

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE AUGUST 6, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 946,587 confirmed cases
- 62,318 hospitalizations
- 20,539 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 35.39 million cases
612,958 fatalities

World:

- 200.17 million cases
- 4.26 million fatalities

Special Congressional Election Results

On Tuesday, Ohio held a special primary election in the 11th and 15th congressional districts. In the 11th District, Cuyahoga County Council Member Shontel Brown beat top rival Nina Turner for the Democratic party nomination, and will face Republican Laverne Gore in the November 2nd election. In the 15th District, Mike Carey won the GOP nomination and will face Democratic nominee Representative Allison Russo come November. Carey beat a number of prominent opponents for the spot, including Senator Bob Peterson, Senator Stephanie Kunze, Representative Jeff LaRe, and former Representative Ron Hood. Representative Allison Russo touted a historic fundraising hall for the ODP in the district.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Redistricting Commission

The first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission was set to be held on August 6th by Governor Mike DeWine. The panel is made up of Governor Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, State Auditor Keith Faber, Senate President Matt Huffman, Senator Vernon Sykes, House Speaker Bob Cupp, and Minority Leader Emilia Sykes. The bulk of the panel's work in drawing the new 10-year legislative map cannot take place until the U.S. Census Bureau releases final data, which is expected on August 12. They have until September 1st to finish their first shot at drafting a new map. If this deadline is not met, an extension ending September 15th is triggered. If the commission adopts the plan without minority support, the map will last for four years. For the congressional redistricting, the legislature has until September

30th to arrive at a new 10-year congressional map. If that does not occur, the commission must adopt a bipartisan plan by October 31st. Failure to do so will result in the process returning to the General Assembly, which would have until Nov. 30 to approve a ten or four year map under stricter rules.

COVID-19 Delta Variant Cases Rise

During a Friday morning press conference, Governor Mike DeWine gave an update on the state of COVID-19 in Ohio. The delta variant now comprises over 86% of cases in Ohio, which is more contagious with poorer health outcomes.

Bill Introductions

SB 213 - Veterans (Antani, N.): To require several state and licensing agencies to ask about veteran status, to provide this information to the Department of Veterans Services, and to grant that Department authority to use this information to connect veterans with their earned benefits.

SB 214 - Asian American History (Maharath, T.)

To require instruction in Asian American history for grades kindergarten through twelve, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

SB 215 - Concealed Handguns (Johnson, T.)

Regards a concealed handgun licensee's duty to carry the license and notify a law enforcement officer if the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun, a right of a person age twenty-one or older and not legally prohibited from firearm possession to carry a concealed handgun in the same manner as if the person was a licensee, and a pretrial immunity hearing.

HB 382 - Marijuana (Weinstein, C., Upchurch, T.): To allow for the cultivation and possession of marihuana, to modify possession, cultivation, and trafficking penalties, to allow for expungement of certain marihuana convictions, and to levy a tax.

HB 383 - Weapons (Koehler, K.): To modify the penalties for the offense of "having weapons while under disability."