

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
April 6, 2018

Around the Square

State Superintendent Evaluation Revamped

Members of a Board panel unanimously voted on Monday to move forward with a proposal to streamline the annual review process for the state superintendent. The Executive Committee's proposal includes three categories: communication, leadership, and policymaking. The revised plan also includes 10 goal statements ranging from "ineffective" to "highly effective" under the three categories. The proposal also seeks to remove the requirement of historical and projected student population growth, expands the historical loopback to 12 years, and updates the special needs certification policy of maximum net indebtedness from 9 to 12%. The State Board of Education is expected to take up the proposal in May.

Domestic Violence Laws Expanded In Ohio

Governor Kasich recently signed a bipartisan bill that would allow for the issuance of civil dating violence protection orders. HB 1 garnered unanimous support in both chambers, with proponents saying the lack of dating violence protection left thousands at risk as the bill expanded the definition of domestic violence to include a person who is or was in a dating relationship. Ohio now joins 48 other states with this legislation.

House District 67 Race

The western half of Delaware County, currently occupied by term-limited Rep. Andy Brenner, has three contenders battling for the May Primary Republican nomination. Among the contenders is term-limited Sen. Kris Jordan, first elected in 2008 with previous experience as a Delaware County Commissioner. Denise Martin, a former assistant prosecutor, plans to build on her criminal justice experience if elected, having been practicing law for 18 years and currently holding a position in the Domestic Relations Division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. Brian Lorenz, a member of the Powell City Council and a former mayor, is an urban planner by trade and lists school funding as a priority. The nominee will likely face Democrat Cory Hoffman in November.

Political News and Notes

ODOT, Highway Patrol Target Distracted Drivers

Ohio's first "Distracted Driving Safety Corridor" was announced by ODOT and the State Highway Patrol, with the goal of improving safety while reducing crashes, fatalities, and injuries. The corridor along interstates 76 and 80 near the Trumbull and Mahoning county line is one of the busiest stretches of highway in the state. From the beginning of 2016 to February of 2018, more than 2,700 distracted driving violations were handed out in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties as well as nearly 65,000 distracted driving crashes since 2013. This effort will focus on educating the public on the dangers of distracted driving and enforcing distracted driving violations.

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