

# NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NAIOP OF OHIO

**NAIOP Weekly Legislative Report**  
**Prepared by: Law Offices of Matthew G. Kallner**  
**Report created on June 13, 2011**

## Supported Bills

- HB10 REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SITE (SEARS, B)** To authorize refundable tax credits for the completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of such sites to productive use, and to exempt persons through 2017 who have issued covenants not to sue under the Voluntary Action Program from certain fees and penalties for one year after the issuance of such a covenant.
- Current Status:* 3/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)  
2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
1/11/2011 - Introduced
- HB17 TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED (BAKER, N)** To authorize a \$2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that hires and employs a previously unemployed individual.
- Current Status:* 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
*All Bill Status:* 1/11/2011 - Introduced
- HB18 TAX CREDIT - EXPANDING BUSINESSES (BAKER, N)** To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for a business that increases payroll and expands into a vacant facility.
- Current Status:* 2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)  
2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
1/11/2011 - Introduced

## Oppose

- HB50 TYPE-II ANNEXATION (SNITCHLER T)** To require that a political subdivision owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation.
- Current Status:* 6/14/2011 - House Local Government, (Fifth Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 5/24/2011 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Local

Government, (Fourth Hearing)  
3/1/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
2/22/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
2/15/2011 - House Local Government, (First Hearing)  
2/1/2011 - Referred to Committee House Local Government  
1/26/2011 - Introduced

### Monitoring

- HB134**     **CAPITAL GAINS INVESTMENTS** (SCHURING K) To reduce the income tax rate on capital gains reinvested in Ohio-based investments.  
*Current Status:* 6/1/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 5/11/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
3/30/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
3/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
3/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
3/2/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
3/1/2011 - Introduced
- HB198**     **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (COLEY II W) To permit property tax complaints to be initiated only by the property owner.  
*Current Status:* 5/12/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Second Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 5/4/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (First Hearing)  
4/12/2011 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development  
4/12/2011 - Introduced
- SB89**     **LABOR REQUIREMENTS** (JORDAN K) To prohibit state agencies from requiring or prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works and prohibit the appropriations of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require or prohibit certain labor.  
*Current Status:* 3/8/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review  
*All Bill Status:* 2/23/2011 - Introduced
- SB115**     **PROPERTY SALE GAINS** (KEARNEY E) To exempt from income taxation any gains from the sale of Ohio property used in a trade or business and held for at least two years.  
*Current Status:* 3/24/2011 - Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, (First Hearing)  
*All Bill Status:* 3/15/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development  
3/9/2011 - Introduced

### Bills Introduced Since 6/6/2011

- HB252**     **IMMIGRATION STATUS-CONVICTED FELON** (YOUNG R) To require a prosecuting attorney to ask the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States to verify or ascertain the immigration status of an offender who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony, to require a prosecuting attorney if the INS informs the prosecutor that

the offender is an illegal alien to notify the alleged felon's employer, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and the Secretary of State, to make illegal aliens ineligible for certain state public benefits, and to prohibit the Registrar of Motor Vehicles from issuing a driver's license to an alleged felon with respect to whom a prosecuting attorney has given the Registrar the above notice and require the Registrar to cancel any driver's licenses issued to such an alleged felon.

- HB253**     **EQUALITY IN PARENTAL RIGHTS** (WEDDINGTON C, YOUNG R) To ensure that court orders and decrees that allocate parental rights and responsibilities with respect to the care of and access to children provide for equality between the parents except where clear and convincing evidence shows that equal legal and physical access would be harmful to the children.
- HB254**     **RESTART IDLE FACILITY** (GENTILE L) To authorize an income tax withholding credit for a manufacturer that expands production or that restarts production at an idle facility.
- HB255**     **SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS** (GONZALES A) To require school districts and community schools to establish school breakfast programs in academic emergency buildings and to make other changes regarding school breakfast programs.
- HB256**     **CHANGE REQUIREMENTS-CONCEALED CARRY** (ADAMS J) To authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun without obtaining a license to the same extent as if the person had obtained such a license, except on liquor permit premises, if the person qualifies for a concealed carry license and is legally permitted to purchase a handgun; to remove the requirements that a concealed carry licensee must be carrying the license in order to carry a concealed handgun must inform approaching law enforcement officers that the person has a license and is carrying the handgun when the person is carrying a concealed handgun, and must submit a new or renewed competency certification when renewing the license; to eliminate as premises in which a concealed carry licensee may not carry a concealed handgun public or private institutions of higher education, places of worship, day-care centers and homes, government buildings other than schools, courthouses, law enforcement offices, and correctional facilities; to replace the prohibitions that apply only to a concealed carry licenses who is carrying a handgun in a motor vehicle with a prohibition against a licensee who is in a motor vehicle that is stopped by a law enforcement officer knowingly menacing or threatening an officer with a loaded handgun or knowingly menacing or threatening an officer with a loaded handgun or knowingly pointing a loaded handgun at an officer; to remove the "in plain sight or secure encasement" criterion that a concealed carry licensee must satisfy to legally possess a handgun in a motor vehicle; and to require a sheriff who issues a renewed concealed carry license to return the expired license to the licensee or destroy it.
- HCR20**     **DICK SCHAFRATH-PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME** (GOYAL J, GARDNER R) To urge the selection committee of the Professional Hall of Fame to choose Dick Schafrath for induction into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.
- HCR21**     **PENSION BENEFITS-RETIRED STEELWORKERS** (SLESNICK S, RAMOS D) To declare the state of Ohio's support of its steelworkers in urging the President and the Congress of the United States to ensure that the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation is fully funded and properly administered to pay pension benefits to retired steelworkers and their spouses.
- HR116**     **HR 2070** (BUBP D) To urge Congress to enact HR 2070 requiring the installation in the area of the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the nation on June 6, 1944,
- SB181**     **EDUCATION/PRESERVATION OF STATE HISTORY** (WAGONER M) To implement recommendations of the Ohio Legislative Commission on the Education and Preservation of State History.
- SB182**     **BREAST RECONSTRUCTION INFORMATION HOSPITAL** (TAVARES C) To require a hospital to provide information regarding breast reconstruction to a patient before obtaining the patients consent for a mastectomy, lymph node dissection, or lumpectomy.
- SB183**     **COMMUNITY SCHOOL CLOSURE EXEMPTION** (TAVARES C) To exempt from closure certain community schools that enroll students receiving behavioral health services.

Confidential

- SB184**      **COMMUNITY SERVICE TAX CREDITS** (TAVARES C) To authorize nonrefundable tax credits for authorized donations to projects of nonprofit entities and municipal agencies providing community services.
- SB185**      **NO PERIOD OF LIMITATION FOR RAPE** (TURNER N) To provide that there is no period of limitation for the prosecution of an offense of rape or sexual battery.
- SB186**      **WITHDRAWALS OF LAKE ERIE WATERS** (SKINDELL M) To establish a program for the regulation of withdrawals and consumptive uses of waters from the Lake Erie basin.
- SCR13**      **CONTRACEPTIVE DRUGS INCLUDE HEALTH INSURANCE** (TAVARES C) To urge the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to include all federally approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices in the list of women's preventive health services that must be covered by new health insurance plans.

## Week in Review

Friday, June 10, 2011

### AGING

Gov. John Kasich and Aging Director Bonnie Kantor-Burman talked about patient-centered care and home-care provisions in the budget proposals during a speech to the Alzheimer's Association at the Statehouse.

### AGRICULTURE

State agencies say they are working with the federal government to react to a multi-state Salmonella outbreak tied to chicks and ducklings sourced from an Ohio hatchery and sold at agricultural supply stores. In Ohio, eight people were reported sickened by the outbreak.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Mike DeWine said that Anheuser-Busch has agreed to lower the alcohol content in its malt beverage, Tilt, from 12 percent to no more than 8 percent by volume as the result of an investigation by 13 attorneys general.

### BUDGET

A day before the Senate Finance Committee voted out its final version of the proposed FY12-13 budget, revenue figures for May were released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). And while the month shows revenues dropping off slightly from the estimates, OBM spokesman Dave Pagnard told *Hannah News* that was largely a function of timing, with a portion of the Domestic Insurance revenues posting June 1 so that they don't appear on the preliminary report issued Monday. That shortfall alone was \$86.6 million for the month, with May's revenues specifically below estimates by \$3.8 million.

### FY12-13 BUDGET

The Senate passed its version of the budget Wednesday following hours of debate and dozens of failed amendments from Democrats, and the House soon after voted not to concur with Senate changes, setting up a conference committee. Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond) and House Speaker Bill Batchelder (R-Medina) expressed no doubt they can work through differences by the June 30 deadline. Gov. John Kasich called the Senate vote "historic" and "exciting."

Prior to Wednesday's Senate budget vote, the Senate Finance Committee adopted an omnibus amendment, then made three final changes, two sought by Democrats, while batting down dozens of

other proposed amendments from the minority. Among the many omnibus changes are restrictions on abortions in hospitals and employee health plans funded by public money, a requirement for the Department of Administrative Services to study agency consolidation, and changes to construction reform language. The accepted Democratic amendments dealt with funding for the Office of Aviation and establishing formaldehyde as a controlled substance. The final change, a 5-percent pay cut for legislators, was sought by Sen. Keith Faber (R-Celina). It would apply to those appointed to this General Assembly after July 1 and, while it can't apply to sitting legislators, he urged members to voluntarily abide by the cut this term as part of a "shared sacrifice" message to Ohioans.

Think tank Innovation Ohio said Ohio Republicans are inflating the scope of the budget deficit as an excuse to pursue draconian policies, saying above-average revenue growth and additional one-time money in the proposed FY12-13 budget make the shortfall closer to \$5 billion than \$8 billion.

Ohio's Campaign for Jobs, a group of business interests, called for restoration of budget items proposed by Gov. John Kasich, including teacher evaluations and merit pay and a higher dollar threshold for when prevailing wage needs to be paid on public construction projects.

## **BUSINESS**

The Ohio Business Development Coalition reports that Ohio ranks fifth in the nation with 27 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the state -- a number that is up by four from 2010. They include Cardinal Health, Kroger, Procter & Gamble, Macy's, Nationwide, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Progressive, American Electric Power, Eaton, FirstEnergy, Parker Hannifin, Limited Brands, Sherwin-Williams, Fifth Third Bancorp, Owens-Illinois, Dana Holding, AK Steel Holding, TravelCenters of America, KeyCorp, Lubrizol, Momentive Specialty Chemicals, Owens Corning, Big Lots, Western & Southern Financial Group, Cliffs Natural Resources, J.M. Smucker, and American Financial Group.

## **DEATH PENALTY**

Gov. John Kasich commuted the death sentence of Shawn Hawkins to life in prison without parole Wednesday, saying details of Hawkin's role in the murder of two teenagers 22 years ago are "frustratingly unclear."

## **EDUCATION**

Bob Sommers, director of Gov. John Kasich's Office of 21st Century Education, was one of six candidates for state superintendent approved for a second round of interviews with the State Board of Education. Others are former Illinois state superintendent Robert Schiller; Larry Sullivan of Educational Support Services in Eugene School District 4J, OR; Superintendent Stacia Smith of Clark County Educational Service Center; Superintendent Steve Dackin of Reynoldsburg City Schools; and Superintendent Art Stellar of Burke County Public Schools in Morgantown, NC.

The State Board of Education approved a dramatic restructuring of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Monday in anticipation of pending budget cuts and the new state superintendent of public instruction. Interim state Superintendent Stan Heffner told board members that \$13.5 million in proposed budget cuts over the next biennium would mean the department's 597-person staff -- already reduced from a high of 680 employees in 2007 -- would shrink further still.

It was also announced that Deputy Superintendent Marilyn Troyer, who was passed over for the interim state superintendent post in favor of Heffner, is leaving the department effective June 17, after which she will direct teacher education programs at Ashland University. Assistant Superintendent Michael Sawyers, who led Ohio's compliance efforts for RttT, will take over as interim deputy superintendent.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Ohio Elections Commission asked the attorney general to pursue full collection of the \$5 million-plus fine it levied on two PACs affiliated with school-choice group All Children Matter, eschewing an offer in March from All Children Matter's attorneys to resolve the case.

Secretary of State Jon Husted said Friday that \$65,000 in federal grants from the Help America Vote Act will go to four programs designed to improve accessibility to and participation in the election process by voters with disabilities. Grant recipients include Havar Inc., Deaf Services Centers, VoiceCorps and People First of Ohio.

## **ELECTIONS 2012**

In an expected move, former Ohio Sen. Kevin Coughlin confirmed his campaign for the U.S. Senate in 2012 with a video message posted on his campaign website. Coughlin, a Cuyahoga Falls Republican, had filed paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission in April that would allow him to raise money for a bid. Since then, he has announced the signing of pledges to not raise taxes, to repeal the federal estate tax and to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission on Monday, claiming that Treasurer Josh Mandel is misusing his office for campaign purposes. Mandel, who has formed a committee to raise money for a possible U.S. Senate bid in 2012 but has not made a run official yet, is accused of having transferred resources from his state campaign to his federal campaign at no cost, including the domain name of his website and the state campaign email list. The complaint also accuses Mandel of taking information issued by the state treasurer's office and using it on his campaign website.

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

The national unemployment rate rose slightly in May to 9.1 percent, up from 9 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said Friday. Non-farm payroll employment only added 54,000 jobs nationally.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) release a report, "Climate Change and Your Health: Rising Temperatures, Worsening Ozone Pollution," which said unchecked global warming could threaten public health and increase health costs by exacerbating ground-level ozone.

Columbus will be putting four hydraulic launch assist refuse side loader trucks into service by July 1 to replace older side loader vehicles, making the city the first in Ohio to own and operate a type of hybrid refuse truck.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) said Monday it is planning to study water quality in three watersheds this year: Deer Creek watershed, Lower Scioto River watershed and the Tenmile Creek-Ottawa River watershed.

## **FEDERAL**

The American Federation of Government Employees and its National Veterans' Affairs Council urged the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (VA) to support legislation providing full bargaining rights on compensation for medical professionals at the VA, an approach supported by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

President Barack Obama toured the Chrysler Group Toledo Supplier Park Friday to praise the auto bailout in the wake of Chrysler's repayment of government loans. He said, however, there is long way to go not just for the auto industry, but for the economy as well.

## **GAMING**

Attorney General Mike DeWine urged the House State Government and Elections Committee to approve regulation of sweepstakes game machines along the framework he developed with Reps. Nan Baker (R-Westlake) and Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) in HB195. While the bill establishes a process for such machines to be licensed, DeWine said most machines wouldn't pass testing and would be deemed illegal.

The former chairman of Nevada's Gaming Control Board and the executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission are among 16 people whose resumes are under consideration by the Ohio Casino Control Commission for its executive director position.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

House Republicans on Tuesday picked Margaret Conditt, a retiree from Procter & Gamble, to replace Rep. Bill Coley (R-West Chester), who was appointed to replace Sen. Gary Cates (R-West Chester).

A crowd packed the Statehouse Atrium on Tuesday to see former Gov. Ted Strickland -- in the flesh and as depicted in his new official portrait by Toledo artist Leslie Adams. Strickland said he's not ruled in or out "anything specific in the future."

Sen. Karen Gillmor is one of three names Gov. John Kasich will choose from to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Ohio Industrial Commission. Right away, Democrats suggested she is another Republican who would not be re-elected in 2012 because of her vote on collective bargaining legislation (SB5).

The House on Tuesday approved three bills: HB138 (Gerberry), establishing training requirements for humane agents; HB158 (Stebelton-Okey), which restricts governments' abilities to regulate amateur radio antennae below a certain height; and SB22 (Schaffer), which attempts to help local governments with federal mandates for sewer upgrades.

The Senate on Tuesday concurred with House amendments to SB71 (Manning), dealing with tax exemptions for municipal baseball stadiums, while passing two other bills: HB22 (Bubp), which addresses penalties for livestock running at large; and HB5 (Huffman), which calls for court costs and fees to be consolidated into one list in the Revised Code.

The House on Wednesday passed HB188, Speaker Bill Batchelder's (R-Medina) proposal to institute a commission to review modernizing the Ohio Constitution, following committee passage in the House State Government and Elections Committee on Tuesday. The House unanimously passed HB163 (Balderson), which updates mining laws, while splitting 65-28 on HCR12 (Thompson), which asks the Obama administration to reconsider proposals to increase taxes on fossil fuel production.

Besides approved the proposed FY12-13 budget bill, HB153 (Amstutz), on a party-line 23-10 vote on Wednesday, the Senate also approved unanimously both HB65 (Combs), a highway naming bill honoring many Ohioans killed in action and HB128 (Carey-Peterson) which addresses ambulance staffing requirements.

In other legislative action, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reported out HB229, Rep. Jim Buchy's (R-Greenville) omnibus agriculture bill; and HR97 (Sears), which urges approval of an Alberta-to-Oklahoma pipeline; the House Education Committee reported out HB116 (Barnes), which addresses school bullying; and HB157, which addresses teacher professional development on dyslexia; the House Veterans Affairs Committee reported out HCR18, which designates the Honor and Remember Flag as Ohio's emblem for fallen soldiers; the House Ways and Means Committee reported out HB167, which addresses tax breaks on federal Pell grants; the Senate Highways and Transportation committee reported out HB65, a highway naming bill that was amended in committee to include other naming bills, including SB95, SB97, SB104, SB156, SB158 and HB236; and HB128, which addresses ambulance staffing.

## **GOVERNOR**

Gov. John Kasich has appointed Dayton attorney Dennis Adkins to the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court bench, filling a vacancy left after Judge Michael T. Hall was elected in November to the Second District Court of Appeals and began serving a six-year term on Feb. 10. Adkins took office Monday, June 6 and must run in the November 2012 general election to serve out the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends June 30, 2015.

Gov. John Kasich appointed J.T. Stelzer to Williams County Common Plea Court and Amy C. Rosebrook to the Napoleon Municipal Court.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Ohio Board of Regents received an update on the progress of adult and career education, a key piece of the state's economic development strategy and the newest addition to the University System of Ohio, from representatives of Ohio's "Shifting Gears" initiative. They said coordinating basic and workforce education has been harder than hoped but the state will be rolling out regional consortia that integrate adult basic and literacy education (ABLE), adult workforce education (AWE), and local two-year colleges with the goal of improving student transfers between educational institutions.

Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) announced that Mary E. Kerr will become the new dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, effective July 18. She comes to Case Western Reserve after five and a half years as deputy director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Ohio State University (OSU) recently announced two appointments: Jay D. Kasey, chief operating officer for the Ohio State University Health System, as the university's new senior vice president for administration and planning, and David G. Horn, professor of comparative studies, as secretary of the Ohio State University Board of Trustees.

Twenty-eight residence hall buildings on the campus of Kent State University will receive energy efficiency and conservation upgrades thanks to \$20 million in low-interest financing authorized by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its May meeting. The halls provide housing, dining and other support activities and services for more than 6,400 honors and undergraduate students.

Youngstown State University (YSU) said it has hired Jack Fahey as vice president of student affairs. He had been interim vice president since July 2010 and has worked in multiple jobs within the university's Division of Student Affairs for the past 31 years.

Instead of feeling stressed by the money they owe, many young adults actually feel empowered by their credit card and education debts, according to a new nationwide study conducted by Ohio State University (OSU).

Researchers found that the more credit card and college loan debt held by young adults aged 18 to 27, the higher their self-esteem and the more they felt like they were in control of their lives. The effect was strongest among those in the lowest economic class.

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College named Diane Hopper as director of development.

## **HOUSING**

Northeast Ohio will receive nearly \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help public housing residents increase their economic independence. The funding will also link the elderly and disabled to independent living programs. Announced by HUD Thursday, Ohio's grants are part of \$31 million in total "self-sufficiency" awards to 40 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands.

## **JUDICIAL**

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a 1973 child-rape law is unconstitutional in cases where both parties are under age 13. Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger wrote for the unanimous court that, in such cases, both parties could be considered victim and perpetrator.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled Thursday that most-favored-nation clauses granting large commercial customers the same utility rate as competitors extend not only to cost and conditions of service but also to the duration of the contract. The ruling will mean \$13 million in electric bill savings for Sunoco from its electric provider, Toledo Edison.

## **LIBRARIES**

The State Library of Ohio Board has awarded Libraries Connect Ohio a \$2.8 million federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to provide a comprehensive collection of electronic databases in the coming fiscal year for the Ohio Web Library, an online resource available to all Ohioans. The core collection of electronic databases includes information and resources such as full-text magazines and journals, reference materials, newspapers, art, test preparation materials, online courses, and career exploration and job search tools.

## **PEOPLE**

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal will headline the Ohio Republican Party's annual state dinner July 22 in Cleveland.

Cleveland schools hired its chief academic officer, Eric Gordon, to replace former CEO Eugene Sanders.

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) has landed on *Governing* magazine's list of "GOP Legislators to Watch." The list was compiled using the magazine's network of sources in the states as well as national experts on state legislators. The magazine sought to feature "politicians with a long future, particularly with the possibility of winning higher office at the state or federal level."

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction said it has scheduled a parole board hearing on July 20 for Kelly Williams-Bolar, whose conviction for falsification Gov. John Kasich asked the board to review. Williams-Bolar, of Akron, was convicted on two felony counts of tampering with records in connection with her enrolling her daughters in the Copley-Fairlawn school district, in which they did not live.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) announced Thursday it will be expanding its recycling program to include SmartRecycle's "Phones 4 Food" to recycle electronic devices and printer cartridges in an effort to set a good example at its Central Office location. Proceeds will be donated to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank's Operation Feed.

## **UTILITIES**

The Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel praised the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for ruling that FirstEnergy transmission company American Transmission Systems Inc. can't charge customers for \$135 million in costs related to its decision to switch regional transmission organizations.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved an agreement for Wright Patterson Air Force Base to receive discounted electric rates from Dayton Power & Light to help boost employment around the base.

American Electric Power said its capital costs would run up to \$8 billion for retiring, re-fitting or building new power plants as a result of proposed U.S. EPA regulations on coal-fueled power plants.