

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
March 30, 2018

Around the Square

Senate Democrats Introduce Gun Legislation

In response to the growing number of rallies around the country calling for stricter gun laws, Senate democrats have introduced a slew of gun-safety bills. Among the measures is one to create an extreme risk protection order that would temporarily restrict an individual's access to firearms if he or she poses a danger to themselves or others, a proposal recently offered by Governor Kasich. Other measures include regulating the storage of firearms, granting federally licensed gun dealers the right to refuse to sell or transfer a firearm, and to raise the minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21.

Ohioans Want Later School Start Date

The Ohio Travel Association released data from a new poll in response to Senator Gayle Manning's introduction of SB 34, which would make starting school after Labor Day the default. The poll states that 59% of Ohioans preferred a school start date after Labor Day and 12% prefer starting the last week of August. Teachers and parents were also behind the bill, with 65% of teachers and 61% of parents supporting the measure. The survey also found that voters were concerned that August heat makes it difficult for kids to learn, supported the need for greater uniformity in school start dates across the state, and allowed students to secure summer jobs and internships.

Lawmakers Kill PERS Benefits Bill

House leadership shut down hearings on a bill that would reduce benefits for Ohio's largest public retirement system after running into strong opposition from retirees. HB 413 had a handful of hearings but did not have the votes to pass. Many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were opposed, in addition to the sponsor who was skeptical that the bill would require major changes if it were to move.

House District 47 Race

Barbara Lang, a Monclova Township trustee, is looking to oust incumbent Rep. Derek Merrin in the May Republican primary. Merrin, endorsed by the Lucas County Republican Party, describes his opponent as a liberal tax hiker based on votes she's casted as a trustee as Lang claims that the incumbent is ineffective and votes against too many measures that would positively affect his constituents. The winner of the Primary is expected to face off against Democrat Gary Newman, a retired Lucas County staff attorney.

Political News and Notes

Governor Kasich, Mark Cuban To Talk Workplace Innovation

Governor John Kasich and Texas entrepreneur Mark Cuban will meet Monday to discuss the impact of automation and innovation on the future of work at The Ohio State University. They will participate in a panel discussion moderated by the co-founders of a news website, Axios. The co-founders are staging a "Smarter Faster Revolution" tour to give college students access to news relative to rapid workforce changes, politics, business, and technology.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.