

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE OCTOBER 16, 2020



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 165,627 confirmed cases
- 16,824 hospitalizations
- 5,038 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 7.96 million cases
- 216,917 fatalities

### World:

- 38.79 million cases
- 1.1 million fatalities

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

- Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (1:30 pm)

### Tuesday:

### Wednesday:

### Thursday:

### Friday:

## Trump Holds Narrow Lead in Ohio

According to the latest [Baldwin-Wallace University Great Lakes Poll](#), President Trump leads Mr. Biden 47- 45.4% in Ohio. The same poll also asked likely voters how they planned on casting their vote this year- 47.7% plan to vote in person on election day, 39.3% plan to vote by mail, and 9.4% will cast early, in-person ballots.

## State Board of Education Removes Voucher Limiting Language

On Tuesday evening, the State Board of Education voted 11-4 to approve the Department of Education's budget request after amending language that suggested limiting the growth or reducing appropriations for the EdChoice Expansion program in favor of programs and priorities outlined earlier in the document, and additional state funding for public schools.

## Plastic Bag Ban Prohibition Signed by Governor

This week, Governor Mike DeWine signed HB 242 into law, which prevents local governments from enacting bans on the use of plastic bags in stores for one year. The bill was opposed by environmental groups and local governments but supported by business interests who wanted to avoid patchwork regulations. Ultimately, the Governor signed the bill into law in the interest of the COVID pandemic and resulting economic hardships.

## Ohio COVID Cases and Unemployment Claims Rise

Ohio's COVID cases have seen a substantial rise, along with the positivity rate since it hit its low in mid-September. Fatalities are still below the 21-day average, but hospitalizations and ICU admissions are both above average. Currently, the Governor says he hopes to avoid tighter restrictions. Additionally, Ohio jobless claims are rising, with over 20,000 initial claims in the last week- the highest since mid-August.

**Monthly Financial Report for September 2020:** <https://obm.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/obm/home/news-and-events/mfr-10-13-20>

## **Introduced Bills**

**HB 774 - Eminent Domain:** To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.

**HB 775 – Name Changes:** Regarding probate court procedures to change a legal name and correct legal name errors in a person's official identity documents.

**SB 373 – Name Changes:** Regarding probate court procedures to change a legal name and correct legal name errors in a person's official identity documents.

**SB 374 – Alcohol Sales:** To reinstate the authorized hours of operation for liquor permit premises that existed prior to the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency