



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

Jan. 10, 2019

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION THIS WEEK

Rep. Larry Householder Elected to Lead the Ohio House

On Monday, the majority of the Ohio House of Representatives voted Rep. Larry Householder as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 133rd General Assembly. Householder held the post previously from 2001-2004. The new Speaker has announced that he will take his time naming committees and committee chairs.

Meetings This Week

Contractors Assoc., County Commissioners Assoc., Labor Groups - revenue for infrastructure
Rep. Koehler - water and sewer, OTA legislative priorities
Rep. Ginter's office - road construction projects, water and sewer, OTA legislative priorities

Effective Dates of Legislation

We are still awaiting the official publication of effective dates for several pieces of legislation that was passed by the General Assembly in "Lame Duck" session and signed by the Governor. Once those dates are published, we will share them with you.

PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

- Not All Township Officials Qualify for Increase

Compensation adjustments for elected officials, including township officials, was amended into SB 296 during the "Lame Duck" period and took effect December 27 following a veto override.

The bill provides a 1.75% cost of living adjustment (COLA) to township officials that begins in 2019 and extends through 2028.

HOWEVER, per the Ohio Constitution, current sitting trustees and fiscal officers are not eligible for the increase until they are re-elected. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy or elected to a township office ON or AFTER January 1, 2019 is eligible for the increase.

SAMPLE CREDIT CARD POLICY NOW AVAILABLE

The Ohio General Assembly adopted HB 312, and Governor John Kasich signed it into law on August 2, 2018. House Bill 312 became effective on November 2, 2018, and every political subdivision, including townships, must comply by February 2, 2019. The Auditor of State released a bulletin on the issue several weeks ago and you may read it by clicking [here](#).

According to these new rules, "credit card account" means any bank issued credit card account, store-issued credit card, affinity credit card account, or any card account allowing the holder to purchase goods or services on credit, or any debit or gift card account related to the receipt of grant moneys. However, "credit card account" does not include a procurement card account, gasoline or telephone credit card, or any other card account where merchant category codes are in place as a system of control for use of the card accounts.

The OTA worked with the law firm of Brosius, Johnson & Griggs on a sample policy for townships to use. You may download the sample policy from the OTA's website or email Heidi M. Fought, OTA Assistant Executive Director, at fought@ohiotownships.org. Please work with your legal counsel on implementation.

LOOKING FOR CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

The OTA regularly relies on volunteers to pull off a successful conference. We are looking for people to assist us during this four-day conference. Serving as an OTA Sergeant-At-Arms is very important and is a great way to utilize your leadership skills, gain valuable experience and make for a memorable conference.

Duties include arriving to your assigned session a little early, standing at the door and keeping an eye on name badges, helping panelists distribute handouts, and letting Heidi know if last minute changes are needed for seating or temperature control.

If you are interested in serving as a Sergeant-at-Arms, please contact Heather Whisman at whisman@ohiotownships.org. We will fill them on a first come, first served basis.

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