

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



March 30, 2018

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Your Help Is Needed! *Water & Sewer Services and Rates Survey*

We have been asked to assist in gathering data regarding water and sewer services being provided to township residents by municipalities. Would you please take a few moments and fill out this survey? You may provide the answers via [email to Heidi Fought](#), OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, or by [clicking here](#) and completing an electronic survey.

1. Do any of your township residents receive water and/or sewer services by a neighboring municipality?

- a. water
- b. sewer
- c. both
- d. neither *(please skip to question 5)*

2. In exchange for the water and/or sewer services, does the municipality:

- a. require annexation prior to connecting a property owner to the water and/or sewer line
- b. charge a higher rate for nonresidents to receive the service(s) than residents of the municipality
- c. require revenue sharing or other development agreement with the township in exchange for extending the water and/or sewer lines
- d. other _____

3. If a municipality requires annexation, how many acres have been annexed due to this requirement in the last 10 years?

4. If a municipality charges higher rates for nonresidents, what is that rate?

- a. water _____
- b. sewer _____

5. Township Name? _____ / **County Name?** _____

6. What is the name of the municipality that is providing the water and/or sewer services? _____

7. What are the demographics (ethnicity, wealth/poverty level, population, land valuation, rural/urban) **of your township?**

Thank you for helping us in this research effort!

Legislative Activity This Week

Tuesday, March 27

Rep. Carfagna, CCAO, OML - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Wednesday, March 28

Rep. Carfagna - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Ohio Farm Bureau - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Rep. Duffey - essential services for Ohioans

Thursday, March 29

Ohio Boards of Elections Association - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

HB 500 Omnibus Township Legislation *Your letters of support are needed!*

HB 500 TOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna) - To make various changes to township law.

We are asking you to write a letter in support of HB 500 as a whole, or in reference to any provision in which your township is particularly interested. Letter should be mailed or emailed to the **House State & Local Government Committee** (click committee name for listing of members) and copy your House member and the State Association.

What's included in HB 500:

There are nineteen (19) different provisions included in HB 500 that impact townships. To read a brief overview of the items included, please [click here](#).

Recently Introduced Legislation

HJR 14 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (Smith, Lepore-Hagan) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund sewer and water capital improvements.

HB 575 VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS (Keller, Rezabek) To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.

HB 576 MINIMUM WAGE (Kelly) To increase the state minimum wage.

HB 578 INJECTION WELLS (Holmes, O'Brien) To establish new setback requirements applicable to new Class II injection wells and to require thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the out-of-district injection well fee to be paid directly to the municipal corporation or township in which the injection well is located.

Federal Update

Congressional Activity

Congress is in recess for two weeks. The Senate will return on April 9 and the House will return on April 10.



Congress Approves, President Signs FY 2018 Appropriations Omnibus

As reported last week, the House and Senate approved the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, by votes of 256-167 and 65-32, respectively, before the most recent Continuing Resolution expired on March 23. President Trump briefly threatened to veto the bill because it does not address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) issue or provide enough funding for the Southwest border wall. However, he ultimately decided to sign the bill, warning Congress

during a news conference that he would never sign a "ridiculous" bill like this again. He also called on Congress to allow him line-item veto power for future spending bills.

Overall, the omnibus adheres to the recently enacted budget caps agreement, providing an additional \$80 billion for defense and \$63 billion for non-defense spending. The increase in defense spending is the largest year-to-year increase since the beginning of the War on Terror. Most of the increases in domestic spending are directed towards programs to fight the opioid epidemic, for homeland security, and for infrastructure. The bill includes nearly \$4 billion in resources to combat the opioid crisis by investing in treatment, prevention and law enforcement programs. Congress also provided over \$1.5 billion to support the President's request for funding for a physical barrier and associated technology along the Southwest border. Regarding infrastructure, the bill provides an influx of approximately \$21 billion for a variety of infrastructure programs, including programs to build and improve transportation, water, cyber, and energy infrastructure.

Governor Requests Federal Disaster Assistance

Gov. John Kasich on Monday requested President Trump make a major disaster declaration after February rains resulted in largescale flooding along the Ohio River. In his letter to the president and the FEMA Director, Gov. Kasich pegs the damages to county, village and township roads, bridges and public buildings in the neighborhood of \$44 million along with another \$20 million in damages to state highways. Those figures are according to a preliminary joint damage assessment compiled by FEMA, state and local agencies.

The governor's request for federal assistance is for the following counties: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Noble, Muskingum, Perry, Pike, Scioto, Vinton and Washington. The request specifically covers flooding, landslides, severe storms and tornadoes between Feb. 14-25. Gov. Kasich has previously issued his own emergency proclamation Feb. 24 for those counties.

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