



The Construction Conversation

Ohio's Legislative, Administrative, and Judicial Two-Way Newsletter

August 2025

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Legislative: 2026 Top of the Ticket Elections

Statehouse Elections in November 2026 will ask Ohio voters to choose the full slate of Statewide Officeholders, including Governor and United States Senator at the top of the ticket. (Cont'd p. 2.)

Legislative: 2026 Statehouse Candidates

In November 2026, voters will select nominees for Attorney General, Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, U.S. Representatives (Congress), and Ohio State Representatives, as well as half of the Ohio Senate. The incumbent state officeholders all are term-limited and ineligible to run again. (Cont'd p. 2).

Administrative: OCILB Discipline

The Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board's three specialty trades sections met in August, to approve test-taking, license issuance, and disciplinary measures, while the Administrative Section ratified the Executive Secretary's issuance of 3,036 licenses in April, May, and June. (Cont'd p. 3).

Legislative: Veto Override

The Republican majority added three Property Tax amendments in the recently passed Budget Bill. Governor DeWine vetoed those three provisions as part of 67 line item vetoes, after which the House overrode one veto to keep the provision law without the Governor's signature. Such legislation is viewed as taking away the local vote for school funding. (Cont'd p. 3).

Administrative: Infrastructure Rankings

The American Society of Civil Engineers graded Ohio's roads, bridges, drinking water, air, and rail systems with an overall "C", documenting the internal costs of ignoring improvements. (Cont'd p. 4).

Administrative: Transportation Funding

The Ohio Departments of Development and Transportation announced funding for local roads and highway design across Ohio. (Cont'd p. 4).

Administrative: Project Funding

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, and Ohio Tax Credit Authority approved funding for projects across the State. (Cont'd p. 4).

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Legislative: 2026 Top of the Ticket Elections (Cont'd)

Former California House Speaker Jesse Unruh popularized the saying, “Money is the mother’s milk of politics.” In that regard, Ohio Republican financial assets greatly outpace Democrats’ resources.

While the Primary Election to select Party nominees is not until May, 2026, it is apparent that Republicans will back Vivek Ramaswamy for Governor. Born in 1985 in Cincinnati, Ohio, he currently resides in Columbus. A Hindu by religion, he graduated undergraduate from Harvard, and in law from Yale, but has not practiced as a lawyer.

Ramaswamy is a financial entrepreneur focused on biotechnology. His estimated wealth is a billion dollars.

Politically, Ramaswamy has never held an appointed or elected office. On July 31, 2025, his gubernatorial campaign reported a balance of \$7.4 million.

Dr. Amy Acton has declared for the Democrats as a candidate for Governor. She previously served as Ohio Health Director during COVID in the Republican administration of Governor Mike DeWine. Her campaign reported a balance of \$809,000.00 on July 31, 2025. From Youngstown, she has never served in elective office.

Former Congressman Tim Ryan also from Youngstown is considering a run for Governor for the Democrats.

Incumbent U.S. Senator Jon Husted, Republican, previously served as Ohio House Speaker and Secretary of State before his election as Lieutenant Governor.

Governor DeWine appointed Husted to the Senate vacancy left by Vice President J.D. Vance. In July, 2025, his campaign reported a balance of \$2.6 million in campaign funds. A recent poll gave Husted the edge over his opponent by 6 percent.

Former U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown also served as Ohio Secretary of State, Congressman, and State Representative from Mansfield. He will run as the Democrat against Senator Husted. While Brown reports a balance of only \$309,000.00, over the last five years as the incumbent Senator, he raised \$103 million according to Federal Election Commission records.

Ohio’s U.S. Senate race is viewed as key to control of the upper chamber in 2027.

Legislative: 2026 Statehouse Candidates (Cont'd)

Two of Ohio’s seven Supreme Court seats are up for election. Court of Appeals Ron Lewis (R, Xenia) will run against incumbent Jennifer Brunner (D, Columbus), while the second seat candidates are undetermined. Party affiliation will appear on the ballot for these judicial races for the first time.

For Attorney General, current Auditor Keith Faber (R, Celina) will face former State Representative Elliot Forhan (D, Cleveland). In July, 2025, Faber reported over \$2 million on hand.

For Auditor, current Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R, Akron) may face former State Representative Chris Redfern (D, Catawba Island). In July 2025, LaRose reported \$508,000.00 on hand.

For Treasurer, current state Senator Kristina Roegner (R, Hudson) is opposed by

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two former Republican legislators in the primary, with no Democrat declaring for the seat at this time. In July 2025, Roegner reported a net \$500,000.00 on hand.

For Secretary of State, current Treasurer Robert Sprague (R, Findlay) will face current House Minority Member Dr. Allison Russo (D, Upper Arlington). In July 2025, Sprague reported \$2.4 million on hand.

Republicans currently hold a veto-proof majority in both the Senate and House. Senate Republicans reported \$2.1 million, while Senate Democrats reported \$209,000.00. House Republicans reported \$1.95 million, while House Democrats reported \$65,000.00.

Administrative: OCILB Discipline **(Cont'd)**

The HVAC – Refrigeration Section denied two contractors' requests to reactivate their HVAC Licenses, revoked an HVAC License for allowing unlicensed contractors to perform work under the license, and issued a Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing to a contractor for performing work as an unlicensed HVAC and Refrigeration Contractor.

The Plumbing – Hydronics Section denied two contractors' request for reinstatement, issued Notices of Opportunity for a Hearing to three contractors for performing work as an unlicensed contractor, for working with a license in escrow, and for allowing an unlicensed person to use his license. The Section also revoked a contractor's license for pulling permits for nine different locations for unlicensed companies to work. Finally, The Section rejected a Hearing Officer's

Findings and Recommendations and instead revoked a contractor's plumbing license.

The Electrical Section fined an individual \$1,000.00 for performing unlicensed electrical work; issued Notices of Opportunity for a Hearing to contractors who advertised or performed work without a license, or allowed an unlicensed company to work under his license; and denied a contractor's request to reinstate his license.

All such detail is public information, available by contacting Carol Ross, OCILB Executive Secretary, 614-644-3493, Carol.Ross@com.ohio.gov.

Legislative: Veto Override (Cont'd)

From the Governor's Message, Vetoed Item #55 would give "county budget commissions the authority to unilaterally reduce a levy passed by voters for a school district or other taxing authority under certain circumstances. This breaches the approval of such millage by the voters."

Vetoed Item #65 "requires that emergency and substitute tax levies, incremental growth levies, conversion levies, and the property tax portion of combined income tax and property tax levies be included in the 20-mill floor calculation for school funding purposes." This caps the ability to locally vote any increase.

Vetoed Item #66 "eliminates the authority for political subdivisions to levy replacement property tax levies and the authority for school districts to levy fixed-sum emergency, substitute emergency levies, and combined school district income tax and fixed-sum property tax levies."

On July 21, 2025, the House Republican Caucus voted to override the

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veto on Item #66. Representative Scott Oelslager (R, Canton) was the sole dissenting Republican. The override now awaits Senate consideration, likely at session scheduled for end of September.

To try to reach consensus, the Governor appointed former Senator Bill Seitz (R, Cincinnati) and former Congressman Pat Tiberi (R, Columbus) to serve as a Property Tax Study Group.

Proponents for Property Tax Reform are discussing a Constitutional amendment on the ballot, rather than wait for the legislature to work the issues out.

Administrative: Infrastructure Rankings

The ACSE urged an increase state investment in infrastructure with long-term funding. Insuring safety, such as lead remediation of water supplies, and resilience to climate-change threats is urged.

For more information see:

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>

Administrative: Transportation Funding (Cont'd)

The Roadwork Development Grant program released \$6.3 million to six communities for roadway construction and improvements.

ODOT received Ohio Controlling Board approval of 55 consulting engineer firms totaling \$108.2 million for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

Administrative: Project Funding (Cont'd)

ODNR received Controlling Board approval of \$12 million for CSR Services to

provide construction manager at risk services to plug abandoned and orphaned wells across Ohio.

The Air Quality Authority approved up to \$3.8 million for Emerge Commerce Center in Xenia (Greene County) for energy-saving improvements including heating and cooling, roofing, and solar generation.

The Ohio Tax Credit Authority approved state income tax rebates for four projects which will create 233 jobs, including \$290,000.00 for Buckeye Construction & Restoration, Ltd. in Wellston for its corporate headquarters expansion.

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Join us in

The Construction Conversation Call-In

on

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

3:30 pm

Luther L Liggett is inviting you to a
scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Construction Conversation

Time: Sep 17, 2025 03:30 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85137494689?pwd=SzWlnAlll89tShmYtVQhQdtibo8Jvp.1>

Meeting ID: 851 3749 4689

Passcode: 856351

646 931 3860 US

929 205 6099 US

301 715 8592 US

