



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

April 3, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

COVID-19 Updates

Stay-at-Home Order Extended

Governor DeWine has extended the state's stay-at-home order until May 1st. You may read the new order [here](#).

OTA Website

The OTA has compiled relevant coronavirus-related information on our [website](#) in a format that is more easily accessible.

The "COVID-19" page, located on the website's main banner, has five subcategories for Legislative Information, Open Meetings Act Changes, Remote Meeting Tools, Resources for Constituent Distribution, and Township Resource Links.

Training Opportunities

Ethics Training

Because so many people in public service are working from home due to the COVID19 crisis, the Ethics Commission wanted to make sure public employees and officials are aware of the online training options available to learn about the Ohio Ethics Law. Below is an upcoming opportunity:

- On **Wednesday, April 15th at 2pm**, the webinar will provide a general overview of the Ethics Law. Register [here](#) for the April 15th webinar (scroll to the April 15th date to register for this class).

For more information, click [here](#).

Coronavirus - Latest Updates on State and Federal Law

Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff - Attorneys at Law offered a free update on recent law changes related to the COVID-19 outbreak this week. If you missed the live webinar, you can watched the recorded version [here](#). It addresses many issues pertinent to Ohio townships.

OPWC Update

Considering the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state's capital bill for the next biennium is uncertain. The capital bill is the source of funding for the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP), which includes Small Government and Emergency programs, Revolving Loan Program (RLP), and the Clean Ohio Green Space Program. Until funding is in place, Round 34 infrastructure SCIP and RLP project agreements will not be released.

The OPWC plans to release Local Transportation Improvement Program funded project agreements on or after July 1, 2020 since LTIP was funded in the FY20-21 Transportation

Budget. The current state of motor vehicle fuel tax receipts has no impact on the allocations OPWC provided for Round 34. In addition, guidance and allocations for next fiscal year are on hold; therefore, district integrating committees and natural resource assistance councils must postpone application solicitation schedules until further notice.

Cemetery Update

Amid this COVID-19 pandemic, you understandably have questions about burials. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has updated their [website](#) with information on COVID-19. You'll find specific information for Deathcare Workers and Employers towards the bottom of the DOL page.

While the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing registers active cemeteries, they do not have jurisdiction over burial guidelines for diseases such as COVID-19. Please contact your [local health district](#) directly for guidance.

OHIO811 Update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, medical facilities and essential businesses may find the need to erect tents or like temporary structures to maintain or support their operations. OHIO811, and our utility partners, would like everyone to remember that the driving of stakes or pins for the installation of tents meets the definition of an excavation under ORC. 3781.25 (I) and requires that the person or entity performing the excavation notify OHIO811 at least 48 hours but not more than 10 working days prior to starting. OHIO811 will then notify the utility operators in the planned area so they can indicate the location of their underground utility facilities prior to excavation taking place.

However, OHIO811 recognizes that during this extraordinary time, conditions may prevent the essential businesses erecting these types of temporary structures from providing a full 48 hour advance notice. In such cases, still notify OHIO811 and indicate that this notice is for a Temporary Emergency Medical Worksite and we will provide the member utility operators with an "Emergency" locate notification.

To place a utility locate request Call 811 or use our online service at www.OHIO811.org.

OHIO811 encourages all utility and excavation partners and the general public to exercise the utmost in caution, cooperation, and patience as you plan and perform excavation work in Ohio. Please visit www.OHIO811.org for additional information.

AG Cuts Red Tape for Cadets and Retirees

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has directed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to expedite the final examinations of about 300 police cadets and allow them to quickly bolster the ranks of law enforcement in Ohio.

Also, Attorney General Yost is working with local agencies to create a pathway for recently retired law enforcement officers in good standing to return to the streets of Ohio. This pathway includes allowing returning officers one year to complete their required training from the date they are rehired. More than 1,000 peace officers retire each year in Ohio.

Read the full press release [here](#).

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The House and Senate were both in recess this week. The Senate will remain in recess until Monday, April 20th, while the House left Washington last Friday without a fixed return date. However, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced today that the House is looking at possibly holding hearings during the three-week recess, likely virtually. Additionally, the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms announced today that the Capitol Visitor Center and House and Senate office buildings will be closed to the public through Friday, May 1st; members, staff, press, and visitors on official business will have continued access to the Capitol facilities.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) told reporters today that the "fourth phase of coronavirus stimulus would be largely focused on helping the front-line medical workers, homebound parents and patients afflicted by the deadly virus - people who may have fallen through the cracks in Congress's earlier responses to the fast-spreading pandemic. As an additional component, Democrats are also eyeing new funding for water, broadband, schools and other infrastructure systems that have proven insufficient in the face of the current coronavirus crisis." Additionally, Speaker Pelosi stated that she "wants to have significantly more money for state and local governments" in the fourth legislative package.

TFG has created a [Coronavirus Update Library](#) on our website to store TFG memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the Administration.

2020 Census



All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities. We are adjusting some operations as outlined below with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

As of today, over 5 million have responded online to the 2020 Census. Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.

Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)
[Ohio Census Website](#)

The 2020 Census is headed your way! And it's so important that your township gets an accurate count. This section will help you get information out to your friends and neighbors to ensure residents in your area are counted. Check here for weekly information and links to important documents and resources.

Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004

614-863-0045 | OhioTownships.org

myers@ohiotownships.org



