

**THIS WEEK
AT THE
STATEHOUSE**
JULY 24, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 80,186 confirmed cases
- 9,968 hospitalizations
- 3,256 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 4.11 million cases
- 146,000 fatalities

World:

- 15.5 million cases
- 634,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

-Governor DeWine press conference at 2:00 PM

Wednesday:

Thursday:

-Governor DeWine Press Conference at 2:00 PM
-Weekly Unemployment Report

Friday:

Gov. DeWine Mandates Mask Wearing

This week as COVID-19 rates continue to rise both nationally and within Ohio, Governor DeWine issued an executive order requiring that masks be worn by all Ohioans when in public beginning yesterday evening. The mandate comes with few exceptions, such as for those with medical conditions, those under the age of ten, or for those actively eating or playing sports. Governor DeWine said that he made the decision to mandate masks now because scientific consensus shows that if a significant percentage of the population wore masks, in conjunction with practicing social distancing and hand-washing, the pandemic would be under control in a number of weeks. Furthermore, he was swayed by arguments for a statewide mask-mandate due to frequent travel between Ohio counties.



Speaker Householder Arrested

On Tuesday Speaker Larry Householder, along with a number of lobbyists and political consultants, were arrested after a federal investigation found that the Speaker was involved in an over \$60 million bribery scheme. The affidavit alleges a sophisticated and years long scheme among the men and FirstEnergy to get Speaker Householder elected as speaker as well as a group of representatives elected that would support Speaker Householder in order to pass HB 6, a nuclear bailout bill, into law and to ensure it stayed law by thwarting a ballot referendum effort. Speaker Householder has stated that he does not plan to resign his position, but there is strong support among Ohio politicians in both parties for him to resign. Furthermore, both Republicans and Democrats have called for the repeal of HB 6 due to the circumstances it was passed under. Governor DeWine, who signed HB 6 into law, supports repealing the legislation and enacting similar legislation in an open manner.

Unemployment Claims

Last week, 30,138 Ohioans filed initial unemployment claims, marking a decrease in claims by 5,000 compared to the week prior. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Labor reported an increase in initial unemployment claims with 1.4 million Americans filing initial claims compared to 1.3 million the week prior.

Introduced Bills

HB 730 – Line Replacement: To establish the Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

HB 731 – Overtime Threshold: To raise the salary threshold above which certain employees are exempt from the overtime law.

HB 732 – Reading Guarantee: To eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and to require the Department of Education to seek a federal waiver for the 2020-2021 school year regarding the federal testing requirement for a third-grade reading assessment.

SB 342 – Financial Literacy: Relating to teaching financial literacy in high school.

SB 343 – Eviction Records: Related to expungement of eviction case court files.

SB 344 – License Plate: To redirect contributions for "Glen Helen Nature Preserve" license plate from the Glen Helen Ecology Institute of Antioch College to the Glen Helen Association.