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RH RESOURCES

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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

September 2018 is the 29th annual National Recovery Month, and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is highlighting various ways in which treatment providers, family supports and community supports can lead to recovery from substance use disorders. At an online-streamed kick-off event in Washington, D.C. individuals from SAMHSA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services gathered to celebrate recovery and share success stories of those dealing with mental health disorders.

AGRICULTURE

Farmers can now begin signing up for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs designed to blunt the economic damage caused by the ongoing U.S. trade war with China and other countries. The department announced its intention in late July to provide up to \$12 billion to agricultural producers affected by countries retaliating to President Donald Trump's tariffs.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine joined U.S. Attorney Benjamin Glassman of the Southern District of Ohio Tuesday in announcing that the Coshocton Metropolitan Housing Authority's (CMHA) former executive director and chief financial officer Gregory Darr has pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$431,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Ohio Attorney General's CyberOhio Initiative and the Air Force Association's (AFA) CyberPatriot Program have launched a new collaboration to increase cybersecurity education.

DISASTERS

In recognition of National Preparedness Month in September, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) issued tips that Ohioans can use to be ready in case a disaster strikes. More information on National Preparedness Month weekly themes is available at the ReadyOhio website <http://www.ready.ohio.gov/index.stm> .

EDUCATION

Ohio education officials are working on plans to expand interest in and eligibility for the state's sizable federal charter schools grants, which so far are supporting just three schools. After two annual funding rounds in the five-year grant program, Ohio has spent about \$2 million of \$49 million available to plan and launch high-quality charter schools. The Ohio Department of Education is now looking to take advantage of new federal flexibility to use grants for expansion or replication of existing schools, as well as minor facility repairs.

How industry-recognized credentials should fit into the state report card delivered to career tech districts was the center of discussion at the Aug. 30 meeting of the Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD) Report Card Workgroup. Ohio Department of Education accountability chief Chris Woolard and Career Technical Education (CTE) Director Emily Passias guided the group through the post-program outcomes component of the report card, which measures two factors: the percentage of CTE concentrator students who have found some type of post-secondary placement, and percentage of concentrators who earned an industry-recognized credential before or within six months after leaving high school.

As school districts across Ohio are sending students home early -- or even closing -- because of sweltering temperatures, one legislator is asking the Ohio Department of Education to devise an estimate within the month of how much it would cost to install air conditioning in all Ohio schools that lack it. Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) referenced early dismissals in the Dayton area in his letter Tuesday to Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, but schools statewide have been taking the same course, from Columbus to Akron to Cleveland.

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee for High School Graduation Requirements met at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Wednesday to consider both the current unanswered questions about graduation requirements for the classes of 2019 and 2020, and a fifth draft of a proposed new high school graduation plan, featuring a significant overhaul of current requirements.

ELECTIONS

The Voting Machine Acquisition Advisory Committee discussed recommendations for the invitation to bid (ITB) in its second and final meeting Wednesday, with particular emphasis on the "most favored nation" clause currently in the working draft. That provision, applied to state-funded items, would require suppliers to provide the best price given to any other customer within a 12-month period, and lower the state price if they gave another customer a better price during the contract period. The working draft is being reviewed by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and counsel to ensure compliance with IRS regulations, and no formal amendments were submitted by the committee members.

The vast majority of Americans who vote on Election Day prefer to do so in the morning, according to research from the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Speaking to reporters on a conference call Wednesday, BPC Associate Director Matt Weir said the study -- the first national program to track wait times at the polls -- found 82 percent of precincts experienced their longest line when the doors opened in 2016. An additional 8 percent saw their longest lines during the first hour of voting, meaning 90 percent of polling places had their longest line in the first hour.

ELECTIONS 2018

The Ohio House Republican Organizational Committee (OHROC) has filed a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission, alleging that 79th House District Democratic nominee Amanda Finfrock violated campaign finance laws by accepting campaign contributions prior to designating a campaign treasurer.

While Richard Cordray's gubernatorial campaign has highlighted his record as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Mike DeWine campaign spokesman Joshua Eck said the Cordray campaign has been "cherry-picking" his time there and announced a website on allegations of a "toxic workplace" at CFPB. It can be found at www.CordrayFailed.com.

ProPublica, a nonprofit online news source, has launched its "User's Guide to Democracy," an online tool that it said will help inform voters. Those who sign up for the service will get emails once a week that include information on how to vote where they live; personalized info on the candidates and campaigns in their districts; insights to priorities and interests of their congressional delegation; and "action items" to help put the knowledge to work for issues they care about. The tool can be found at <http://projects.propublica.org/graphics/users-guide-to-democracy>.

Ohio Tea Party groups said they will be partnering with the National Rifle Association (NRA) Political Victory Fund this election cycle to help elect Ohio Republican federal candidates in November. The groups had worked together in the 2016 cycle as well.

In a recent blog post titled "Child's Play is Serious Business," Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray outlined his proposals for early childhood, including expanding access to child care and home visiting programs. Cordray said his plan aims "to give every family access to quality options that are right for them."

President Barack Obama will campaign with Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray and lieutenant governor nominee Betty Sutton next week in Cleveland, according to the Cordray campaign.

As a U.S. District Court in Texas begins hearing arguments in a lawsuit challenging the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by 20 states, Democratic Ohio attorney general nominee Steve Dettelbach held a press call Wednesday promising to defend the law. The lawsuit filed by 20 states argues that the 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the ACA did so by ruling the individual mandate was a tax that could be imposed by Congress. Because Congress ended the tax penalty in its 2017 tax overhaul, the lawsuit argues that the individual mandate is no longer a tax and is unconstitutional.

Mike DeWine reported raising more funds in the August reporting period, though Democrat Richard Cordray's campaign said it had more donors overall. Meanwhile, down-ticket non-judicial Democrats on the ballot all reported outraising Republicans.

Democratic secretary of state nominee Kathleen Clyde and Republican nominee Frank LaRose told women business owners Thursday that they want to make the secretary of state's office more user friendly for those wanting to start a business and make it easier to register to vote. Both candidates, along with Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike DeWine, addressed the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) during a luncheon in Columbus. Each candidate spent about 20 minutes being interviewed by Mikaela Hunt, a former Columbus television news anchor.

Mike DeWine released his education plan Thursday. The campaign emphasized the four "pillars" of the plan: less testing and more learning; increasing access to technology and a 21st century education; establishing more vocational education opportunities; and making college more affordable.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The campaign of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray announced the endorsement of the Ohio Conference of Teamsters.
- Republican Ohio House Candidate Erik Yassenoff announced the endorsement of Gov. John Kasich.
- Republican Secretary of State nominee Frank LaRose announced the endorsement of Northwest Ohio Building Trades.
- Ohio House candidate Allison Russo announced the endorsement of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

ENERGY

The latest battle over proposed wind generation in northern Ohio stalled Wednesday at the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), which cancelled Republic Wind LLC's October hearings at that company's request with no new dates in sight.

FEDERAL

The Canadian consul general for Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Indiana declined to negotiate a U.S. trade deal in Columbus Wednesday but called President Donald Trump's description of Canada as a national security threat "absurd," instead characterizing his country as "fundamental to U.S. national security." He spoke at the Columbus Metropolitan Club.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) voiced his support for U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh Wednesday and called the volume of documents released about him unprecedented. "The Senate Judiciary Committee has now received more than 450,000 pages of documents," Portman said. "I'm told that's more than the last five Supreme Court nominees combined. It's been extensive and unprecedented."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said Wednesday his Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies (CRIB) Act would help address the nation's opioid epidemic by providing funding for treatment of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), which is a withdrawal condition in infants caused by the use of opioids and other addictive substances in pregnant women. The bill would allow Medicaid to cover certain health care services provided to infants in residential pediatric recovery facilities in addition to hospitals and clarify that babies receiving services in those centers can continue to receive services after one year of age, according to Brown. It would also fund activities to encourage caregiver-infant bonding.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said Wednesday that Kevin Hoggatt is being promoted to the role of state director. Hoggatt will take over responsibilities for Teri Geiger, who is moving to U.S. Rep. Troy Balderson's office to serve as chief of staff after serving as the Portman's state director since 2011.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Advanced practice registered nurses would be able to practice independently of doctors under new legislation, the "Better Access, Better Care Act," introduced recently by Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green). She said HB 726 will allow advanced practice registered nurses to practice independently and to the full extent of their education, training and certification. Under current Ohio law, advanced practice nurses must have a supervisory agreement with a physician in order to provide primary care services.

House Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) appointed Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) as co-chair of the Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee, a creation of HB 122, which Hambley co-sponsored with Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake). Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) Wednesday appointed the Senate's members. They are Sen. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) as co-chair alongside Hambley. Obhof also appointed Sens. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) and Sean O'Brien (D-Cortland) as members.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday his caucus hasn't decided whether to pursue an override of Gov. John Kasich's veto of regulatory reform measure SB 221 (Uecker). But he said the Senate and the administration talked earlier in the day about the topic and possible resolutions. He likened the situation to alternative resolutions short of an override that the General Assembly was able to work out with the Kasich administration on matters of dispute in the state budget.

GOVERNOR

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- Manuel Chavez of Cincinnati (Hamilton County), Rajbir S. Minhas of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and George H. Vincent of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) reappointed to the Cincinnati State Technical and Community College Board of Trustees for terms beginning Sept. 1, 2018 and ending Aug. 31, 2024.
- Kevin J. Flanigan of Grafton (Lorain County) reappointed to the Lorain County Community College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 31, 2018 and ending Aug. 30, 2023.
- Sam D. Bassitt of Lima (Allen County) reappointed to the James A. Rhodes State College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Sept. 1, 2018 and ending Aug. 31, 2021.
- James V. Stouffer of Port Clinton (Ottawa County) and William J. Wolf of Ottawa Hills (Lucas County) reappointed to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission for terms beginning Sept. 2, 2018 and ending Sept. 1, 2021.
- Linda S. Stickney of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Commercial Dog Breeding Advisory Board for a term beginning Aug. 31, 2018 and ending March 12, 2021.
- Timothy J. Barreiro of Canfield (Mahoning County), Deena J. Chisolm of Columbus (Franklin County) and Priyanka Vora of West Chester (Butler County) reappointed to the Commission on Minority Health for terms beginning Sept. 3, 2018 and ending Sept. 2, 2020.
- Talya Greathouse of Reynoldsburg (Licking County) and Carla E. Hicks of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Commission on Minority Health for terms beginning Sept. 3, 2018 and ending Sept. 2, 2020.
- Elizabeth Ranade Janis of Worthington (Franklin County) to the Children's Trust Fund Board for a term beginning Aug. 31, 2018 and ending July 2, 2019.
- Kimberly P. Jordan of Worthington (Franklin County) to the Children's Trust Fund Board for a term beginning Sept. 4, 2018, and ending July 2, 2021.
- Raymond "Boom Boom" Mancini of Youngstown (Mahoning County) and John T. Patton III of Spencer (Medina County) reappointed to the Ohio Athletic Commission for terms beginning Sep. 4, 2018, and ending Sept. 2, 2021.
- Chief Jeffrey P. Kruithoff of Lebanon (Warren County) and Victor V. Vigluicci of Rootstown (Portage County) reappointed to the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission for terms beginning Sept. 4, 2018, and ending Sept. 3, 2021.
- Samuel L. Brady Sr. of Jackson (Jackson County) to the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Sept. 5, 2018, and ending Oct. 10, 2020.
- Douglas S. Fisher of Lancaster (Fairfield County), Robert J. Friedman, III of Powell (Franklin County), and Mark A. Miller of Bay Village (Cuyahoga County) reappointed to the Radiation Advisory Council for terms beginning Sept. 7, 2018, and ending Sept. 6, 2023.
- Michael J. Shaheen of Saint Clairsville (Belmont County) to the Reclamation Commission for a term beginning Sept. 6, 2018, and ending June 28, 2022.

JUDICIAL

The Ohio Supreme Court said that Michael Buenger, its administrative director, will leave to become executive vice president of operations for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Stephanie Hess takes over as interim administrative director while the Court conducts a national search for his replacement.

The Ohio Supreme Court will decide whether a 61-year-old man wrongly imprisoned for more than a decade can proceed with a \$13.5 million claim for damages and legal fees against the city of Cleveland.

The split Court has agreed to hear the appeal of David Ayers, a black former security guard with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) who won a federal civil rights lawsuit against two Cleveland police investigators who accused him of sexually assaulting and murdering a 76-year-old woman resident. Ayers identifies as a gay man.

A Columbus man who has HIV is using the Ohio Constitution's Health Care Freedom amendment to argue in a lawsuit that he and others in a state HIV drug program should not be forced to use the state's chosen pharmacy, CVS. The department recently asked the Court of Claims to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing it lacks jurisdiction.

The Ohio Supreme Court opened the application period for a program supporting access to justice for low-income, underserved and disadvantaged Ohioans. The Civil Justice Program Fund provides direct legal assistance and increased access to assistance for Ohioans' civil legal needs including housing, health care, economic security and other areas. Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, Sept. 25, with award announcements expected in December.

The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law is suing the city of Cincinnati on behalf of two real estate management companies and other plaintiffs facing special fees and fines to operate security alarms in homes and businesses. 1851 Executive Director Maurice Thompson says Ohio cities are violating free speech rights by levying charges on citizens that report suspected criminal conduct to police through private security systems.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) released an expanded version of the final report published by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Military Affairs Task Force in May. The amended report includes all the same content originally released by the task force, but now includes more details on the task force's visits to National Guard facilities, bios of task force members, pending legislation pertaining to military and veterans' issues and state reports covering U.S. Department of Defense assets in Ohio.

NATURAL RESOURCES

As portions of Holmes and Tuscarawas counties retain their designations as Disease Surveillance Areas (DSAs) as part of the state's efforts to monitor Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), the state has established new carcass rules for people hunting in other states. "The new carcass rules will apply to Ohio hunters who plan to travel out of state to hunt any CWD-susceptible species -- white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, caribou or moose. No person is permitted to bring or transport high-risk carcass parts of CWD-susceptible species into Ohio from any state or Canadian province, regardless of the CWD status of the exporting jurisdiction," the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) said.

Natural gas production for 2018's second quarter is up 42.25 percent over the second quarter of 2017, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Oil production increased 10.98 percent over that same period, the department said.

Eleven cadets began their education in the Ohio Wildlife Officer Cadet Training Academy, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The cadets, hired from a pool of more than 550 applicants, will complete more than six months of training before becoming state wildlife officers, ODNR said.

PEOPLE

The Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) has appointed 20 Columbus area attorneys to serve as chairpersons of OSBA committees and sections. The OSBA maintains 33 committees and 10 sections, each of which specializes in a particular area of law. Committees and sections keep Ohio lawyers informed about recent court decisions and regulatory changes. They also comment on bills in the General Assembly, in addition to drafting their own legislative proposals to improve existing laws, according to OSBA.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) announced Wednesday that Gary Wolske has been elected as the organization's 12th president. Wolske will lead an executive board that includes Vice President Jason Pappas, Secretary Eric T. Lehnhart, Treasurer Greg Toyegas, 2nd Vice President Derrick McDonald, Sergeant at Arms Bill Saringer, and Immediate Past President Jay McDonald.

POVERTY

A recent brief from the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) compared Ohio's poverty threshold to the statewide average living wage and identified a disparity between the two figures, with the poverty threshold sitting markedly below the living wage. CCS included these statistics in a "Poverty in Perspective" section of its recently issued County Fact Sheets, which draw together data on each of Ohio's 88 counties related to economics, education, health, population trends and other measures.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) said that the state has exceeded the goal of its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program for the fourth consecutive year. DAS said that during FY18, the state purchased 21.63 percent of eligible goods and services through certified minority-owned businesses, while spending more than \$268 million.

UTILITIES

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) issued its annual Winter Reconnect Order for the 2018-19 heating season Wednesday to protect customers of PUCO-regulated electric or natural gas utilities. The reconnect order, which served over 217,000 utility customers last year, will allow Ohioans to reconnect or maintain electric and natural gas service between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. Any customer of a PUCO-regulated utility may take advantage of the program once per season. Consumers must pay the utility \$175 plus any applicable reconnection charge not to exceed \$36. If the company's reconnection fee exceeds that, the balance may be billed to the customer the following month.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

SENATE:

No legislative activity to report.

HOUSE:

No legislative activity to report.