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## **Week in Review**

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As a service to the clients and friends of Governmental Policy Group, Inc. and RH Resources we would like to extend the following weekly update of events happening around Capitol Square.

### **ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine called it "great news" after President Donald Trump suggested a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers during a cabinet meeting Thursday. According to media reports, Trump asked Attorney General Jeff Session to bring federal lawsuits against certain companies that supply and manufacture opioids, though he did not specify which companies.

### **BALLOT ISSUES**

The Ohio Supreme Court put an end to the chances of the Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection Amendment making this year's ballot Monday, ruling backers of the amendment did not file the proper disclosure forms before paid circulators began collecting signatures. The Court, in a unanimous ruling, sided with the Ohio Renal Association (ORA) in the lawsuit challenging the petition for paperwork errors.

The Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association said Tuesday that it strongly opposes state Issue 1, the Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation amendment to the Ohio Constitution. The group noted, "Ohio's judges prefer to rehabilitate rather than incarcerate, but will be left powerless to do either in most cases by the passage of Issue 1."

## **FY18-19 BUDGET**

Ohio's Office of Budget and Management (OBM) in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) increased the state's projected revenue for FY19 by \$531.1 million. The changes are predicated on "the performance of tax revenues in FY18, new economic data or assumptions, law changes and any other relevant new information that has come to light since the passage of HB49 [R. Smith] in June 2017," OBM explained in its "Monthly Financial Report" for July. While not all of Ohio's taxes are projected to increase this fiscal year, which started July 1, 2018, the state's three major taxes are all estimated to increase over the levels set when the two-year biennial budget was passed now a little over a year ago. Those include the personal income tax, sales tax and Commercial Activity Tax.

## **BUSINESS/CORPORATE**

Ohio may only be the 38th-best state to start a business, but it has the eighth-highest five-year survival rate, according to personal finance blog WalletHub. Among neighboring states, Ohio was ranked fourth - behind Michigan (15th), Kentucky (22nd) and Indiana (33rd), and ahead of West Virginia (45th) and Pennsylvania (46th). The top five states were Texas, Utah, Georgia, Montana and Oklahoma, while the five lowest were Pennsylvania, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Hawaii.

An overwhelming majority of Ohio small businesses are hiring, the state Chamber of Commerce said Tuesday, citing a survey of corporate leaders in 2018's second quarter. The chamber's Research Foundation had responses from more than 400 business leaders, 92 percent of whom employ less than 100 people and 98 percent said they had added employees. Additionally, 95 percent said they planned to hire more in the third quarter, and while there was a slight drop in the state's "Prosperity Pulse" the chamber found it was associated with expenses from adding new staff.

## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

The Senate is launching a bipartisan push to expand state crime victim fund payments to family members facing "severe trauma" from the victim's injury or death, awarding up to \$15,000 for wages lost to psychiatric treatment or counseling. Introduced by Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), SB322 also would make it easier for convicted felons to tap the Ohio Attorney General Crime Victims Compensation Fund. Lehner joined Attorney General Mike DeWine in announcing the legislation, co-sponsored by Sens. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Vernon Sykes (D-Akron).

## **ECONOMY**

To a strong round of applause, Stephen Moore told the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) conference in New Orleans that if the president's policies continue in place the U.S. will see dramatic economic growth.

## EDUCATION

While progress has been made to improve equity since the Ohio Supreme Court found the state's school funding system unconstitutional in the 1997 *DeRolph v. State* case, a new analysis shows that growth has been marginal in the 20 years since the state changed the school funding model. The report, released Wednesday by the Ohio Education Policy Institute's (OEPI) Howard Fleeter, along with the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBA), shows that while state and local per pupil spending has increased for all school districts once adjusted for inflation, the increase is only \$107, or 3.8 percent greater for the least wealthy quintile of school districts compared to the most wealthy quintile of school districts. The average increase was roughly 1.4 percent per year.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow's (ECOT) attorneys are arguing in court filings that Attorney General Mike DeWine's request for "clarification" on a judge's order approving collection efforts against school affiliates is just cover for "politically-motivated" claims against ECOT officials. The school also is asking the county judge overseeing the case not to allow destruction of paper records filling cargo containers in the parking lot of ECOT's former headquarters.

The Ohio Supreme Court declined Wednesday to take up another lawsuit from Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), one week after ruling against the defunct online charter school in its high-profile battle with the Ohio Department of Education. The latest lawsuit involved ECOT's claims that the State Board of Education violated open meetings laws during its deliberations on whether to approve clawbacks of state funding the school received -- claims that had already been rejected at the trial and appellate court levels.

In the last report of its "Connections between Education and Health" series, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) took a broad approach in examining school violence prevention programs, drug use prevention programs and mental health services before offering policy recommendations, including increasing coordination between government entities and monitoring implementation of recently passed legislation to assess its effectiveness.

Ohio State University's (OSU) Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy recently announced that it has been awarded a \$3.3 million, five-year grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to study early interventions to prepare young children for kindergarten and beyond. The study will follow children in 100 preschools facilitated by a partnership with Dayton Preschool Promise and Cleveland-area programs from the time they begin pre-school through the end of their kindergarten year.

Ahead of the start of school, agencies involved in early learning and child care programs are reminding parents of a state resource to research before- and after-school care providers. At <http://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/>, families can search providers by county, city, ZIP code, and program type of rating on Step Up to Quality, Ohio's system for evaluating child care and early learning providers.

Youngstown's school board is asking the Ohio Supreme Court to upend the state oversight body that's been running district operations for more than two years. Major school management groups and a large teachers union are also on board with the request. The district's board of education filed an appeal last week with the Supreme Court, seeking to overturn rulings at the trial and appellate

level that upheld the expanded powers of academic distress commissions, enacted by lawmakers in 2015 via 131-HB70 (Brenner-Driehaus).

A program designed to help coaches learn to identify and report suspected child abuse and neglect among their players has measurable impact 10 months later, a recent study shows. Researchers found that up to two-thirds of coaches who completed the one-hour program could recall at least two signs of physical abuse without prompting 10 months after training. Nearly all of them said they were more likely to report suspected child abuse or neglect as a result of the training.

Members of a stakeholder workgroup assembled to generate long-term recommendations for high school graduation requirements found some common ground Tuesday, generally agreeing that students, regardless of their interests or passions, should complete some sort of capstone project that demonstrates a variety of skills that each well-rounded high school graduate should have. The Superintendent's Advisory Committee for High School Graduation Requirements met Tuesday evening at the Ohio Department of Education, considering two variations on a custom graduation plan, both of which would allow students to meet certain criteria for graduation using a culminating project in addition to demonstrating foundational skills in math and English.

A new workgroup created by the State Board of Education to study changes to report cards for career-technical planning districts gathered for the first time Thursday, hearing about the implications of recent federal law changes and setting the goal of finishing recommendations by mid-October. The board created the new workgroup recently after recommending a delay in calculation of an overall grade for career-technical report cards.

## **ELECTIONS**

A rating of states' administration of elections from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) shows improvement in Ohio and nationally from the 2012 presidential election to the 2016 election. Ohio's performance of 77 percent on MIT's Election Performance Index (EPI) represents a seven-point increase from 2012, on track with the average six-point bump states saw on average over that time.

## **ELECTIONS 2018**

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) released its "Questions for Candidates in the 2018 Election," a document the group said challenges the next governor, other statewide office candidates, and legislative candidates to articulate their policy positions on a range of quality-of-life and redevelopment issues.

Republican gubernatorial nominee and Attorney General Mike DeWine Monday rolled out his economic development platform, dubbing it the "Ohio Prosperity Plan," saying it will build on the successes of the Kasich administration while tackling future challenges. DeWine, speaking at an event in Columbus at Dawson Career Center, said eight years ago there were not enough jobs for workers. Now, he said, the challenge is to fill all of the jobs that are being created.

Secretary of State Jon Husted Monday issued a statement pushing back on a number of what he called "misinformation and misleading claims" that came out after the 12th Congressional District special election where Republican Troy Balderson holds a lead of less than 1 percent over Democrat Danny O'Connor. Husted noted online articles claiming the district has more than 170 voters who

are over the age of 116, raising an alarm over the Franklin County Board of Elections discovering ballots that were not counted on election night and questioning whether the Green Party candidate cost O'Connor the election. "Anytime you have a close election that receives intense local and national attention ... there will inevitably be those who seek to sow seeds of doubt about the process and call into question how the election has been administered. The fact is that ... the bipartisan county boards of elections who administered the special election did so with the professionalism that has become the standard in Ohio."

All candidates for Ohio Supreme Court this year received a "highly recommended" rating by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA), with Democratic Judge Melody Stewart of the 8th District Court of Appeals drawing the group's highest score. OSBA's Commission on Judicial Candidates published ratings for the 2018 General Election following what it described as a thorough evaluation of the candidates.

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) threw support Tuesday to a campaign promise of Republican gubernatorial candidate and state Attorney General Mike DeWine by moving forward to help fund body armor for all Ohio peace officers. The bureau is now accepting applications for up to \$40,000 per law enforcement agency, subject to a 25 percent local match. This BWC/AG partnership will run through June 2019.

Planned Parenthood Votes (PPV) Ohio announced this week that it is planning to invest \$1.5 million to run a large, grassroots persuasion and mobilization voter contact program in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas and Summit counties for the upcoming midterm election. PPV said the program will include canvass, digital and mail program to reach 250,000 voters in support of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray.

Left-leaning groups American Bridge and UltraViolet PAC announced it was targeting U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Urbana) and more than a dozen other members of Congress with digital ads and a micro-site, dubbing the members "Worst for Women." The campaign includes a legislative scorecard produced by the groups, noting votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act, to defund Planned Parenthood and against abortion.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray announced the endorsement of the Black Economic Alliance.

## **ELECTIONS 2020**

Gov. John Kasich's former presidential campaign sent out a fundraising email Monday after the governor and President Donald Trump traded barbs on Twitter. Trump attacked Kasich after Kasich appeared on national news shows over the weekend and discussed Trump's effect on the 12th Congressional District special election, where Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) holds a nearly 1,600 vote lead over Democrat Danny O'Connor. Kasich responded with a GIF of Russian President Vladimir Putin laughing and shaking his head.

## **ENERGY**

According to Jason Funes, an official with the U.S. Department of Interior, a new era of U.S. energy dominance has begun under President Donald Trump. Funes, who works in the office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, told the ALEC conference the policy changes the Trump team is pursuing combined with the success of fracking are changing the country's position on the world energy stage.

The success of the oil and gas industry in increasing U.S. production of natural gas, combined with demographic trends could lead to the U.S. becoming a net exporter of natural gas, meaning consumers could see higher prices according to a global energy expert, Leo Goff. He spoke Friday before the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), demographic trends show a dramatic acceleration in growth in India and China in the coming decades.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has awarded more than \$374 million in low-interest loans and principal forgiveness funding to communities across the state to address water infrastructure needs. "Combined, this will save Ohio communities more than \$83.6 million compared to market-rate loans," Ohio EPA said.

## **FEDERAL**

It's never been done, but lawmakers attending the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) were urged during both a plenary breakfast and an update session to take up the call and use Article V to alter the nation's constitution.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will host the fourth "Propel Ohio: Collegiate Leadership Summit" at Cleveland State University on Oct. 12, 2018, with an application deadline of Sept. 14, 2018. The program promotes civic engagement and connects college students with resources for volunteer, internship and career opportunities associated with public service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) detailed his Stop Overdraft Profiteering Act of 2018, co-sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), in a call with reporters on Wednesday. He said it would crack down on "exploitative" overdraft fees levied by banks against customers who overdraw funds from their accounts. Also on the call, Brown said that the 2018 Farm Bill is moving, as it received 86 votes in the Senate and it narrowly passed in the House. His key provisions in the bill include continued funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Food and Table Act, which he said would bolster local farmers and farmers' markets and keep local funds in communities.

## **GAMING/GAMBLING**

The Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) received skill-based amusement machine registration information from approximately 200 entities, OCCC Executive Director Matt Schuler said Wednesday.

Speaking during the commission's monthly meeting at the Rhodes State Office Tower, Schuler reminded attendees that license applications are due by Tuesday, Aug. 21.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

The Senate announced Monday the cancellation of its if-needed session scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 22. The next Senate session on the calendar is Wednesday, Sept. 26, though there are if-needed sessions scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 20 and Tuesday, Sept. 25. If-needed House sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 19 and Thursday, Sept. 20.

The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) met for approximately three minutes Monday, during which time Executive Director Larry Wolpert read the agendas and all items were cleared without questions or holds.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday that the state needs to wait to make sure it will actually see a budget surplus in this budget cycle before spending it, adding that he believes anything that is done needs to have the Legislature's input. Talking with reporters after Wednesday's nonvoting session, Obhof said that the projected surplus for this fiscal year is just that, a projected surplus.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) said work will begin on the renovation of the Veterans Plaza on Monday, Aug. 20, with completion targeted for the beginning of November. The worksite for the first phase will be the south portion of Veterans Plaza and will entail excavation and paver work.

## **GOVERNOR**

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- Elwin C. Robison of Kent (Portage Co.) reappointed to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board for a term beginning Aug. 9, 2018, and ending Jan. 14, 2021.
- Cirous Hagnazari of Westerville (Delaware Co.) reappointed to the Motor Vehicle Salvage Dealer's Board for a term beginning Aug. 9, 2018, and ending July 31, 2021.
- Shaun P. Wenrick of Fairborn (Greene Co.) as a student member on the Wright State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 10, 2018, and ending June 30, 2020.
- Nicholas R. Kollar of Stow (Summit Co.) as a student member on the Kent State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 10, 2018, and ending May 6, 2020.
- Don G. Bryant of Oberlin (Lorain County), Ronald E. Falconi of Brunswick (Medina County) and Thomas G. Stephenson of Hamilton (Butler County) reappointed to the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board for terms beginning Aug. 14, 2018 and ending July 10, 2021.
- Paul M. Booth of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Ohio Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission for a term beginning Aug. 15, 2018, and ending Dec. 30, 2019.
- Randall W. Leite of Pickerington (Franklin County) and John I. Silverman of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) reappointed to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood for terms beginning Aug. 16, 2018 and ending July 30, 2020.
- Erin E. Simmons of Tiffin (Seneca County) and Sheana F. Behringer of Defiance (Defiance County) to the Early Intervention Services Advisory Council for terms beginning Aug. 16, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Ohio is among the 15 states with the least expensive visits to a general practitioner or dentist and lowest average monthly health insurance premium, according to a recent report by personal finance blog WalletHub.

## **HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS**

Foreclosures in Ohio continue to trend down from a 2009 peak, but they have still not reached lows achieved in the mid-1990s, according to a report from nonprofit Policy Matters Ohio (PMO). Following the 2007-2008 recession spurred in part by a proliferation of toxic subprime mortgages, foreclosures in Ohio hit a peak of 89,053 cases in 2009. This figure has since decreased to 35,169 filings in 2017, which PMO notes is more than double a 1995 low of 15,975 foreclosures. However, the 2017 data are the lowest seen in Ohio since the year 2000, and they appear to be continually decreasing.

Commissioners received an update on the new Office of Opportunities for New Americans, as well as a brief presentation from members of central Ohio's Mauritanian community, at the most recent meeting of the New African Immigrant Commission Thursday.

## **JUDICIAL**

The Ohio Supreme Court announced the launch of an online specialized docket map showing types of specialized courts in each county, their judges and other related information. The Court said specialized dockets for veteran, drug and mental courts are "growing by leaps and bounds" in Ohio.

The Ohio Supreme Court announced that administrative judges for multi-division municipal courts now will be determined like administrative judges in all other lower courts. The change affects three of the largest municipal court systems in the state.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has ruled that a teen victim of sex trafficking must prepare to spend the rest of her life in prison for helping to plan her trafficker's murder at the age of 15.

Following the unanimous recommendation of a 16-member task force appointed by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to study the state bar exam, the Ohio Supreme Court announced that Ohio will join more than 30 states and U.S. territories and begin using the National Conference of Bar Examiner's Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) in July 2020. The Court's decision was similarly unanimous.

The Ohio Supreme Court followed its near-unanimous decision denying a human trafficking victim Safe Harbor protections Wednesday in a second 6-1 opinion that increases the legal burden on juveniles mired in the judicial system. The Court said minors ruled delinquent for non-violent offenses can lose their Second Amendment gun rights as adults -- a result Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor called "profoundly unfair."

High-profile lawsuits alleging musical plagiarism have hit artists such as Elvis Presley, former Beatle George Harrison and British rockers Led Zeppelin, all of which are included in a new display in the Ohio Supreme Court Building Law Library that highlights music litigation throughout the years. "There's a line between homage and outright theft," said Michael Bradshaw, the law library's administrative assistant who put together the exhibit. "The court decides."



Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Guy L. Reece, II is the new chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, assuming the position during the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in Chicago earlier this month.

A longtime Dublin attorney who misappropriated more than \$850,000 from the trust accounts of Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation (NCHF) and a second nonprofit was permanently disbarred by the Supreme Court of Ohio Thursday and ordered to pay restitution and legal fees to Fifth Third Bank and Nationwide Children's, among other parties.

### **MEDICAID/MEDICAID REFORM**

Amid a trade secrets lawsuit and ahead of the Thursday release of a new report on pharmacy pricing practices by the state auditor, Medicaid Director Barbara Sears Tuesday ordered managed care plans to cancel their contracts with pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and sign new deals with a different pricing model. By Jan. 1, plans will have to end contracts based on "spread pricing" and adopt new contracts that use "pass-through pricing." Under spread pricing, PBMs can pay pharmacies one amount for drugs but bill a different amount to managed care. In addition, they can keep some of the rebates paid by drug manufacturers. Under pass-through pricing, PBMs would charge managed care plans the same amount paid to the pharmacies, plus an "administrative fee," and all rebates would flow to the managed care plans. A consultant's report estimates the administrative fee would be about \$1 to \$2 per prescription.

The General Assembly could immediately address one of the state's critical pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) issues by limiting how much money the middlemen can make off of Medicaid's managed care organizations (MCOs), Auditor of State Dave Yost told the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC) on Thursday. Yost said his staff's review mostly confirmed the findings of Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) consultant HealthPlan Data Solutions (HDS), except auditors found PBMs charged the state a much higher "spread" for generic drugs -- more than 31 percent.

### **POLITICS**

President Donald Trump will head back to Ohio later this month to headline the Ohio Republican Party's annual state dinner, the Ohio GOP announced Wednesday. The event will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24, in the Battelle Grand Ballroom of the Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St.

### **POVERTY**

The state's legal aid organizations recently formed the Alliance of Ohio Legal Aids to improve access to and the quality of legal services for low-income individuals and groups and to improve the legal aid service delivery system in Ohio. Kevin Mulder, executive director of Legal Aid of Western Ohio, was elected the alliance's first chair. Other officers include Colleen Cotter, executive director of Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, vice-chair, and Kate McGarvey, director of Legal Aid Society of Columbus, secretary/treasurer.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) announced Wednesday that 106 fire departments would be receiving a total of nearly \$1.1 million in grants from the Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements program, which aids in purchase of safety gear, exhaust systems and specialized washing machines. The program provides a 5-to-1 match up to \$15,000 for public and private employers with annual payroll of at least \$500,000 and no match for employers below that payroll level.

## **REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT**

A federal panel of judges Wednesday denied the state of Ohio's motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other groups challenging the constitutionality of Ohio's congressional map, with the court rejecting the argument that recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions mean lawsuits challenging partisan gerrymanders cannot be heard by federal courts.

## **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted announced 9,652 new entities filed to do business in Ohio last month, an increase of 852 when compared to July 2017. Ohio is currently on track for 2018 to be another record-breaking year for new business filings. Since January, the Buckeye State has seen 76,130 new businesses file, up 4,151 from the same seven-month period last year.

## **TAXATION**

The Ohio Supreme Court decided Wednesday to send a case on property tax valuations and subsidized housing developments back to the Board of Tax Appeals (BTA.) In *Columbus City Schools Board of Education v. Franklin County Board of Revision*, justices were considering a Board of Tax Appeals decision on valuation for property owned by Network Restorations LLC. The company argued that restrictions on the rents it can charge should affect the property's valuation, but rental subsidies should not. Columbus City Schools disagreed, saying both tenants' payments and subsidies should affect the valuation.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Battelle Memorial Institute's new chief executive told the Columbus Metropolitan Club Wednesday that the internationally recognized research firm hopes to learn and partner with the business world in an effort to spin off the nonprofit's technology advances. President and CEO Lewis Von Thier said the central Ohio-based center will need a reliable flow of STEM-savvy prospects, beginning with graduates of Columbus City Schools.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Former state Sen. Tom Roberts joined a broad coalition Tuesday opposing AT&T's request to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to end the phone company's participation in the federal Lifeline program for elderly and low-income Ohioans, calling the proposal an "outrage." AT&T responded by noting that from 2008 to 2016, AT&T's Lifeline customers declined by 94 percent. By the end of 2016, it served just 2.1 percent of Ohio's Lifeline customers.

## **UTILITIES**

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) authorized American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) Thursday to construct two 138 kilovolt electric transmission line projects in southern Ohio, which the board said will "improve the quality and reliability of electric service in the region."

## **VETERANS**

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum will hold its grand opening Saturday, Oct. 27, according to an announcement Thursday, with Gen. Colin Powell (U.S. Army, Retired) delivering the keynote address.

## **WORKFORCE**

The state lost 3,023 clean energy jobs from 2016 to 2017, according to a new analysis from Clean Energy Trust (CET) and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2). The 2018 "Clean Jobs Midwest" report says the 2.7 percent decline was due to significant job reductions in the alternative transportation industry as well as the fact that Ohio was one of two Midwestern states that didn't add renewable jobs.

Ford Motor Company CEO Jim Hackett next month will keynote a summit organized by the Midwest Governors Association, chaired this year by Gov. John Kasich. With the title, "The Smartland: Prepared, Agile and Empowered for the Future," the summit will focus on technology's effects on society and the workforce. Kasich's agenda for the year as chair is to address that topic "by looking at how education and training intersect with our region's strengths in infrastructure, advanced technology, automation and energy, to allow the Midwest to be a premier location for success far into the future."

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:**

### **SENATE:**

No legislative activity to report.

### **HOUSE:**

No legislative activity to report.