

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



**October 5, 2018**

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## Recent Legislative Activity

### **Introduced in the House**

**HB 736 TAX VOTES** (Brinkman, T.) To require certain subdivisions governed by a board comprised of at least one unelected official to obtain the approval of the legislative body that created the subdivision before levying a tax.

### **Legislative Meetings/Discussions**

**Road Coalition** - funding for transportation infrastructure

**Rep. Ginter's office** - nuisances

**Rep. Holmes** - cemeteries

## Recent Attorney General Opinion



### **2018-023 Compatibility of Position**

**SYLLABUS:**

A person may serve simultaneously as a township trustee and a village fiscal officer for a village that is not located within, or contiguous to, the township, provided that the simultaneous holding of the two positions is not prohibited by a village charter or ordinance, there are no contracts between the township and the village, and the person does not appear before the county budget commission on behalf of the township or village.

## Federal Update

### **Congressional Activity**

The Senate was in session this week, while the House is in recess until Nov. 13. The Senate considered the House-passed FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 302), which reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration through 2023 and includes the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 which reforms several FEMA programs to help communities better prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters of all types. The Senate also considered the House-passed Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6), which authorizes an array of grant programs to help curb the opioid addiction epidemic. The measure contains provisions from dozens of proposals and would modify Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicaid coverage for inpatient treatment, Food and Drug Administration import oversight,



and authorize a panoply of grant programs to aid local treatment providers and law enforcement. The Senate may also soon consider the House-passed America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021), which would authorize numerous port revitalization, flood control and other infrastructure projects, as well as set policy for the Army Corps of Engineers.

**House Passes 5-Year FAA Reauthorization Bill; Trump Signs One-week FAA Extension Into Law**

On Sept. 26, the House passed, by a vote of 398-23, the \$96.7 billion FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 302), which reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration through 2023 and includes the text of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (H.R. 4460) which reforms several FEMA programs to help communities better prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters of all types. The bill also contains provisions related to airport infrastructure, aviation safety, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reform, and \$1.68 billion in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) funding to help with recovery efforts for Hurricane Florence. The House and Senate also passed, by Unanimous Consent, the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2018, Part II" (H.R. 6897 ) which extends an FAA authorization from Oct. 1-7, in order to provide the Senate additional time to pass the long-term FAA bill; Trump signed the one-week FAA extension into law on Sept. 29. The Senate is expected to pass H.R. 302 prior to Oct. 7.

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## Road Coalition Ramping Up to Address Revenue Shortfall for Transportation



Excellent roads and bridges are critically important for Ohio's future. But today, they are severely under-funded. Traffic congestion increases each year. More and more roads suffer from potholes and rutted pavement. Many of Ohio's bridges are showing their age with structural deficiencies. And in truth, the vast majority of highway revenues are spent on highway maintenance rather than expanding capacity.

Improved automotive fuel efficiency, alternative fuel options and economic inflation all chip away at the revenue generated by - and the buying power of - motor fuel taxes. To compound the problem, ODOT will lose approximately \$700 million in revenue with the reduction in Ohio Turnpike bond proceeds in 2019 and the expiration of the Federal FAST Act in 2021. This number doesn't include the many projects that have been delayed or shelved due to current lack of funding.

Just like in 2003, the last time a gas tax in Ohio was statutorily authorized, the OTA has joined with other local governments and business organizations to work together to lobby the Ohio General Assembly and Governor for additional transportation infrastructure funding.

A website has been created to help inform the public and legislative candidates about the issue - [www.fixourroadsOhio.com](http://www.fixourroadsOhio.com).

Now we need your help to start telling the story! Have you had a township road or a county bridge project delayed due to the lack of road funding either at the state, county or township level? If yes, what is the project?

Take pictures of the conditions of your roads. Send them to the OTA and tell us what House and Senate district you are in.

Invite your House and Senate members and those running for the seats to a township meeting and take them on a drive over your township roads. Show them a list of all the roads you must maintain. Provide them with the cost of redoing just one of your roads and then a copy of your total road fund budget.

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## Ohio EPA Recycling & Litter Prevention Grants *Application Period Now Open*

Ohio EPA's Recycling & Litter Prevention Program (R&LP) provides grant funding to communities and businesses that initiate or expand recycling programs, encourage sustainable practices, stimulate market development for reusing recyclables and litter prevention efforts. There are three different grant programs: Community and Litter Grants, Market Development Grants and Scrap Tire Grants. For our

stakeholders and partners familiar with past grant awards, Ohio EPA previously had two grant funding categories that have been combined into a single category of Community and Litter Grants. All activities previously eligible for funding under both categories remain eligible and the funding award levels for both community recycling and litter clean-up/prevention activities are expected to remain similar to past years. Combining these grant programs together in a single category will make the online application process easier for our customers.

Ohio EPA is now accepting applications for these three recycling-related grants to be awarded in 2019. Grant applications are due Feb. 1, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

To assist potential applicants, Ohio EPA will host an informational meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - at the Ohio Department of Transportation Central Office, 1980 W. Broad St, Columbus 43223 - to explain eligibility requirements and the grant application process. Attend our upcoming informational meeting or webinar to learn more about:

- Who is eligible to apply?
- What is Ohio EPA's funding criteria?
- What funding is available? What financial match is required?
- Where do you apply?
- What permits and licenses are required.
- Identifying partners, volunteers, other participants, donated goods and services, waived tipping fees, etc.

In addition, Ohio EPA will also hold an informational webinar on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Where else can you find more information? Please visit the Ohio EPA recycling website: [recycleohio.gov](http://recycleohio.gov).

Grant recipients will be announced in April 2019 and funding will be made available in July 2019.

Who can you contact for more information?

Marie Barnett - Grants Administrator - 614.705.1019 - [marie.barnett@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:marie.barnett@epa.ohio.gov)  
Travis Limbert - Grants Coordinator 614.644.2827 - [travis.limbert@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:travis.limbert@epa.ohio.gov)  
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