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**RH RESOURCES**

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**Week in Review**

August 8, 2016

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**

Ohio joined several other states in a lawsuit challenging U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) rules seeking to curb methane pollution from the oil and gas industry. Dan Tierney, spokesperson for Attorney General Mike DeWine, told *Hannah News* the state was joining the West Virginia-led case because President Barack Obama was overstepping his authority.

Attorney General Mike DeWine praised the rollout of Walgreens' Safe Medication Disposal Program in Ohio, where the national initiative has now installed 18 unused-prescription drop boxes in store locations around the state and looks to expand into more communities.

**EDUCATION**

Lawyers for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) filed their reply in support of their motion to compel the officials of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) to turn over log-in/duration

records to the department. Among ODE's arguments was the following: "... Because ECOT has chosen to put the existence of log-in time/during data, as well as its technical capabilities to collect such data, directly at issue in this litigation, ODE is entitled to review the log-in time/duration data that ECOT has collected in order to test that allegation."

## **ELECTIONS**

Secretary of State Jon Husted urged the General Assembly to change the special election law for congressional candidates after the withdrawal of the Democrat in the Eighth Congressional District race triggered a special election primary.

## **ELECTIONS 2016**

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) said that it will be launching a tour throughout Ohio to organize African American voters for voter registration and mobilization.

Former Democratic Ohio Sen. Nina Turner said she will not take up an offer from presumptive Green Party nominee Jill Stein to be her running mate, according to multiple media reports.

Endorsements made over the week include the following:

- Ohio Right to Life endorsed Donald Trump for president; Rob Portman for U.S. Senate; Pat DeWine, Pat Fischer and Maureen O'Connor for Ohio Supreme Court; Steve Chabot, Brad Wenstrup, Jim Jordan, Bob Latta, Bill Johnson, Bob Gibbs, Warren Davidson, Mike Turner, Pat Tiberi, Dave Joyce, Steve Stivers and Jim Renacci for Congress; Randy Gardner, Bill Coley, Peggy Lehner, Lou Terhar, Bob Hackett, Matt Huffman, Joe Uecker, Stephanie Kunze, John Eklund, Troy Balderson, Larry Obhof, Matt Dolan, Dave Burke, Jonathan Schulz, Frank Hoagland, and Rob Allen for the Ohio Senate; Scott Wiggam, Mark Romanchuk, TheresaGavarone, Bob Cupp, Tim Ginter, Tom Patton, Bill Patmon, Dave Greenspan, John Rush, Anne Gonzales, Lisa Schacht, Mike Duffey, Laura Lanese, Jim Hughes, Tom Brinkman Jonathan Dever, Louis Blessing III, Bill Seitz, Mary Yeager, Matthew Wahler, David Miller, Anthony DeVitis, Kristina Roegner, Marilyn Slaby, Mike Henne, Jim Butler, Niraj Antani, Jeff Rezabek, Diana Skaff, Derek Merrin, Kirk Schuring, Christina Hagan, Wes Retherford, Margaret Conditt, Candice Keller, Paul Zeltwanger, Jessie Mae Tower, Tom Dunlap, Dick Stein, Don Manning, John Rogers, Ron Young, Scott Lipps, John Becker, Doug Green, Andrew Brenner, RickCarfagna, Stephen Hambley, Darrell Kick, Scott Ryan, Larry Householder, Rick Perales, Bill Dean, Sarah LaTourette, Tim Schaffer, Ron Hood, Kyle Koehler, Stephen Huffman, Robert McColley, Craig Riedel, Keith Faber, Nino Vitale, Dorothy Pelanda, Wes Goodman, Bill Reineke, Steven Arndt, Terry Johnson, Cliff Rosenberger, Gary Scherer, Ryan Smith, Andrew Thompson, Brian Hill, and Al Landis for the Ohio House.

- The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 18 endorsed Rob Portman for U.S. Senate.

- The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee endorsed Scott Wiggam, Mark Romanchuk, Bob Cupp, Tim Ginter, Marlene Anielski, Tom Patton, John Barnes, Dave Greenspan, Anne Gonzales, Mike Duffey, Jim Hughes, Jonathan Dever, Bill Blessing, Bill Seitz, Anthony DeVitis, Kristina Roegner, Marilyn Slaby, Michael Henne, Jim Butler, Niraj Antani, Jeff Rezabek, Kirk Schuring, Christina Hagan, Wes Retherford, Margaret Conditt, Nathan Manning, John Boccieri, Ron Young, Scott Lipps, Doug Green, Andy Brenner, Rick Carfagna, Steve Hambley,

Darrell Kick, Scott Ryan, Larry Householder, Rick Perales, Bill Dean, Sarah LaTourette, Tim Schaffer, Ron Hood, Kyle Koehler, Steve Huffman, Rob McColley, Craig Riedel, Robert Sprague, Keith Faber, Dorothy Pelanda, Wes Goodman, Bill Reineke, Steve Arndt, Terry Johnson, Cliff Rosenberger, Gary Scherer, Ryan Smith, Andy Thompson, Brian Hill and Al Landis for Ohio House; and Randy Gardner, Bill Coley, Peggy Lehner, Lou Terhar, Bob Hackett, Matt Huffman, Joe Uecker, Stephanie Kunze, John Eklund, Troy Balderson, Larry Obhof, Matt Dolan, Dave Burke and Vernon Sykes for Ohio Senate.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

In what is expected to be the last House session until after the election, the lower chamber sat two new members last Tuesday and paid tribute to the former representatives they replaced. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) and Derrick Merrin (R-Maumee) were seated to fill vacancies in the 3rd and 47th House Districts, respectively. Gavarone was selected by a House Republican screening committee after Rep. Tim Brown (R-Bowling Green) resigned to take a job with the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). Merrin won the Republican primary, with Rep. Barbara Sears (R-Maumee) term-limited this year. She left her seat early to take a position with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) said he plans to hold hearings this month on a long-term state unemployment compensation fix and could wrap up Senate consideration of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) appointees Howard Petricoff and Chairman Asim Haque in September. Faber said legislative action on pending recommendations of the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, and on American Electric Power's (AEP) bid for partial re-regulation of electric generation in Ohio, may have to wait until the 132nd General Assembly, however.

## **GOVERNOR**

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- Geraldine B. Warner of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and Monica A. Kridler of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Ohio Arts Council for terms beginning July 29, 2016 and ending July 1, 2021.
- Gary L. Hanson of Cleveland Heights (Cuyahoga County) to the Ohio Arts Council for a term beginning July 29, 2016 and ending July 1, 2021.
- Samuel E. Gerhardstein of Marysville (Union County) to the Ohio Water Development Authority for a term beginning July 29, 2016 and ending June 30, 2023.
- Lora L. Miller of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Ohio Retirement Study Council for a term beginning July 29, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019.
- Gary Siciliano of Sagamore Hills (Summit County) reappointed to the Motor Vehicle Salvage Dealer's Board for a term beginning Aug. 1, 2016 and ending July 31, 2019.
- Thomas M. Humphries of Youngstown (Trumbull County) reappointed to the Local Government Innovation Council for a term beginning Aug. 1, 2016 and ending Sept. 30, 2018.
- Scott E. Murray of New Albany (Franklin County) to the Ohio Board of Motor Vehicle Repair for a term beginning Aug. 2, 2016, and ending Jan. 1, 2019.
- Michael A. Peterson of Massillon (Stark County) to the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission for a term beginning Aug. 2, 2016, and ending June 30, 2020.

- Colleen H. Heacock of New Concord (Muskingum County) reappointed to the Zane State College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 3, 2016 and ending July 31, 2019.
- James M. Guirguis of Westlake (Cuyahoga County) to serve as the student member on the Northeast Ohio Medical University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 3, 2016 and ending June 29, 2018.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Gov. John Kasich announced that in January 2017, Ohio will launch a comprehensive primary care (CPC) program to allow the state's four largest private health insurance plans, along with Medicaid and Medicare, to pay for value rather than volume. This is the next step in the state's efforts to create a model that will reward primary care providers who do more to keep patients well, thus holding down the total cost of care.

To start a month designated to vaccine awareness, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the state's American Academy of Pediatrics chapter gathered at the Statehouse last Wednesday to focus attention on a new state immunization requirement and to explain an informational mobile app.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Great Lakes Commission announced that it has awarded a total of nearly \$2 million to 14 projects to reduce runoff of phosphorus and sediment into the Great Lakes basin. Of those, three are in Ohio.

## **PEOPLE**

Rep. Steve LaTourette was fondly remembered by Ohio political leaders a day after his death. LaTourette, who served in the U.S. House from 1995 until his retirement in 2013, died last Wednesday evening after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 62.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Two Ohio cities will receive millions of dollars in transportation infrastructure funding from the federal government, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced. Cleveland and Akron are each benefitting from the eighth round of funding from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, which will provide \$500 million to 40 communities across the country. Cleveland Metropolitan Park District will receive \$7.95 million to help construct approximately four miles of regional bicycle and pedestrian trails -- including a bridge to the lakefront - to complete an active transportation network while the city of Akron will receive \$5 million to rebuild the State Street Bridge and install improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and a roundabout.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

*Legislators have recessed for the summer.*