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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.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Attorney General Mike DeWine's office announced it has filed a lawsuit against a Columbus used car seller accused of failing to deliver motor vehicle titles to consumers.

Attorney General Mike DeWine, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) last Thursday announced the formation of the Ohio Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education, which is charged with examining such education in Ohio schools and to issue recommendations in 90 days on implementing age-appropriate K-12 drug education programs.

**AUDITOR OF STATE**

As the state and its largest online charter school wrangle in court over attendance records, Auditor Dave Yost opened his statewide charter school summit with a call for lawmakers to overhaul how

Ohio tracks and provides funding for digital student learning.

## **BUDGET**

Tax revenues are on target for the start of FY 17, according to preliminary figures from the Office of Budget and Management. Tax collections of about \$1.59 billion in July, the first month of the fiscal year, were just \$299,000 ahead of expectations -- essentially a rounding error in a budget totaling tens of billions of dollars.

## **EDUCATION**

Four of the 14 local school levies on the Tuesday, Aug. 2, ballot passed, according to information supplied by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). Those four were Fayette Local, Springfield Local, Tri-Star Career Compact and Walnut Township Local.

State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria addressed Auditor Dave Yost's charter school summit last Thursday, describing himself as a big supporter of charters and proud parent of charter school graduates while also discussing his views for how to promote improvement in the sector.

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) wants the state to return records and copies it obtained during a review of the online charter school's attendance, saying the documents include personally identifiable student data that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is forbidden to have under state law. The department countered by noting the existence of a court order for ODE to access the information and saying it had asked ECOT to produce the records in a way that would shield privacy.

## **ELECTIONS 2016**

With the Wednesday deadline for major and minor political parties to inform the secretary of state's office of their nominees for president and for independent presidential candidates to file, the ballot status for Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson is uncertain after Ohio Libertarians filed the name of 2014 gubernatorial candidate Charlie Earl instead, saying his name will be a placeholder. Earl will withdraw, and Johnson's name will be submitted as his replacement.

## **GAMING**

Ohio's four casinos brought in less revenue than a year ago, according to new numbers released by the Ohio Casino Control Commission last Monday.

## **GOVERNOR**

Gov. John Kasich joined Nestle executives last Wednesday to mark a \$31 million expansion by the food company in Dublin. Kasich said that company provides "pretty good-paying jobs and we want more." He credited his economic development nonprofit JobsOhio with helping to provide a business climate allowing for such an expansion.

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- Jeffrey A. Walters of Canal Fulton (Stark County) reappointed to the Stark State College of Technology Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 8, 2016, and ending Aug. 1, 2019.
- Scott J. Fleming of Dayton (Montgomery County) and James R. Rocco of Aurora (Portage County) reappointed to the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board for terms beginning Aug. 8, 2016, and ending July 10, 2019.
- Edward T. Cain of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Underground Technical Committee for a term beginning Aug. 10, 2016, and ending Dec. 31, 2019.
- Koral A. Clum of Dover (Tuscarawas County) to the Reclamation Commission for a term beginning Aug. 10, 2016, and ending June 28, 2017.
- George E. Mizer of Cadiz (Harrison County) to the Reclamation Commission for a term beginning Aug. 10, 2016, and ending June 28, 2020.
- Ryan A. Makinson of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to serve as the student member on the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 11, 2016, and ending May 13, 2018.

## **JUDICIAL**

Ohio lawyers may not ethically provide legal services to a client who is establishing a medical marijuana business because of prohibitions in federal law, the Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Professional Conduct said in an advisory opinion.

## **MARIJUANA**

The Ohio Department of Commerce (DOC) has launched the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP) website -- [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov). The agency was also seeking a consultant on the economics and cultivation of marijuana.

## **POLLS/STUDIES**

A new Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll released last week shows Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton holding a 4-percentage point lead over Republican nominee Donald Trump, although that lead is cut in half when third party candidates are included.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) announced that the second competitive round of the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant opened Monday, Aug. 8. The state will make at least \$3.5 million available, and for the first time county land banks are eligible to apply.

More than 5,000 state legislators, legislative staff, federal officials and others from across the country and world traveled to Chicago for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) 42nd Legislative Summit, which ran from Monday through Thursday, Aug. 8-11.

The Ohio State Fair attracted about 921,000 visitors this year, the second highest total since the fair adopted its current 12-day schedule in 2004.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

*Legislators have recessed for the summer.*