



## OESCA

### Association and State Budget, Policy & Politics e-Update

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*This report is intended to provide weekly updated information on the association and the budget, policy and political issues of interest to OESCA Members, Educational Service Center Personnel, OESCA Business Partners & Other Interested Parties. Thank you for your ongoing support of Ohio's 56 ESCs and your professional association.*

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*This week's e-update provides the latest news from OESCA as well as the legislative issues of interest currently being tracked by OESCA.*

### Association News

OESCA Members and interested parties can follow OESCA on Twitter. Go to [www.twitter.com/oesca](http://www.twitter.com/oesca).

To get the latest information on updates from OESCA, check us out on the web at [www.oesca.org](http://www.oesca.org). The latest state-level reports, association information and more can be found online.

### Mark Your Calendars

To follow are the upcoming OESCA events of interest to the membership. The Conferences and Workshops reflect those currently scheduled throughout the 2010 calendar year. The committee meetings reflect only those taking place through March 2010.

#### OESCA Conferences/Workshops

- OSBA ~ OESCA Annual ESC Workshop - March 19, 2010
- OESCA Spring Conference & 21st Annual Franklin B. Walter Awards Luncheon - April 13 & 14, 2010 (Executive Committee Meeting: April 12th)
- OESCA Fall Conference - September 14 & 15, 2010 (Executive Committee Meeting: September 13th)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Conference Recognition Program - November 8, 2010

### Legislative e-Update

*The legislative e-Update reflects those bills of interest currently being monitored by OESCA. Bills are in order of bill number (house bills, then senate bills) and not in order of priority. Each bill listing includes the bill title, legislative category and current status.*

*The bills tracked in this week's report reflect only those education and education-related bills that have had hearings or other activity since January 1, 2010.*

- SB102**      **SCHOOL DROPOUT PROGRAMS** (TURNER, N) To require the State Board of Education to recommend performance standards for dropout programs operated by school districts.  
*Current Status:* 2/17/2010 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)  
*Categories:* Education
- HB448**      **SCHOOL BUSES** (CHANDLER, K) To require all school buses purchased, leased, or rented

after January 1, 2014, to transport students to and from school to be equipped with a seat belt assembly for all passengers.

*Current Status:* 2/17/2010 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Infrastructure

*Categories:* Education, Transportation & Infrastructure

**SB224**      **LOTTERY AND TURNPIKE AGREEMENTS** (COUGHLIN, K) To establish the Ohio Promise Scholarship Program, to authorize the Department of Administrative Services to negotiate the sale or lease of the right to manage and operate the State Lottery, to authorize the Department to negotiate a public-private lease agreement for the operation of the Ohio Turnpike, to require the proceeds from the Lottery and Turnpike agreements to be paid into the Ohio Promise Scholarship Program Fund, and to abolish the Ohio Turnpike Commission upon the transfer of control of the Ohio Turnpike to a private entity.

*Current Status:* 2/9/2010 - Senate Finance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, Gaming, State Government

**HB316**      **SEX EDUCATION** (SLESNICK, S) To establish statutory standards for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education in public schools and to designate a section of the Revised Code as the "Act for Our Children's Future."

*Current Status:* 2/9/2010 - House Education, (Second Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, Health Care

**HB260**      **ELECTION LAW** (STEWART, D) To revise the Election Law.

*Current Status:* 2/2/2010 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Campaigns & Elections

**SB8**      **ELECTIONS CLARIFICATIONS** (SEITZ, B) To require absent voter's ballot identification envelope statements to be completed for absent voters that their ballots will be rejected if they do not complete the required statement, to generally prohibit same day voter registration and application for absent voter's ballots.

*Current Status:* 1/20/2010 - House Elections and Ethics, (Third Hearing)

*Categories:* Campaigns & Elections

**SB167**      **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RATINGS** (CATES, G) To revise the performance ratings for school districts and buildings.

*Current Status:* 1/12/2010 - House Education, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education

**SB172**      **GED TEST FEES** (GRENDALL, T) To require the Department of Education to waive fees for certain Ohio residents taking the GED test.

*Current Status:* 1/12/2010 - Senate Finance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, State Government

**HB366**      **SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES** (GARDNER, R) To allow school district boards to exempt their districts from certain spending rules and the requirement to provide all-day kindergarten and to direct the duties of the Ohio School Funding Advisory Council.

*Current Status:* 1/12/2010 - House Education, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education

**HB387**      **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RATINGS** (LEHNER, P) To revise the performance ratings for school districts and buildings.

*Current Status:* 1/12/2010 - House Education, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education

**Other Bills to Monitor:**

House Bills 4, 8, 13, 21, 22, 41, 370; Senate Bills 2, 6, 12, 19, 24, 39, 42, 44, 448

## State Level Reports/Resources

For the latest information on the School Funding Advisory Council and its work, including the study of ESCs and the regional delivery system, visit:

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/SFAC/ODESFAC.aspx?page=673>

## Capital Square in Review

### BALLOT ISSUES

- Former Ohio House Speaker Jo Ann Davidson will join former Democratic National Committee chairman and President Clinton campaign director David Wilhelm as co-chairs of the Third Frontier Issue 1 campaign, otherwise known as United for Jobs and Ohio's Future.

### BUDGET

- Gov. Ted Strickland released information Thursday demonstrating that the austerity executive order he issued has been effective in reducing state agency, board and commission spending by \$366 million on contracts, maintenance and equipment for the first six months of FY10 compared to the same period in FY09. The results were outlined in a quarterly report submitted to the governor by Office of Budget and Management Director (OBM) Pari Sabety and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Director Hugh Quill.

### EDUCATION

- A presentation to the State Board of Education on gifted and special needs students who make up 16 percent and 13 percent of the student population, respectively spurred passionate debate, with members channeling parents concerns about the efficacy of programs for special needs students and a perceived failure to actually serve students identified as gifted.
- Columbus City Schools was awarded a \$1.25 million grant by the National Education Association Foundation to implement a five-year student-achievement plan. Columbus was one of three districts nationally to get a grant.
- The enrollment period for the Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) for the 2010-11 school is now underway, Chad L. Aldis, executive director of School Choice Ohio, said in a release. It runs through April 16. According to Aldis, more than 88,000 children in 205 underperforming

public schools across Ohio are eligible to receive school vouchers to attend private schools next year.

## 2010 ELECTIONS

- Attorney General Richard Cordray certified the petition summary for a proposed constitutional amendment campaign to install anti-cruelty standards at the new Livestock Care Standards Board. The petition now must go to the Ohio Ballot Board, which will determine if the proposal represents one amendment or needs to be split into multiple amendments.
- Former U.S. Rep. Rob Portman out raised all other candidates for the U.S. Senate seat from Ohio, reporting \$6 million on hand through Dec. 31, the end of the last filing period. His primary opponent, auto dealer Tom Ganley, had \$1.6 million. On the Democrats side, Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher had \$1.8 million, while Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner had \$60,859.
- Manfred Schreyer, a German-born restaurateur from Eaton, said he will challenge U.S. House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-West Chester) in the Republican primary.
- LetOhioVote.org filed a second round of 177,000 signatures after falling 27,000 signatures short of the 325,000-signature threshold needed to gain a spot on the November ballot for its planned referendum on Gov. Ted Stricklands slots-at-racetracks plan.
- Hardin County attorney Steve Christopher is planning to challenge former U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine for the Republican nomination for attorney general, according to *The Dayton Daily News*.
- The Ohio Ballot Board approved official ballot language for renewal of the Third Frontier and relocation of the Columbus casino. The board will meet again next week to approve formal arguments for and against the two proposed constitutional amendments.
- A Rasmussen Reports poll shows John Kasich leading 47-41 in his bid to unseat Gov. Ted Strickland. Strickland posted a 46-53 approval-disapproval rating in the poll.
- Former U.S. Sen. Mike DeWines campaign for attorney general released results of a poll by Republican pollster Neil Newhouse showing DeWine leading incumbent Attorney General Richard Cordray 50 percent to 32 percent.
- Clerk of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Maryellen O'Shaughnessy officially kicked off her bid for secretary of state Wednesday at the Ohio Democratic Party headquarters in Columbus, pledging to work towards greater participation in elections and improving relations between the office and Ohio businesses. O'Shaughnessy will take the place of Rep. Jennifer Garrison (D-Marietta) as the party's standard-bearer.
- Two former state legislators vying for a state Senate seat have combined forces to take down the current occupant of the seat. Former Reps. Tom Brinkman and Michelle Schneider, both Cincinnati Republicans, had been vying for the 7<sup>th</sup> District Senate seat previously held by the late Bob Schuler and now held by Sen. Shannon Jones (R-Springboro). With his eye now on the Hamilton County auditor position, Brinkman endorsed Schneider Thursday. Schneider also signed an anti-tax pledge.
- Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern endorsed Ben Kessler for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District seat.

- The Ohio Education Association endorsed Ted Strickland for governor; Maryellen O'Shaughnessy for secretary of state; Kevin Boyce for treasurer; and David Pepper for auditor.

## **ELECTIONS**

- The 10<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal of two political action committees hit with millions in fines by the Ohio Elections Commission for an improper transfer of funds, with the judges ruling the group sued the wrong entity. The All Children Matter PACs in Ohio and Virginia had sued Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, but should have sued the elections commission, the court said.

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

- The national unemployment rate dipped below 10 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, while also releasing information that the nation has lost 8.4 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007.
- According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the composite index of leading indicators for Ohio increased 0.2 percent to 89.3 in December. The indicator suggests that employment, on a seasonally adjusted basis, will increase at a slow pace. The initial claims for unemployment insurance and the average workweek of production workers in manufacturing increased, while the valuation of permits for new housing construction decreased in December. Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Ohio decreased to 5,086,900 jobs in December on a seasonally adjusted basis. The decrease was in the service-producing sector.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

- House Democrats said they would begin taking resumes and applications of those hoping to replace Rep. Tyrone Yates (D-Cincinnati), who was appointed to Hamilton County Municipal Court by Gov. Ted Strickland.
- The Controlling Board objected to requests from Youngstown State University for money to buy property adjacent to its campus, with board members raising concerns the property was overpriced.
- Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland) shuffled committee membership. On Finance and Financial Institutions, he removed Sens. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Mark Wagoner (R-Toledo) and appointed Sens. Karen Gillmor (R-Tiffin) and Chris Widener (R-Springfield). On Judiciary-Civil Justice, he removed Wagoner and appointed Sen. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton). On State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, he removed Wagoner and appointed Sen. Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls).
- Rep. Ron Gerberry (D-Austintown) introduced HB433, which would create an Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group to monitor and review the development of energy efficiency and peak demand reduction programs in Ohio.
- Facing mounting criticism, House Speaker Armond Budish (D-Beachwood) changed his mind Wednesday and will allow an Ohio teen to be recognized on the House floor for winning a National Right to Life oratory contest. Budish had signed the resolution honoring 19-year-old but refused a request from the resolution's sponsor, Rep. John Adams (R-Sidney), to recognize her on the floor, citing the political nature of Right to Life. The Ohio chapter and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio said that the rejection of the ceremony gave the impression that Budish was trying to silence views other than his own.

## PEOPLE

- Rep. Bob Hagan (D-Youngstown) suffered a concussion and an injured rib and needed 11 stitches after he was punched in the face at a Youngstown restaurant, *The Vindicator* reported.
- Ohio State University hired Geoffrey S. Chatas, recently a manager director at JP Morgan Asset Management, as chief financial officer at a salary of \$625,000/year to replace the retiring William Shkurti who earns \$341,000/year.
- Cleveland's MetroHealth System hired John Corlett, a former Ohio Medicaid director, as vice president for government relations and community affairs.
- Attorney Luther Liggett Jr. joined the firm of Luper Neidenthal & Logan.
- The Ohio Ethics Commission re-elected Lima attorney Ben Rose as chair and Capital University Law School Associate Dean Shirley Mays, vice chair. Rose, who chaired the commission in 2009, has been a member since 2006.

## TAXATION

- A coalition of health groups including the American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said Wednesday that lawmakers should explore a hike in the tobacco tax to solve budget woes pointing to a poll they commissioned showing support among Ohio voters. The poll found 64 percent of Ohioans support increasing the cigarette tax, favored overwhelmingly to other means of balancing the state budget such as across-the-board cuts to state services, increasing the sales tax, increasing the income tax, and cutting funding for health care programs. They said a \$1 increase in the tax would generate \$299.7 million in additional revenues for the state.
- The next day a business coalition including the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants; the Ohio Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association; the Ohio Grocers Association; the Ohio Association of Convenience Stores; and the Ohio Petroleum Council came out against the idea of increasing the tobacco tax, saying it will hurt Ohio families.

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**Questions?**

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