past weekend.

Political News and Notes

State Board of Education Elects Leadership

As the new administration of Governor Mike DeWine begins, a member of the State Board of Education appointed by former Governor Kasich has been elected to serve as the board's president. Laura Kohler, a real estate agent and former member of the New Albany and Worthington school boards, was elected as president in a 13-6 vote. Kohler has stated her desire to make sure the board collaborates effectively with the DeWine Administration and the 133rd General Assembly.

New House Rules Proposed

Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder has proposed a new structure for the 133rd General Assembly. His set of changes includes eliminating two standing committees, adding a new Commerce and Labor Committee and restructuring subcommittees. The rules call for a total of 20 standing committees, with minor tweaks in names and subject jurisdiction. The proposed rules also reflect the Speaker's promise to members of the minority caucus who were crucial in delivering his speakership victory- he has stated that three key subcommittees will be co-chaired by Democrats.

State Launches Foster Care/Adoption Awareness Campaign

On Thursday, the Department of Job and Family Services launched a new campaign dedicated to encouraging families to foster and adopt. The initiative ties into Governor DeWine's executive order to elevate state foster care, and is based on recommendations made by the Foster Care Advisory Group to adapt the system to evolving problems largely stemming from the opiate crisis. The department has estimated that almost 16,000 children are in need of families to care for them. The new website and public awareness campaign include information on costs and training for prospective foster and adoptive parents: <https://fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ofc/>.

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