



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

October 2022



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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What's Happening

President Signs Continuing Resolution to Avoid Government Shutdown

With the federal Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) coming to a close, President Joe Biden signed a stopgap funding bill on September 30th to avoid a government shutdown on the last day of the fiscal year. This continuing resolution (CR), which will fund the federal government through December 16th, gives Congress more time to pass Fiscal Year 2023 funding bills, including the annual defense appropriations legislation.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the CR earlier that day following passage by the U.S. Senate the day before.

The federal government is prohibited from operating without the appropriation of funding by Congress, so lawmakers often rely upon passing CRs to temporarily avoid a shutdown of the federal government. Passing a CR keeps the government open but freezes spending at the prior levels.

The Columbus Region Coalition (CRC), a group of local governments, members of the business community, and other community stakeholders that MORPC leads, submitted a letter to the Central Ohio Congressional delegation advocating for the region's strategic investment priorities. The letter encouraged Congress to fund critical projects such as:

- » The Delaware Point
- » Sunbury Park Interchange
- » Improvements to Ferris Road
- » Rickenbacker Small Arms Firing Range

Although these projects were not included in the CR, the coalition will continue to advocate for their inclusion in the final appropriations bill.

Both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate are on recess until after the November 8th election. Consequently, both the FY 2023 defense spending and policy bills will not pass until November at the earliest.

Ryan, Vance Participating in Two U.S. Senate Debates

While Ohio voters are not likely to see televised debates for Governor and other statewide offices, two debates have been scheduled for the race to replace Rob Portman in the U.S. Senate.

The first televised debate between U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) and Republican J.D. Vance was held on Monday, October 10th hosted by Fox 8 studios in Cleveland. The second debate is scheduled for Monday, October 17th at Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown. The debates could be influential, as polls over the past several months show a very tight race with each candidate polling close to 50 percent of likely voters.



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What's Happening?

With the balance of power in the U.S. Senate at 50-50, Ohio's U.S. Senate race is drawing national attention, with millions of dollars being spent by both sides on political ads.

According to the Ohio Debate Commission (ODC), both Republican Gov. Mike DeWine and Vance have declined to participate in the ODC general election debates. However, both Democratic candidates for those slots, Nan Whaley and Ryan, had agreed to debate. State GOP Chairman Bob Paduchik told the Lima News that "several" found the March Ohio Debate Commission's debate among GOP candidates for the U.S. Senate "a disservice to Republican primary voters," saying the fact-checking that was done "came across as an attempt to embarrass the candidates on stage" A recent USA TODAY Network/Suffolk University poll indicated that about 84 percent of likely Ohio voters said candidates for Ohio governor and U.S. Senate should debate each other.

Biden Announces \$3 Billion in Environmental Justice Grants

President Joe Biden recently announced that communities experiencing pollution will be able to apply for a new \$3 billion climate and environmental justice block grant.

The grant program will be administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR), which will focus on supporting and delivering grant money to minority communities that have been disproportionately affected by pollution and other environmental issues.

"With the launch of a new national program office, we are embedding environmental justice and civil rights into the DNA of EPA and ensuring that people who've struggled to have their concerns addressed see action to solve the problems they've been facing for generations," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement.

The OEJECR — comprised of more than 200 current staff members in 10 U.S. regions — will merge three existing EPA programs to oversee this environmental justice initiative created by the Inflation Reduction Act. The President will nominate an assistant administrator to lead the new office, pending Senate confirmation.

Honda to Construct EV Battery Plant in Fayette County

Governor Mike DeWine announced on Tuesday that Honda will be partnering with LG Energy Solution to construct a joint venture battery plant in Fayette County. Combined investments of \$4.2 billion will create a total of 2,527 new jobs between the establishment of a new electric vehicle (EV) battery plant in Fayette County and the retooling of existing Honda plants in Union, Logan, and Shelby Counties for EV production.

"Honda and LG Energy Solution now join a long list of companies that have looked all over the country for the best place to do business and have chosen Ohio because we have the ideal economic climate and an innovative and talented workforce. Today's announcement is further proof that there is no better place to be right now than in the great state of Ohio."

Of the total investment, Honda and LG Energy Solution will invest:

- » \$3.5 billion in the new Fayette County battery plant, which will create at least 2,200 new jobs
- » \$700 million will be invested by Honda to retool its Marysville Auto Plant in Union County, Anna Engine Plant in Shelby County, and East Liberty Auto Plant in Logan County, creating 327 new jobs

Honda's renewed commitment to Ohio comes exactly 45 years to the day after Honda leadership visited the Ohio Statehouse in 1977 to announce plans for its first vehicle production facility in the United States, the Marysville Motorcycle Plant. Once transformed for EV production, the power source for the vehicles made at the Marysville, Anna, and East Liberty factories will come from the new battery plant in Fayette County.

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FY22-23 Budget

State revenues for the month of September came in nearly \$155.5 million or 7.2 percent over estimates, according to preliminary figures released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). That brings Ohio's revenues to \$238.2 million or 3.6 percent over estimates through the first quarter of FY23.

Agriculture

Counties, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, cities and townships have until Friday, Oct. 14 to apply to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODAg) Office of Farmland Preservation for local sponsor certification for 2023 funding. Qualifying local sponsors that complete the certification application will be allocated a portion of the funding available in Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program 2023 funds. These funds are used to purchase agricultural easements on Ohio farms, preserving productive agricultural farmland. Certified local sponsors will then accept local landowner applications and help secure easements through ODAg's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Once the easement is secured, the local sponsor visits the farm once a year to complete a monitoring report to ensure the land is being used for agricultural purposes. The application is available on ODAg's local sponsor page, which can be found [here](#). Any organization interested in being a local sponsor for the 2023 landowner application year must apply during this time period. Contact the Farmland Preservation Office at (614) 728-6238 or farm-landpres@agri.ohio.gov with questions.

Census

Recently released census data analyzed income changes, poverty and health insurance in 2021. The new data highlighted the role of federal pandemic aid in reducing child poverty to one of the lowest rates on record. The child poverty rate fell 46 percent in 2021 from 9.7 percent in 2020 to a record low of 5.2 percent in 2021, as measured by the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). This is the lowest SPM child poverty rate on record, officials with the Census Bureau said, and it would not have been achieved without expanded federal assistance like Child Tax Credits. "In the absence of the Child Tax Credit, we would have had poverty only falling from 9.7 to 9.2 percent, so 4 percentage points of the 4.5 percentage point decline are due directly to the Child Tax Credit," Liana Fox, an assistant division chief with the Census Bureau, said.

Education

DriveOhio, the Ohio Department of Transportation's smart mobility hub, announced that it is scaling up its Smart Mobility Ambassador Program across the state and will provide increased opportunities for K-12 students to get involved in real life science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills development to promote transportation as a future career path. Currently, the program is seeking interested K-5 afterschool program leaders to incorporate DriveOhio's STEM projects and content into afterschool programs and events, including coding and hands-on activities.

Economic Development

The state is currently experiencing an "economic renaissance," Ohio Department of Development (DOD) Director Lydia Mihalik told attendees at the Opportunity Ohio forum, with Intel's groundbreaking the latest example of that. Mihalik said this includes "great things" in both large cities and small towns across the state as well. The daylong event was hosted by Columbus-based consulting firm the Montrose Group. The DeWine administration has slashed state spending by \$1.2 billion and cut taxes by over \$2.2 billion, she continued, while receiving the highest bond rating since 1979 and a recent AAA credit rating. Panel discussions at the event covered topics such as Intel, housing challenges, logistics and electric vehicles. While Intel has recently dominated the economic development headlines in Ohio, the state's Department of Development (DOD) is engaged in a wide array of programs to help communities attract business projects and expand Ohio's workforce. DOD Director Lydia Mihalik recently said Ohio is undergoing an "economic renaissance." She couldn't give specifics on DOD requests for the upcoming FY24-25 budget, but Mihalik said the department will continue to focus on the administration's priority of investing in "things that are important to people, places and businesses throughout the state of Ohio."

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Energy/Utilities

A move by the state's largest government aggregator to shift over one million consumers' electric needs back on local utilities threatens the energy market for all Ohioans, undermines the competitive supply chain, and risks even higher prices than ratepayers already face due to continuing inflation, warns a leading provider of default electric service to FirstEnergy and American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) did not rule on Dynegy Marketing and Trade's allegations but voiced major reservations with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council's (NOPEC) late-August announcement that it would summarily terminate its electric contracts after two decades and return residential and commercial customers to their local utility's standard service offer (SSO). NOPEC says it will reenroll them when prices drop and for now will sell its unused energy reserves into the wholesale market.

Consumer advocates are expanding their push for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to stave off economic hardship and possible death this winter with a major overhaul of its annual utility-reconnect order in recognition of post-COVID inflation and continued joblessness. A half dozen agencies including the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) answered PUCO's end-of-business deadline for a special public comment period for its Winter Reconnect Order after commissioners rescheduled a final decision from last week's agenda. In previous comments, OCC, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC) and Pro Seniors had called on the commission to freeze disconnections for all or part of the heating season; delay disconnection when a consumer has been unable to get into a community action agency; permit winter-reconnect once per utility instead of once per season; and require utilities to publish disconnections and reconnections by zip code both monthly and annually.

Ohio is now part of a regional partnership to develop a robust regional hydrogen market, supply chain and workforce in collaboration with six other states. Gov. Mike DeWine announced his signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) along with the governors of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. As part of the coalition, members will support hydrogen production that has little to no greenhouse gas emissions in the region and leverages their unique assets. This will enhance energy security and improve public health outcomes, while both enabling existing industries to remain globally competitive and encouraging new industries to come to the Midwest.

One group of Central Ohio legislators cheered the opening of a fueling station that will power Amazon trucks with gas captured from farm waste, while another contingent held a virtual press conference to urge U.S. EPA (USEPA) action to set cleaner vehicle standards for the medium term. Clean Energy Fuels cut the ribbon on its new Groveport facility, constructed as part of a contract with Amazon to expand its facilities and power the company's trucks with lower emissions fuels. The Groveport facility was the first of 19 new stations to open. The renewable natural gas (RNG) provided at the station is made by using a digester to capture methane found in waste like livestock manure, providing a fuel source much cleaner than the diesel usually powering the semitrucks, dozens of which were hooked up for fueling at the event.

With Ohio's nighttime temperatures now dropping into the low 40s, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) set this year's "special" winter reconnect order to begin in two weeks, denying most of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and partnering organizations' expanded cold-weather protections for Ohio ratepayers during historic inflation and spiking energy prices. In a unanimous ruling, commissioners scheduled the Special Reconnect Order (SRO) to run Monday, Oct. 17 through Friday, April 14, commencing nearly two weeks later than PUCO's winter reconnect order during the 2020 COVID-19 emergency.

Battle Motors recently announced a \$40 million investment in New Philadelphia to expand their plant from one major diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) production line to a much larger CNG and diesel production line, plus a line for electric vehicles for vocational vehicles, including waste collection trucks.

"We have made the investment in the expansion of the physical plant, acquired the right technology, and most importantly, have made a commitment to the people of Central Ohio by already adding 200 employees to our workforce and creating high-tech jobs at a truly momentous time," Patterson said.

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CEO Mike Patterson expects to produce 20 trucks a day by the end of 2023. The plant has expanded from 125,000 square feet to 325,000 square feet – or more than five football fields.

The company, which got its start in Los Angeles, is a leader in the vocational truck industry, providing custom, severe-service chassis and purpose-built vehicles for refuse and recycling, infrastructure maintenance, ground support, multi-stop distribution, agriculture, and oil and gas markets.

Environment

State leaders announced that \$2.5 million in H2Ohio grants will go to four local communities to help improve drinking water quality and to repair or replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure. “Investing in water resources ensures that our communities have modern infrastructure that provides for safe and affordable drinking water,” said Gov. Mike DeWine.

Ethics

The Ohio Ethics Commission issued a reminder to public officials that state ethics laws apply to those who direct the expenditure of federal and state government stimulus funds, citing stimulus funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and a state investment in Appalachian communities passed as a part of HB377 (Hall-Swearingen). It cautioned state and local officials that those funds are public funds. In that context, the commission said long-standing conflict of interest laws must be observed. “The Ohio Ethics Law protects the public by prohibiting those in public service from directing or influencing government processes to benefit their private interests,” Ethics Commission Executive Director Paul Nick said.

General Assembly/Statehouse

As expected, lawmakers won’t be returning until the lame duck session after November’s election, as the House and Senate both cancelled if-needed session dates for this month. The two chambers have just five voting sessions apiece scheduled for the rest of the 134th General Assembly. Cancelled are the Senate’s if-needed sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 21 and Wednesday, Sept. 28, and the House’s if-needed sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Sept. 15. October’s calendar includes no session dates. The chambers are then scheduled to take a week’s break for Thanksgiving before returning for a few more sessions:

- » Wednesday, Nov. 30: House and Senate
- » Thursday, Dec. 1: House
- » Wednesday, Dec. 7: Senate
- » Wednesday, Dec. 14: House and Senate
- » Wednesday, Dec. 21: House and Senate

If not for term limits, Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) would be running for another term in the Senate, the longtime state legislator said in a wide-ranging interview. “I absolutely love my job. I think I have the best job in the world because it allows you, in some small way, to feel like you’re part of something big,” Hottinger said. He said he wasn’t interested in returning to the House, citing leadership uncertainty as a major factor. House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) is also term-limited, and it’s unclear who will take the gavel in that chamber.

Higher Education

Ohio State University announced the new name of the innovation district on the university’s west campus: Carmenton. From restaurants to retail to residences, Carmenton’s mixed-use development is designed to give the district a “community that lives beyond the workday. Spaces to live, play and innovate will create a neighborhood that feels vibrant and welcoming – and will attract and retain talented people,” the university said. Carmenton and innovation districts in Cleveland and Cincinnati are expected to support an estimated 60,000 new jobs, 47,000 new students with STEM degrees and \$9 billion in economic impact over the next 10 years, according to JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef.

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Housing/Homelessness

Leaders of a number of business, real estate and housing groups sent a letter to state and legislative leaders calling for a portion of Ohio's remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be used to "dramatically increase the supply of housing that is affordable to the most vulnerable Ohioans." The letter, signed by the Ohio Housing Council, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Realtors, the Ohio Bankers' League and the Ohio Apartment Association, was sent to Gov. Mike DeWine, Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima), House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and members of the Ohio General Assembly. The groups noted that the U.S. Department of Treasury recently issued guidance that they said eliminated all remaining barriers to using ARPA funds to finance affordable housing and development and rehabilitation by clarifying that ARPA funds can be used to finance, develop, repair or operate any rental unit that provides affordability of 20 years or more to households at or below 65 percent of local median income; expands presumptively eligible uses for affordable housing; and increases flexibility to use ARPA funds to fully finance long-term affordable housing loans.

Intel

White House officials opened a "Communities in Action" series of discussions with local elected officials and community leaders by focusing on Ohio, including a forum streamed for public viewing. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coordinator Gene Sperling moderated the forum after opening comments by White House Director of Public Engagement Keisha Lance Bottoms on President Joe Biden's commitment to workers and unions and federal funds that have gone to Ohio. She said that includes \$2.8 billion from the infrastructure bill already supporting over 125 projects, with \$2.3 billion coming this year as well. Sperling said the administration has worked to build from the "middle-out" rather than with a top-down approach and seeks an equitable recovery as well. This has led to nearly 10 million jobs created and record unemployment declines across racial groups. Inflation is also being addressed by the Biden administration, he continued.

President Joe Biden, Ohio leaders and Intel officials praised the company's official groundbreaking of its semiconductor plant as a great victory for Ohio and the U.S., while also expressing their commitment to preparing the workforce that will be needed in the coming years. The event came a month after Biden's Aug. 9 signing of the long-awaited CHIPS and Science Act, and several speakers discussed that legislation as well. "This is about our economic security, it's about our national security. It's about good-paying union jobs you can raise a family on. ... Jobs now, jobs for the future, jobs in every part of the country — we're not going to leave a part behind, there's no need to not develop the whole country. Jobs that show the industrial Midwest is back," Biden said. Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger said the company will benefit from Ohio's long tradition of manufacturing and the capabilities of its universities. He discussed the idea of making a "Silicon Heartland" in Ohio as the center of leading-edge technology and the workforce needs that will entail, while also noting he started at Intel as a technician with an associate's degree. Gelsinger further said the development was a testament to public and private collaboration, calling it a proud moment regardless of political affiliation.

Intel announced the first phase of funding for its Ohio Semiconductor Education and Research Program. The tech giant is providing \$17.7 million over three years for eight proposals led by the University of Cincinnati, Central State University, Columbus State Community College, Kent State University, Lorain County Community College, Ohio University, and two from Ohio State University. More than 80 higher education institutions will be involved in the projects. The investment is phase one of Intel's plans to directly invest \$50 million in grants to Ohio higher education institutions over the next 10 years. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) announced it had issued a permit to Intel allowing the company to install equipment and initially operate up to four semiconductor manufacturing facilities in two buildings in Licking County. The facilities are required to use state-of-the-art controls as included in the permit to ensure the area continues to comply with federal air quality standards once it is operating, according to an Ohio EPA release. Air modeling required by Ohio law was performed by an Intel consultant and verified by Ohio EPA as part of the process. This analysis shows that no adverse health or welfare effects would be expected from air emissions at this facility.

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The Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) announced approval for a 30-year Job Creation Tax Credit for Intel's project in New Albany, saying the 3,000 new jobs are expected to generate \$405 million in annual payroll. As previously announced, it is expected to spur \$20 billion in investments in Ohio. Policy Matters Ohio (PMO), however, critiqued the approval, saying that this will effectively lead to further tax breaks worth "hundreds of millions of dollars" due to provisions in the capital budget, HB687 (Oelslager). The exact amount is unknown, PMO claimed.

Military Affairs

A portion of the two-day Ohio Defense and Aerospace Forum included a video address by Gov. Mike DeWine and comments from U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (R-Dayton), who also moderated a panel on the current state of national defense efforts. Scott Sullivan, a U.S. Air Force (USAF) veteran and member of the JobsOhio Board of Directors, followed by discussing the economic development entity's focus on retaining and expanding jobs at military and federal installations in Ohio. He added there are also efforts to ensure Ohio policies support military personnel, their families and veterans, with the goal of becoming the most military-friendly state. The event was organized by the Dayton Development Coalition (DDC), and DDC Executive Vice President for Aerospace and Defense Elaine Bryant noted there is now a space forum in Cleveland and an advanced air mobility forum in Springfield as well.

The second day of the Ohio Defense and Aerospace Forum included discussions on current supply chain opportunities for Ohio as well as workforce needs. The workforce panel included Deborah Ashenurst, director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services; Wendy Staiger, plant director of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) in Lima; and Charlie Perham, vice president and director of government consulting services at Matrix Design Group. It was led by Kristi Clouse, senior managing director for talent at JobsOhio.

Public Safety

Provisional data from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) indicates that the 2022 Labor Day weekend was the safest since 2010, with four fatal traffic crashes claiming four lives. There were 17 fatalities in 2021 and 15 in 2020. Troopers arrested 405 drivers for OVI and issued 1,992 safety belt citations. They also made 221 drug arrests and 94 felony apprehensions. A total of 16,894 traffic enforcement stops were conducted along with 10,356 non-enforcement stops. Troopers also provided assistance to 2,065 motorists.

Races To Watch: Elections 2022

Two candidates with backgrounds in education face off this fall in southern Franklin County's House District 10, a reconfiguration of the Grove City-area seat that incorporates sections of Columbus to make for a more competitive landscape. Democrats nominated Russell Harris of Grove City, a retired Ohio Education Association (OEA) consultant and lobbyist with a long history in Ohio's school funding debates and litigation. Republicans nominated David Dobos of Columbus, a former Columbus City Schools Board of Education member and president who now runs an educational products and services company. Incumbent Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) withdrew from contention ahead of the August legislative primary. The district covers Grove City and parts of Columbus' West and South sides.

A member of Democratic leadership faces off against a political newcomer in the horseshoe-shaped House District 5, which runs along the borders of the southern half of Franklin County. Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester), an attorney who serves in Democratic caucus leadership as assistant minority whip, is seeking a third full term. He first joined the House in 2017 to replace former Rep. Heather Bishoff, who left office early. Republicans nominated Ronald Beach IV, a medical assistant and public administration graduate student whose Ohio National Guard service saw him assisting in nursing homes during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic. House District 5 now runs in a U shape along the southwestern and southeastern borders of Franklin County, picking up some territory previously in the same district as Grove City, which is now in House District 10.

Top News

The 2022 Ohio Election Guide, published by the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and compiled with assistance from Hannah News, assigns it a Republican political index of 49.23 percent. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray won the district by more than 10 points in 2018, while Joe Biden had a narrower victory of about 3 points versus Donald Trump in 2020.

An open House seat in the Northwest corner of Franklin County will see a long-time physician face off against a suburban city council member. The candidate lineup in House District 11 was among those left in flux for a while amid Ohio's redistricting saga. Democratic nominee Dr. Anita Somani of Dublin, a gynecologist, had to sue to get on the ballot. Republicans nominated Omar Tarazi, a member of Hilliard City Council and an attorney. According to the 2022 Ohio Election Guide, published by the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and compiled with assistance from Hannah News, the district has a Republican political index of 46.92 percent.

State Government

Ohio's issuer default rating (IDR) with Fitch Ratings has been upgraded to "AAA," up from "AA+," the DeWine administration said. It is the first time Ohio's Fitch rating has been that high since the agency began rating Ohio's credit in the 1990s, and is the highest rating for Ohio's IDR among the top three credit agencies since 1979. The higher rating equates to more favorable borrowing terms for state government. The IDR rating upgrade was accompanied by improvements in ratings for other state borrowing programs: an increase from "AA+" to "AAA" for general obligation (GO) bonds; "AA" to "AA+" for appropriation-backed bonds; "AA" to "AA+" for the Ohio School District Credit Enhancement Program; and "A+" to "AA-" for the PPP Grantor Counterparty rating assigned to the Ohio Department of Transportation's Portsmouth Bypass project payment obligations.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Gov. Mike DeWine said that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is now accepting applications for funding as part of the Local Major Bridge Program, which provides federal funds to counties and municipalities for bridge replacement, bridge rehabilitation and bridge demolition projects. DeWine had announced in April that more locally-owned bridges would be eligible for funding as part of the program. Modified program requirements opened eligibility to 238 bridges, up from 54. During the current funding cycle, the program will pay up to 95 percent of the construction and engineering costs for major bridge projects, with a cap of \$20 million.

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.

- 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: 10/19/2021 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
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>
- 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>
- 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: 3/15/2022 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-237>
- 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>
- HB290** EXPRESS INTENT FOR SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA (MCCLAIN R, JOHN M) To express the intent of the General Assembly to establish a school funding formula that allows families to choose the option for all computed funding amounts associated with students' education to follow them to the public and nonpublic schools they attend.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-290>

Legislative Updates

- HB357** INDEX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AMOUNTS (STEPHENS J, LARE J) To index the homestead exemption amounts to inflation.
Current Status: 10/12/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
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: 5/25/2022 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-364>
- 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: 6/28/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 6/28/22
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-377>
- HB386** REQUIRE FIRE, POLICE CHIEF RESIDE IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (INGRAM C, HICKS-HUDSON P) To allow a municipal corporation to require its fire chief or chief of police to reside within the municipal corporation during the chief's first five years.
Current Status: 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-386>
- HB397** AGRICULTURAL LEASES, PUBLIC WORKS (STEWART B, KICK D) To revise the law regarding agricultural leases and soil and water conservation districts; to modify the laws governing the Ohio Public Works Commission, district public works integrating committees, and natural resources assistance councils; to convey state-owned land in Fairfield County to the board of commissioners of Fairfield County; to create the Investing in Ohio Fund; to revise the law governing the issuance of unit operation orders under the Oil and Gas Law; to make changes to the law regarding battery-charged fences; and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 4/6/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 7/21/22; Appropriations Effective 4/20/22
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-397>
- HB422** BILLING - MUNICIPAL SERVICES (FRAIZER M, WEST T) To limit the amount municipal corporations can recover from property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid municipal utility and other service rates and charges and to create an appeals process for improper billing of municipal services.
Current Status: 5/25/2022 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government and Elections
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-422>
- HB430** PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (CROSS J) Relating to property development and protecting underground utility facilities during construction and to designate April as "Ohio Work Zone Safety Awareness Month."
Current Status: 6/24/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 9/23/22
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-430>
- HB463** ELIMINATE HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCILS (STEPHENS J) To eliminate district advisory councils for general health districts, and transfer their duties and responsibilities to boards of county commissioners.
Current Status: 5/10/2022 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-463>

Legislative Updates

- HB519** MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX FILINGS (ROEMER B, LANESE L) To modify the law regarding extensions for filing municipal income tax returns and to limit penalties for late filings.
Current Status: 4/6/2022 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-519>
- HB546** INVESTMENT FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (GRENDALL D) To allow local governments to establish investment funds and use interest earnings to reduce taxes and special assessments on senior citizen homesteads.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-546>
- HB560** TAX CREDIT FOR AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING (HOOPS J, PAVLIGA G) To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for the construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.
Current Status: 5/26/2022 - House Families, Aging and Human Services, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-560>
- HB563** LIMIT LOCAL REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPERTY (FOWLER S, FERGUSON R) To limit local regulation of short-term rental property.
Current Status: 5/10/2022 - REPORTED OUT, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-563>
- HB566** VACANT PROPERTY OWNERS - CONTACT INFO (BLACKSHEAR W, WHITE A) To require owners of vacant property to file contact information with the county auditor.
Current Status: 5/10/2022 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-566>
- HB581** COUNTY CREDIT CHARGES (MILLER J, HOLMES A) To allow county credit card charges for temporary and necessary assistance care provided by a county veterans service office.
Current Status: 5/25/2022 - REPORTED OUT, House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-581>
- HB646** PACE LOANS (CUTRONA A, ROEMER B) Regarding residential property assessed clean energy (PACE) loans.
Current Status: 5/31/2022 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-646>
- HB658** PUBLIC RECORDS VIOLATIONS (INGRAM C) To require the award of attorney's fees to an aggrieved person if a court of appeals determines in an appeal by a public office from a Court of Claims order that the public office denied the person access to public records in violation of the Public Records Law.
Current Status: 5/17/2022 - Referred to Committee House Civil Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-658>
- HB677** TAX TRANSPARENCY ACT (YOUNG T) To require local governments to provide certain information to residents regarding proposed property and income tax levies and to name this act the Tax Transparency Act.
Current Status: 5/24/2022 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-677>

Legislative Updates

- HB688** COVID LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY (LIPPS S) Regarding coronavirus local fiscal recovery and prescription digital therapeutics, and to make appropriations.
Current Status: 5/31/2022 - Referred to Committee House Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-688>
- HB698** EMINENT DOMAIN (KICK D, CREECH R) To amend the law regarding eminent domain.
Current Status: 6/7/2022 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-698>
- HJR4** CA: LOCAL ELECTIONS (EDWARDS J, SEITZ B) Proposing to amend Section 1 of Article V, Section 3 of Article X, and Section 3 of Article XVIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit local governments from allowing persons who lack the qualifications of an elector to vote in local elections.
Current Status: 6/1/2022 - ADOPTED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HJR-4>
- SB15** FISCAL OFFICERS-LIABILITY (WILSON S) To change the circumstances in which certain fiscal officers may be held liable for a loss of public funds.
Current Status: 6/14/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 9/13/2022
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-15>
- 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>
- 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: 10/19/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Fifth 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>
- 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: 5/17/2022 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-193>

Legislative Updates

SB349 LAND BANKS-PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX (SCHURING K) To allow local governments to levy a real property transfer tax for the benefit of a land bank.

Current Status: 6/1/2022 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-349>

SJR6 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE-ELECTOR REQUIREMENTS (BLESSING III L) Proposing to amend Section 1 of Article V, Section 3 of Article X, and Section 3 of Article XVIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit local governments from allowing persons who lack the qualifications of an elector to vote in local elections.

Current Status: 5/24/2022 - Senate Local Government and Elections, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SJR-6>

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: 3/16/2022 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
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: 3/3/2022 - BILL AMENDED, House Criminal Justice, (Fourth 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: 2/15/2022 - BILL AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-346>
- HB347** REQUIREMENTS FOR REPLICATOR MOTOR VEHICLES (FOWLER S) To establish requirements relative to the titling and use of replica motor vehicles.
Current Status: 3/8/2022 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)
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: 10/26/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-361>
- HB465** ODOT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS-SCHOOLS (SHEEHY M, BIRD A) To establish requirements regarding Department of Transportation projects, specifically as they relate to schools and school zones.
Current Status: 3/22/2022 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-465>
- HB524** NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY STATE AGENCIES (HALL T) To modify the law governing notifications issued by state agencies.
Current Status: 5/19/2022 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-524>
- HB531** COUNTY PROSECUTOR LEGAL SERVICES (GHANBARI H) To allow a county prosecutor to provide legal services to a metropolitan planning organization, regional transportation planning organization, or regional council of governments.
Current Status: 5/24/2022 - Senate Local Government and Elections, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-531>
- HB547** TRAFFIC PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES (PATTON T) To prohibit a municipal corporation or township that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-547>
- HB548** TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES - POPULATION REQUIREMENTS (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority with a population of 200 or fewer from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-548>
- HB549** TRAFFIC TICKET REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority, in any year, from issuing a total number of traffic tickets based on the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices that exceeds two times the population of the local authority.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-549>
- HB550** TRAFFIC TICKET REQUIREMENTS - ANNUAL REVENUE (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-550>
- HB551** TRAFFIC TICKET REVENUE - LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPENSES (PATTON T) To require 80 per cent of all revenue from a traffic camera ticket be used for law enforcement expenses.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-551>

Legislative Updates

- HB552** PROHIBIT TRAFFIC CAMERAS NEAR INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS (PATTON T) To prohibit placement of a traffic camera within one-half mile of an interstate highway entrance.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-552>
- HB553** TRAFFIC CAMERA REQUIREMENTS (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority, located in a county with a population of one million or more, from using traffic cameras to enforce traffic violations on interstate highways.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-553>
- HB626** MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (PATTON T) To modify the penalties for the offense of “failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer” involving the offender’s operation of a motor vehicle and expressly provide that a motor vehicle used in the offense is subject to possible seizure and forfeiture.
Current Status: 6/2/2022 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-626>
- 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: 12/7/2021 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, 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>
- SB277** FUEL TAXES-TEMPORARY REDUCTION (HUFFMAN S) To temporarily reduce motor fuel excise tax rates and suspend collection of the additional motor vehicle registration taxes on electric and hybrid vehicles, both for five years, and to amend the version of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2022, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date.
Current Status: 2/16/2022 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-277>
- SB279** STATE AGENCY NOTIFICATIONS (WILSON S) To modify the law governing notifications issued by state agencies.
Current Status: 6/1/2022 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-279>
- SB307** ELECTRIC VEHICLE INCENTIVES, UTILITIES (RULLI M) To authorize incentives for the manufacture and usage of electric vehicles, to permit electric distribution utilities to create, and recover costs of, transportation electrification programs, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 5/17/2022 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-307>

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: 4/21/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 7/21/2022; Appropriations Effective 4/20/22
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>
- HB381** ELECTRIC CHARGES - OTHER STRUCTURES (GRENDLELL D) To allow for certain structures on a retail electric customer's property to be charged the same as the primary residence.
Current Status: 11/10/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-381>
- HB389** REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY (LELAND D, SEITZ B) To permit electric distribution utilities to establish energy efficiency and peak demand reduction portfolios.
Current Status: 11/17/2021 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Public Utilities, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-389>

Legislative Updates

- HB429** CLEAN ENERGY JOBS (WEINSTEIN C) To establish programs and state policies regarding clean energy jobs and energy justice, to create the Governor's Office of Energy Justice, to make changes to the environmental, electric utility, and other public utility laws, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 5/10/2022 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-429>
- HB464** ELIMINATE WATER SYSTEM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (WIGGAM S) To eliminate public water system asset management program requirements and to require the Director of Environmental Protection to rescind rules governing that program.
Current Status: 3/8/2022 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-464>
- SB19** REGARDING PROPERTY TAXATION (SCHAFFER T) To modify the law regarding property taxation and sales and use tax.
Current Status: 2/7/2022 - House Appoints Managers; D. Merrin, R. Stoltzfus & L. Sobecki Named as House Conferees
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-19>
- 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>
- 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: 9/21/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-89>
- 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.

- 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>
- HB432** DATA BREACHES (CROSSMAN J, SOBECKI L) Regarding data breaches on state agency computer systems.
Current Status: 10/12/2021 - Referred to Committee House Technology and Innovation
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-432>
- HB445** 9-1-1 SERVICES, TRAINING (CARFAGNA R, SMITH K) To make changes to the law governing 9-1-1 service and to repeal program requirements for emergency-service-telecommunicator training.
Current Status: 5/24/2022 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-445>
- 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>

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

- 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>
- 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>
- SB105** MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.
Current Status: 3/2/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 6/1/2022
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>

Legislative Updates

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: 11/17/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)

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>

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