

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
July 6, 2018

Around the Square

Governor Signs Child Support Guidelines

A piece of legislation passed by the Ohio Senate in May and signed into law last week by Governor Kasich updates and improves the state's child support system. The measure revises Ohio's process for calculating child support payments, which has not been updated in 26 years. A delayed implementation will allow county agencies, the judicial system and affected parties time to prepare and train staff on the new calculations.

Political News and Notes

Petitions Submitted for November Ballot

Two different campaign groups submitted petitions this week for constitutional amendments to be included on the November ballot. The first, entitled the Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment, aims to reduce penalties for nonviolent drug crime offenders. Supporters submitted more than double the amount of signatures needed to qualify. The other campaign proposed the Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection Amendment to improve patient care and cap dialysis costs. Each amendment needs 305,591 valid signatures from Ohio registered voters in order to qualify for the November ballot. County boards of election must verify signatures by July 19, then the secretary of state's office will certify the submission.

Lake Erie Shielded from Dredging

Due to bipartisan support from U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown, a proposal protecting Lake Erie from harmful dredging activity was included in a U.S. Senate funding bill earlier this week. The Energy and Water Appropriations Act prohibits toxic dredged material from the Cuyahoga River from being deposited into the lake and surrounding areas without prior approval from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The legislation must still be considered and passed by the U.S. House.

Dettelbach's Policy Plan Addresses Human Trafficking

Former federal prosecutor and candidate for attorney general Steve Dettelbach outlined a nine-point plan to combat human trafficking on Tuesday. The plan involved passing legislation to strengthen penalties for traffickers, expanding access to services for survivors and penalizing businesses and individuals that profit from human trafficking. Dettelbach is working with lawmakers in the Ohio House of Representatives to pass the state's Safe Harbor law and has stated his dedication to fighting against human trafficking for more than 20 years.

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