



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

August 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Joseph Garrity
Director of Government Affairs
+ Strategic Initiatives
(614) 233-4127
jgarrity@morpc.org

What's Happening

New Infrastructure Funding Available to Communities

As the Ohio General Assembly broke for recess at the end of June, it enacted several grant programs that local governments can use to clean up brownfields, remove unsightly buildings, and improve water and sewer infrastructure. The Ohio Department of Development will administer each of the grant programs.

Brownfield Remediation Grant Program. The state operating budget, HB 110, enacted the \$350 million Brownfield Remediation Grant Program. The program awards grants for the remediation of brownfield sites throughout Ohio.

- » Under HB 110, \$1 million of this appropriation is reserved for each of Ohio's 88 counties, or a proportionate share of the amount appropriated for the program is less than that amount for one calendar year from the date of the appropriation.
- » Funds not committed within one year will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- » Of the non-reserved portion of the appropriation, grant dollars are limited to 75% of a project's cost.

Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Grant Program. The state operating budget also enacted the \$150 million Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Grant Program. The purpose is to award grants for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and revitalize surrounding properties on sites that are not brownfields.

- » Each of Ohio's 88 counties will have \$500,000 reserved in funding
- » After one year, funds that are not reserved are to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- » Of the non-reserved portion of the appropriation, grant dollars are limited to 75% of a project's costs.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program. The General Assembly appropriated \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Water and Sewer Quality Program in HB168. The Ohio Department of Development is calling the program the "Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program."

- » The program is open to political subdivisions and non-public entities that operate water systems across the state, emphasizing the needs of economically disadvantaged communities.
- » The grant dollars aim to provide safe, reliable drinking water in areas that lack infrastructure, bring sewage treatment capacity to un-sewered regions, and develop regional infrastructure to serve multiple communities.
- » There are two types of eligible projects, design or construction.
 - » Design projects should be submitted after an eligible applicant has completed the preliminary planning phase of a project. Eligible design projects can receive a maximum award of \$250,000.
 - » Eligible construction projects can receive a maximum grant amount of \$5 million. At the discretion of the Director of Development, additional grant funding may be awarded for an individual project due to a lack of matching funds and other inhibiting factors. Maximum project awards in these circumstances shall not exceed \$10 million and are solely at the discretion of the Director.



What's Happening

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In addition to these three new state grant programs, Congress and the Biden Administration are in the final stages of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that provides \$550 billion in new spending to modernize and upgrade our nation's core infrastructure, including roads and bridges, ports and waterways, railroads, the electrical grid, broadband, and other types of infrastructure. Ohio Senator Rob Portman has been one of the negotiators in helping to craft this legislation.

According to a White House fact sheet, Ohio would expect to receive over five years:

- » \$9.2 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs
- » \$483 million for bridge replacement and repairs
- » \$1.2 billion to improve public transportation options across the state
- » \$140 million to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state
 - » Ohio could also apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.
- » A minimum allocation of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 259,000 Ohioans who currently lack it.
 - » 3,167,000 or 28% of people in Ohio will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access

Top News

FY 22-23 Budget

The Conference Committee on HB110, the operating budget for FY22-23, reported its recommendations out unanimously, having gone through 400+ pages of differences and nearly 200 amendments in just under two hours. Besides “almost entirely” restoring the House’s Fair School Funding Plan, according to Conference Committee Chairman Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), the committee addressed a wide range of topics, many of them controversial and many not so, such as the provision making Juneteenth a state holiday. The bill went on to passage by large, bipartisan majorities in both chambers. The final compromise that revived much of the Cupp-Patterson school funding plan propelled the new operating budget to wide bipartisan approval Monday in the Senate, where senators also cheered brownfield remediation, broadband expansion, post-partum health care coverage and other provisions of HB110. The House saw overwhelming support on the conference committee report for HB110, adopting it by a vote of 82-13, with most votes against it coming from Democrats, who said they felt the budget doesn’t go far enough to help Ohioans who are still struggling. Rep. Bill Dean (R-Xenia) was the lone Republican vote against the bill.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed the biennial budget bill, HB110 (Oelslager), early in the morning of Thursday, July 1, after receiving the budget bill around 7 p.m. the previous day. He issued 14 line-item vetoes, a relatively low number. The vetoes removed Medicaid rates from state law, axed language on lawmaker intervention in lawsuits filed by the executive branch and eliminated a provision voiding penalties businesses incurred for violation COVID-19 restrictions.

Attorney General

Attorney General Dave Yost says FirstEnergy Corp.’s fired CEO and head of external affairs and the DeWine administration’s onetime utility chairman, Sam Randazzo, are part of the \$61 million “unholy alliance” that returned Larry Householder to the speakership, secured passage of energy bailout 133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), and enriched them and their supporters. Yost added Randazzo and former FirstEnergy executives to his corruption lawsuit and hinted more could come.

Auditor of State

Nearly 80 percent of local governments in Ohio were better off financially at the end of 2020 than they were at the beginning of the year despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Auditor Keith Faber told reporters. Faber held a roundtable discussion with

Top News

Statehouse reporters in his ceremonial office where he weighed in on everything from his office's overall functions, to the Ohio Redistricting Commission he is a member of, to the problems with Ohio's unemployment compensation system, which Faber's office is currently reviewing through two separate audits. On local governments' weathering the pandemic, Faber said most Ohio cities and counties ended 2020 with more money than they started, with the average of their carry forward balances increasing by 20 percent.

Cities

A recent study out of Ohio State University (OSU) is the first to calculate how much shaded areas in cities help lower the temperature and reduce the "urban heat island" effect. Researchers created a 3D digital model of a section of Columbus and determined what effect the shade of the buildings and trees in the area had on land surface temperatures over the course of one hour on one summer day. "We can use the information from our model to formulate guidelines for community greening and tree planting efforts, and even where to locate buildings to maximize shading on other buildings and roadways," said Jean-Michel Guldmann, co-author of the study and professor emeritus of city and regional planning at OSU.

Speaking at a "Future Cities" forum hosted by the digital publication Route Fifty, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto said that Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky could lose 100,000 jobs if they do not act in regard to a coming shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Alternatively, he said the right actions could lead to 400,000 union jobs in the four-state Ohio Valley region.

Coronavirus

With COVID-19 cases again on the rise in Ohio and across the nation, the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Chief Medical Officer Bruce Vanderhoff held a press conference with two fellow doctors to address vaccine hesitancy and stress the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. Driven by the spread of the more contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, Ohio is seeing a steady increase in infections after a long period of decline.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that Ohio is receiving \$1,337,283 to support rural health clinics with vaccination efforts, particularly as many communities face increased challenges caused by the Delta variant. The funds will go to 27 rural health clinics (RHCs), which will use these resources to combat COVID-19 misinformation by developing and implementing additional vaccine confidence and outreach efforts. The funding is from the American Rescue Plan and is being administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence (RHCVC) Program. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that residents of areas with "high" or "substantial" COVID-19 transmission rates resume wearing masks in public indoor settings regardless of vaccine status.

Economic Development

Ohio was ranked 10th in a CNBC "Top States for Business in 2021" report, retaining its position from 2019. The news site did not rank states in 2020 due to the effects of the pandemic.

Elections 2021

Trump-backed coal lobbyist Mike Carey easily won a Republican primary for the 15th Congressional District seat formerly held by Steve Stivers, outpacing 10 others with about 37 percent of the vote, followed by Rep. Jeff LaRe, former Rep. Ron Hood, and Sen. Bob Peterson. Carey will face Rep. Allison Russo, who won the Democratic primary.

Employment/Unemployment

For the week ending July 31, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 10,740 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number is slightly higher than the previous week, when the department reported 10,603 jobless claims.

Top News

Energy/Utilities

County commissioners seeking to block construction of wind and solar facilities would need to provide public notices 30 days ahead of holding a meeting to create such restrictions under an amendment added to SB52 (McColley-Reineke). The committee added several amendments, but did not hold a vote on the bill.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed an overhaul of power siting decisions for renewable energy projects that gives local officials more say in whether projects go forward. Lawmakers finalized the legislation, SB52 (Reineke-McColley), in the waning days of session before summer break. Among other provisions, the bill allows county commissioners to designate areas in which construction of utility facilities for wind and solar energy would be prohibited.

Environment

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) has awarded \$4.9 million in low interest loans to Ohio communities to improve water infrastructure and water quality. For the month of July, OWDA funded 10 projects that will improve and replace aging infrastructure. The 10 awarded projects received an interest rate ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.79 percent.

Federal

President Joe Biden named Gov. Mike DeWine as a co-chair of the president's Council of Governors, one of nine governors appointed to the council for two-year terms. According to the White House, the bipartisan Council of Governors serves as "the lead forum to strengthen partnerships between the federal government and state governments to better protect our nation from threats to our homeland security and all types of hazards. The council focuses on matters of homeland security; homeland defense; civil support; synchronization and integration of state and federal military activities in the United States; and other matters of mutual interest, including those involving the National Guard. Federal-state cooperation is critical to protecting communities given the evolving challenges and threats facing our country, which range from extreme weather to domestic and international terrorism to a global pandemic. The Council of Governors will closely coordinate with the Biden-Harris administration to bolster preparedness, resilience and response on behalf of all Americans in times of need. During her first event as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley announced that her organization supports the bipartisan infrastructure framework recently proposed by President Joe Biden and a group of U.S. Senate Republicans and Democrats. Whaley said 369 mayors from all 50 states have sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to pass an infrastructure bill as soon as possible.

General Assembly/Statehouse

The House approved Senate amendments to a bill that would use federal stimulus money to pay off the state's unemployment compensation debt and that also includes the distribution of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act money to local governments including townships. The \$422 million for local governments including townships and villages had been approved by the House as part of SB111 (Blessing-Brenner), but House Republicans also included language on mandatory vaccine requirements for public and private entities, to which the Senate balked. Instead, the Senate added the ARP funds to HB168 (Fraizer) and sent it back to the House. Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB168, along with HB75 (Oelslager), the workers' compensation budget.

Rep. Erica Crawley was selected by Franklin County Democrats to be the next Franklin County commissioner, replacing Marilyn Brown. House Democrats said they will announce an application process for Crawley's replacement.

Rep. Phil Plummer (R-Dayton) announced on social media that he is seeking to become the next House speaker in the 135th General Assembly, launching a bid to replace term-limited Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) after this session. Plummer, a former Montgomery County sheriff who is serving in his second term in the Ohio House, also held a fundraiser organized by one of his supporters for speaker — Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Hamilton).

Top News

David Evans, who represented the 71st District in the Ohio House of Representatives for nine years, died on Wednesday, July 21 at the age of 84. He served through the 126th General Assembly before he was forced out due to term limits. It was a job he didn't originally envision for himself, saying when he took over the seat that he had been asked to consider filling the seat held by Jay Hottinger at the time and who was a former fellow Newark City councilman. Evans had recently retired from State Farm Insurance when Hottinger, who was seeking to move to the Ohio Senate, asked Evans to consider the Legislature. A service for Evans will be held at a later date. Internment will take place in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Governor

Matt Damschroder shed his interim title and became permanent director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Service (ODJFS), Gov. Mike DeWine announced. Kathleen Madden, chief of staff for the Ohio Department of Health, will fill Damschroder's prior role as director of the Department of Administrative Services.

Calling it a "dramatic change in Ohio law," Gov. Mike DeWine vetoed SB113 (Rulli-Johnson), which would have made changes to Ohio's fireworks laws, making it legal to discharge fireworks on certain days of the year. He also signed HB191, which names a bridge on Rt. 164 in honor of the late Rep. Don Manning.

Gubernatorial Race

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley made his gubernatorial campaign official Tuesday. Mr. Cranley, who has been openly campaigning for months, joins a Democratic primary field that includes Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, who on Tuesday unveiled her economic plan. He launched his campaign with a [video](#) that highlights his tenure leading the Queen City and outlines his plans for Ohio, which include a natural gas dividend, creation of 30,000 jobs paying at least \$60,000 per year and the legalization of marijuana.

Housing/Homelessness

Ohio home sales reached 16,552 in June, a 10.2 percent increase from activity a year earlier, according to Ohio Realtors. The average sales price of \$256,094 represented a 17.9 percent increase from the average price in June 2020. First-half sales of 75,536 are 10.6 percent ahead of where they were at this point in 2020, and the average price for the initial six months of the year of \$232,780 is 15.8 percent higher.

Local Government

Local governments and organizations can now apply for \$250 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to address water infrastructure needs, Gov. Mike DeWine announced. The Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program is open to public and non-public entities that operate water systems across the state, with an emphasis placed on addressing the needs of economically-disadvantaged communities, according to the governor's office.

Natural Resources

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is giving organizations more time to apply for \$50,000 in Recreational Trails Program grants to build new Storybook Trails throughout Ohio. The new deadline to apply for the funding is Friday, Aug. 13, according to a news release from ODNR.

People

Dominic Manecke, the communications director for U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus), has left the office to take a job with C2 Strategic Communications in Louisville, KY. Wednesday, July 28, was his last day.

Top News

Public Safety

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reported that 16 people died in 15 crashes from Friday, July 2 through Monday, July 5. The patrol said impairment was a factor in at least five of the deadly crashes. This was a reduction from 25 deaths in 24 crashes a year earlier, with 17 crashes and 18 deaths found to involve drugs and/or alcohol.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) has begun an initiative with neighboring state law enforcement agencies to focus on enforcing “move over” laws. The effort began at 12:01 a.m. Sunday and lasted until 11:59 a.m. Saturday, July 24. Participants include the state police in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. From 2016 to 2020, the release said, OSHP cruisers were involved in 56 “‘move over’ related” crashes, and the patrol has recorded more than 25,000 citations for that offense.

Redistricting/Reapportionment

A coalition of advocacy organizations, labor unions, and progressive groups announced the formation of the Equal Districts Coalition to “push for an open, transparent and truly fair redistricting process.” Desiree Tims, president and CEO of Innovation Ohio, said the past few weeks in the Legislature have shown the need for fair districts. “These extreme, harmful policies do not represent the people of Ohio,” she said. “They are the direct result of real gerrymandered districts. Lines are drawn so certain political parties always win.”

Gov. Mike DeWine officially set Friday, Aug. 6 as the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission as mapmakers begin a condensed timeline to draw new Ohio General Assembly and congressional districts under new processes adopted by voters over the past few years. Under the Ohio Constitution, the commission replaces the former Apportionment Board and is made up of the governor, auditor, secretary of state, and four persons appointed by the majority and minority leaders in the General Assembly. The Senate appointments to the commission include Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and Sen. Vern Sykes (D-Akron), who worked with Huffman on the redistricting commission reforms. In the House, Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) both appointed themselves to the body.

All members of the new Ohio Redistricting Commission will need to work together in good faith to create congressional and state legislative districts that best represent the will of voters, Secretary of State Frank LaRose said. However, the Census Bureau announced that it plans to beat its initial projection of a Monday, Aug. 16 release of population data to states, setting a new release date of Thursday, Aug. 12. The Census Bureau had agreed to release the data no later than Aug. 16 in a legal settlement with Attorney General Dave Yost.

Taxation

Congress overstepped its bounds with a provision in a federal COVID response law that bars states from using billions in relief funding to “directly or indirectly offset” tax cuts, a U.S. district court judge ruled recently in a case filed by Attorney General Dave Yost. The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) provided hundreds of billions of dollars to states to deal with the effects of the pandemic, with more than \$5 billion coming to Ohio. The law placed numerous restrictions on use of the funding, including the so-called “tax mandate.” Yost sued over that provision in March, arguing it violated state sovereignty.

Lower income Black majority neighborhoods are regularly overvalued for property tax assessments while higher income White majority neighborhoods are regularly undervalued, according to a recently released report commissioned by Franklin County Auditor and former state Rep. Michael Stinziano. In spring of last year, Stinziano reached out to the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University (OSU) to review the county’s appraisal system and to make recommendations to address the county’s appraisal system and to make recommendations to address the negative effects of historical policies, such as redlining, and any current policies that marginalize communities of color.

Top News

Technology/Aerospace

Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order to allow the Ohio Department of Development to adopt rules on an emergency basis for administration of a broadband expansion program. Lawmakers created a program to boost broadband access across Ohio in HB2 (Carfagna-Stewart) and funded it with \$250 million in the biennial budget, HB110 (Oelslager).

The Broadband Expansion Program Authority's members approved the scoring criteria and a timeline for grant applications in their first meeting, with Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) saying the two legislative appointments should be announced in "very short order." The current members are Department of Development (DOD) Director Lydia Mihalik as chair, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted in his role as director of InnovateOhio and governor's appointee Gregory Sample, who previously worked in the Internet service industry. The authority was created under HB2 (Carfagna-Stewart) and it will distribute the \$250 million to close the funding gap between a project's actual cost and what it needs to turn a profit, assisting with infrastructure expenses. Husted said in opening comments that it is meant to make it economically possible for nonprofits, local governments, and private businesses to provide Internet service in unserved and underserved areas.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Gov. Mike DeWine, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks and, MORPC Executive Director William Murdock announced the forthcoming opening of a new Fulton Street ramp to I-70 East in downtown Columbus. The development was recognized for improving traffic, better connecting the Southern part of the city to downtown and increasing access to Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH).

Bipartisan Infrastructure Package Clears U.S. Senate

Legislation containing \$550 billion in new spending on roads, bridges, broadband and other infrastructure needs was passed by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday in a 69-30 vote.

The package, which now heads to the U.S. House, was supported by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park), who served as lead negotiator on the plan for Senate Republicans.

"America's infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and today's vote brings the American people closer to more efficiency and safety in their roads, bridges, ports and other important assets," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "In addition, the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act will create jobs, increase productivity, and pave the way for decades of economic growth and prosperity – all without raising taxes or increasing inflation."

"Today's vote is evidence of what the Senate can accomplish when we put the interests of the country and the American people ahead of partisan differences," he continued. "This bill is the product of months of good-faith negotiations between Republicans and Democrats and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their efforts."

Sen. Brown noted that the package contains his Bridge Investment Act, which would allocate \$12.5 billion to repair and replace nationally and regionally important spans.

"I hear from mayors and community leaders across Ohio about the infrastructure projects they need to create jobs and economic growth all over our state," he said. "Today, we're showing that we can work together to provide real investments to upgrade outdated bridges, roads, transit, and water and sewer systems, to build new broadband networks, and more."

Nearly 320,000 driver's licenses and vehicle registrations are no longer valid after Thursday, July 1 because extensions passed by the Legislature expired that day.

Legislative Updates

Goal 1: Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic growth, prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.

HB43 PUBLIC BODIES - ELECTRONIC MEETINGS (SOBECKI L, HOOPS J) To authorize public bodies to meet via teleconference and video conference.

Current Status: 2/11/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-43>

HB63 AMEND EMINENT DOMAIN LAWS (CUTRONA A, STOLTZFUS R) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 3/2/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-63>

HB66 REVIEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (HOOPS J) To require the reporting of information on and legislative review of property tax exemptions.

Current Status: 3/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-66>

HB71 EXEMPT CERTAIN HOUSING FROM PROPERTY TAXATION (PLUMMER P, HICKS-HUDSON P) To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 2/23/2021 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-71>

HB77 PERMIT HIGHER ED BOARD OF TRUSTEES ATTEND ELECTRONICALLY (MANCHESTER S, SWEENEY B) To allow the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy allowing the trustees to attend a board meeting via means of electronic communication.

Current Status: 5/26/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-77>

HB143 REGARDS THE CLEAN OHIO PROGRAM (HILLYER B) Relating to the Clean Ohio Program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-143>

HB228 STATE-ADMINISTERED MUNICIPAL NET PROFIT TAXES (ROEMER B) To make changes related to state-administered municipal net profits taxes.

Current Status: 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-228>

HB237 REQUIRE ELECTRONIC MEANS OF RECORDING INSTRUMENTS, INCREASE FEES (HILLYER B) To require counties to provide an electronic means of recording instruments and accessing them, to allow county recorders to charge a document preservation surcharge, to increase recording fees for certain instruments, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 6/16/2021 - Re-Referred to Committee

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-237>

Legislative Updates

- HB264** MODIFY TAX RULE FOR EMPLOYEES OF TEMPORARY WORKSITE (SMITH M, SOBECKI L) To amend Section 29 of HB197 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the municipal income tax withholding rule for employees working at a temporary worksite.
Current Status: 4/22/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-264>
- HB275** EXPAND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION JOINT PURCHASING AUTHORITY (LAMPTON B) To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.
Current Status: 5/12/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-275>
- HB357** INDEX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AMOUNTS (STEPHENS J, LARE J) To index the homestead exemption amounts to inflation.
Current Status: 6/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-357>
- HB364** WATERWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION (PATTON T) To make changes to the application process for the waterworks infrastructure improvement surcharge.
Current Status: 7/1/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-364>
- HB365** DRINKING WATER SAFETY RULES (LIGHTBODY M, RUSSO A) To require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing maximum allowable contaminant levels in drinking water and water quality standards for certain contaminants.
Current Status: 7/1/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-365>
- HB377** CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY (HALL T, SWEARINGEN D) To amend Section 220.11 of H.B. 168 of the 134th General Assembly to make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery.
Current Status: 7/15/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-377>
- HCR9** URGE TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FISCAL RECOVER FUNDS TO TOWNSHIPS (SWEARINGEN D, HALL T) To urge the United States Department of the Treasury to provide fiscal recovery funds to townships under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2.
Current Status: 5/18/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HCR-9>
- SB20** COUNTY UTILITY SUPPLY CONTRACTS (HACKETT R) To exempt county utility supply contracts entered into under a joint purchasing program from the 10-year maximum period for such contracts and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-20>

Legislative Updates

- SB24** FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS (GAVARONE T, PETERSON B) To enact the First-time Home Buyer Savings Act, authorizing income tax deductions for contributions to and earnings on savings accounts designated for the purchase of a home.
Current Status: 6/8/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-24>
- SB45** TAX INDUCEMENTS CERTAIN BUSINESSES (PETERSON B, KUNZE S) To enhance state and local tax inducements for businesses making substantial fixed asset and employment investments and their suppliers.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-45>
- SB105** MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.
Current Status: 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>
- SB172** TAX CREDIT-NONRESIDENT TAXPAYERS (SCHAFFER T) To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresident taxpayers.
Current Status: 5/4/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-172>
- SB193** UNPAID WATER CHARGES (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit political subdivisions from placing a lien on property for unpaid water charges.
Current Status: 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-193>

Legislative Updates

Goal 2: Achieve an advanced, inclusive, and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world.

- HB27** INCREASE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO SECURE VEHICLE LOAD (PATTON T) To increase the criminal penalties associated with failing to secure a load on a vehicle.
Current Status: 5/6/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-27>
- HB47** ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATION GRANT REBATE (LOYCHIK M) To require the Director of Transportation to establish an electric vehicle charging station grant rebate program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 6/22/2021 - BILL AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-47>
- HB70** REVISE LAW FOR PASSING SCHOOL BUS (BROWN R) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus.
Current Status: 5/6/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-70>
- HB111** ALTER USE OF CELLPHONES WHILE DRIVING LAWS (LIGHTBODY M) To alter the law governing the use of a handheld electronic wireless communications device while driving.
Current Status: 5/11/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-111>
- HB141** MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS (SKINDELL M, UPCHURCH T) To make appropriations related to public transportation.
Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-141>
- HB283** EXPAND DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS (ABRAMS C, LAMPTON B) To expand the texting while driving prohibition to a general prohibition against using an electronic wireless communications device while driving, with certain exceptions, and to create data collection requirements based on associated violations of the distracted driving laws.
Current Status: 6/10/2021 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-283>
- HB346** REGARDING ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES (MILLER J, WEINSTEIN C) To alter the definitions of "plugin electric motor vehicle" and "hybrid motor vehicle" under the motor vehicle law and to halve the additional registration fees for those two types of motor vehicles.
Current Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-346>
- HB347** REQUIREMENTS FOR REPLICA MOTOR VEHICLES (FOWLER S) To establish requirements relative to the titling and use of replica motor vehicles.
Current Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-347>

Legislative Updates

HB361 UNLAWFUL BLOCKS OF RAILROAD CROSSING (HALL T, MIRANDA J) To establish new requirements and increased penalties that apply to a railroad company that unlawfully blocks a railroad crossing.

Current Status: 6/28/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-361>

SB23 ILLEGALLY PASSING SCHOOL BUS (GAVARONE T) To impose a civil penalty when a driver who illegally passes a school bus cannot be identified, to designate the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month," and to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act.

Current Status: 2/23/2021 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-23>

SB32 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION (RULLI M) To require the Director of Transportation to establish an electric vehicle charging station grant rebate program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/17/2021 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-32>

Legislative Updates

Goal 3: Pursue sustainability solutions that protect and conserve our natural resources and promote a diverse supply of clean, affordable, and reliable sources of energy for our growing region.

- HB10** REPEAL HB6 - REVISE ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE LAW (LELAND D) To repeal Section 5 of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to make changes regarding electric utility service law, to allow the implementation of energy waste reduction programs, and to repeal certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-10>
- HB18** REPEAL HB6 (LANESE L) Repeal HB 6 of the 133rd GA
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-18>
- HB57** REPEAL HB6 ENERGY LAWS (SKINDELL M, O'BRIEN M) To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-57>
- HB175** DEREGULATE CERTAIN EPHEMERAL WATER FEATURES (HILLYER B) To deregulate certain ephemeral water features under various water pollution control laws.
Current Status: 6/23/2021 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-175>
- HB192** PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM STOPPING CERTAIN ENERGY GENERATION (CUTRONA A) To prohibit counties, townships, and municipal corporations from prohibiting energy generation from fossil fuels and gas pipelines.
Current Status: 5/6/2021 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-192>
- HB245** EXPAND ELIGIBILITY - COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.
Current Status: 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-245>
- HB351** REPEAL NONBYPASSABLE COST RECOVERY MECHANISMS (LANESE L, STOLTZFUS R) To repeal the nonbypassable cost recovery mechanisms associated with legacy generation resources and to provide customer refunds.
Current Status: 6/22/2021 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-351>
- SB19** WETLAND MITIGATION-PROPERTY TAX (SCHAFFER T) To establish a property tax exemption for certain property used for wetland mitigation projects.
Current Status: 6/28/2021 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 61-36
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-19>

Legislative Updates

- SB29** ELIMINATE AUTO ENROLLMENT-UTILITY AGGREGATION (HOAGLAND F) To eliminate automatic enrollment in governmental electric and natural gas aggregation programs.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-29>
- SB44** REVISE HB6 FROM 133RD G.A. (RULLI M, CIRINO J) To repeal the nuclear resource credit payment provisions, and amend, and rename as solar resource, the renewable resource credit payment provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.
Current Status: 3/9/2021 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-44>
- SB52** WIND TURBINE SETBACKS (REINEKE W, MCCOLLEY R) To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm and solar facility certificates.
Current Status: 7/12/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-52>
- SB89** RENEWABLE ENERGY (DOLAN M) To extend the renewable portfolio standard, increase solar energy benchmarks, and extend the property tax exemption for qualified energy projects that use renewable energy resources.
Current Status: 5/12/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-89>
- SB95** REGULATE UTILITY RESELLERS (MAHARATH T) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged and to regulate certain resellers of utility service.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-95>
- SB96** PREVENT UTILITY DISRUPTION-COVID (WILLIAMS S) To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-96>
- SB117** REPEAL LEGACY GENERATION PROVISIONS-HB6 (ROMANCHUK M, CRAIG H) To repeal the legacy generation resource provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly and provide customers refunds.
Current Status: 6/15/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-117>
- SB127** PREVENT LOCALITIES-LIMIT USE OF NATURAL GAS (LANG G, RULLI M) To prevent local governments from limiting use of natural gas.
Current Status: 5/12/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-127>

Legislative Updates

Goal 4: Promote effective data policies and the equitable deployment of digital infrastructure that benefit Central Ohio communities.

- HB244** TECH BASED EDUCATION - MILITARY CHILDREN (WHITE A, LAMPTON B) Regarding technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, military children.
Current Status: 7/14/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-244>
- HB278** REVISE MARCS LAWS (HILLYER B) To make changes to laws governing the multi-agency radio communications system (MARCS).
Current Status: 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-278>
- SB8** BROADBAND-ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EASEMENTS (MCCOLLEY R) Regarding broadband expansion, including access to electric cooperative easements and facilities, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-8>

Legislative Updates

Goal 5: Raise awareness or racial and social justice issues and work to continually improve communities within our growing region.

- HB72** DESIGNATE HISPANIC, LATINX HERITAGE MONTH (MIRANDA J, CUTRONA A) To designate September 15 to October 15 each year as “Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month.”
Current Status: 4/21/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-72>
- HB340** DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONTH (BIRD A, BLACKSHEAR W) To designate September as “International Underground Railroad Month.”
Current Status: 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-340>
- HB341** CREATE BUREAU OF HATE CRIMES (MILLER A, WEINSTEIN C) To create the Bureau of Hate Crimes in the Office of the Attorney General and to authorize the Attorney General to prosecute a hate crime.
Current Status: 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-341>
- HCR6** DECLARE RACISM PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (HOWSE S, CRAWLEY E) To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.
Current Status: 6/23/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HCR-6>
- HCR15** DESIGNATE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK (BRENT J, HOWSE S) Designating the week of April 11 - April 17, 2021, as “Black Maternal Health Week” in Ohio.
Current Status: 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HCR-15>
- SB48** CULTURAL COMPETENCY-HEALTH CARE (MAHARATH T, ANTONIO N) To require certain health care professionals to complete instruction in cultural competency.
Current Status: 6/16/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-48>
- SB125** BIRTH EQUITY (KUNZE S, MAHARATH T) To enact the Save Our Mothers Act regarding birth equity, peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and implicit bias in the health care system and to designate May as “Maternal Mortality Awareness Month.”
Current Status: 3/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-125>
- SCR4** DECLARE RACISM PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (CRAIG H, WILLIAMS S) To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.
Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-4>
- SCR5** DENOUNCE RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION-COVID-19 (MAHARATH T, THOMAS C) To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-5>

Legislative Updates

For more information please contact:

Joseph Garrity | Director of Government Affairs + Strategic Initiatives | jgarrity@morpc.org | 614.233.4127

Your Government Affairs Team



Steve Tugend
Director +Chair, Government Affairs
(614) 462-5424
stugend@keglerbrown.com



Tony Fiore
Of Counsel
(614) 462-5428
afiore@keglerbrown.com



Rusty Schuermann
Director
(614) 462-5440
rschuermann@keglerbrown.com



Robert Dove
Associate
(614) 462-5443
rdove@keglerbrown.com



Mike Culp
Government Affairs Advisor
(614) 462-5477
mculp@keglerbrown.com



Andy Shifflette
Government Affairs Advisor
(614) 462-5491
ashifflette@keglerbrown.com



Beverly Staten
Government Affairs Specialist
(614) 462-5455
bstaten@keglerbrown.com