


**Vol. 136 - No. 466** **Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026**

# DeWine to Reserve Judgment on Moving CSI, Talks Death Row Review Process

Gov. Mike DeWine said that he would review legislation that would move the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) to the jurisdiction of the General Assembly but continued to say he won't sign legislation that weakens gubernatorial power.

Speaking to reporters after the Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony on Thursday (see separate story, this issue), DeWine said he will wait to see what ideas lawmakers present to him that would reform state government and the powers of the governor before taking a position on them.

One of the proposals introduced this week is Rep. Jamie Callender's (R-Concord) HB1024, which among other provisions, would put CSI under the General Assembly. First introduced under Gov. John Kasich, the initiative reviews rules issued by state agencies and their impact on businesses.

DeWine said he is reserving judgment on the proposal until he reviews it.

"[CSI] is a relatively young thing," DeWine said when asked about the bill by *Hannah News*. "It's been with the executive side. It seems to me the logical place would be the executive. But again, I'm going to wait until I see what the proposal is and what they want to do."

He said he does not support a proposed constitutional amendment introduced this week by Rep. Ron Ferguson (R-Wintersville), HJR11, which would lower the threshold for the General Assembly to override a governor's veto.

DeWine also outlined his process for reviewing the cases of Death Row inmates while reiterating his previous plan to not issue a blanket commutation for all of them to life without parole.

"I think we have to respect the system and the system that voters have established through the Legislature, and that system is a very elaborate system," DeWine said, but added that governors have had the power to commute and reduce sentences for over 200 years, and they have the additional authority to look at a case "and maybe see something else that is in there, and with that individual or that particular case, that the jury legally couldn't have looked at ... But it's power to be exercised very carefully, and that's what I'm trying to do now as I go through these cases."

He also spoke on his expedited pardon program, saying it is his goal not to leave a lot of the cases of those who have applied through the program for incoming successor, Gov.-elect Amy Acton.

"We don't want a bunch of those to hit her on day one, so we're going through a lot of different cases," DeWine said.

Asked by *Hannah News* about the resignation of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang over affair allegations, including with a woman suspected of being a Chinese spy. DeWine said he does not think it will affect a Pike County artificial intelligence infrastructure project. (See *The Hannah Report;* 8/17/26 11/9/26.)

"I'm following the story. It keeps getting more interesting every day, and we'll just have to see what impact it's going to have," he said.

He spoke on the decline of fatal auto crashes, saying Ohio is one of the few states to take federal highway funds and earmark a significant portion of them for the most dangerous highways in the state, saying he believes that has made a difference, along with the passage of a distracted driving law. He added passing a primary seat belt law will also have an impact.

DeWine also said he hosted Acton at his home last Saturday, walking around the farm and talking, something they did during the COVID-19 pandemic when she served as director of the Ohio Department of Health.

## OMA Calls for PUCO 'Shakeup,' New Commission Search, Consumer-Oriented Leader

Executive Director Ryan Augsburger of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) stopped short of recommending Commissioner John Williams of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for chairman under the incoming Amy Acton administration Thursday but cited his and other stakeholders' push for a "shakeup" in regulatory philosophy focused at least as much on consumers as on the industry.

OMA hosted a post-election press conference near Capitol Square committed to a "fresh look" at PUCO's staff-level analysis and commission oversight of public utility rates in Ohio.

"I have a feeling a few people in the utility business are not going to appreciate this conversation," Augsburger announced. "Manufacturers have been footing the bill for years. We're done accepting that."

He called for a "stem to stern" review of the 300-member agency and five commission members including Chairwoman Jenifer French and Commissioners Larry Friedeman, Daniel Conway, Dennis Deters and Williams, whose department bio notes the following of his 20-year oversight of "consumer safeguards" inside PUCO:

"Williams put and kept the interest of consumers and the public at the forefront of his actions, which he looks forward to continuing in his new capacity [as commissioner]," it states.

Conway and Friedeman's backgrounds are in utilities and energy, and French and Deters previously served in the Ohio judiciary.

"We would ... recommend that the governor-elect invite commissioners to interview to maintain their posts," Augsburger said -- a proposed paradigm shift going well beyond the appointment of a new chair.

He also was asked about the vertically integrated, unanimous rulings characterizing essentially all commission votes and demonstrating zero dissent.

"We have noted that ourselves," Augsburger observed. "I think commissioners can change. I think the tone and tenor set by the governor matters a lot."

## DeWine, Tressel Honor 18 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Members at Ceremony

In his last Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony before leaving office, Gov. Mike DeWine highlighted veterans' initiatives that his administration has undertaken and said he expects successor Gov.-elect Amy Acton will continue to focus on veterans issues.

"I know her heart, and I know what she wants to do," DeWine said during the ceremony held at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University campus Thursday.

DeWine said the goal is for Ohio to be not only the most veteran friendly state, but also the most friendly state to the men and women of the armed services and their families. He noted legislation he signed that makes it easier for military spouses to continue their careers in Ohio, such as making it easier for them to get a license.

He said making Ohio friendly to veterans and members of the armed forces will always be a work in progress.

DeWine said veterans often bring the energy and passion they had in the military back to their communities, adding even if many may never be recognized as a member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, they make their communities better every day. (See *The Hannah Report,* 9/29/26.)

The ceremony also featured remarks from Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director John Harris. Acton was also in attendance.

Those recognized during Thursday's ceremony included the following:

- David A. Babcock (Clark) - Air Force
- Christi S. Bartman (Delaware) - Air Force
- Janette C. Brown (Mahoning) - Air Force
- Ronald S. Clark (Highland) - Army
- Former State Rep. Robert H. Doyle (Greene) - Navy
- Jeffrey R. Earley (Franklin) - Army
- Joseph W. Kiefer (Clark) - Army (posthumous award)
- Jacquelyn Kemp (Franklin) - Army
- Justin D. LeHew (Putnam) - Marine Corps
- Robert P. Madison (Cuyahoga) - Army
- Paul M. Moyer (Greene) - Air Force
- Jamie L. Paxton (Lucas) - Air Force
- Clifford E. Pinkney (Delaware) - Army
- Gary T. Rezabek (Medina) - Army
- Gregory A. Roseberry (Jackson) - Air Force
- William T. Spradlin (Greene) - Air Force
- Mark E. Storer (Franklin) - Army
- John W. Tepper (Ross) - Army
- Timothy E. Waechter (Clermont) - Army

## Lottery Commission Hears Updates on Gaming System Conversion, Holiday Promotions

Ohio Lottery Director Michelle Gillcrist gave members of the Ohio Lottery Commission a new update on their gaming system conversion effort during November's meeting, saying that is "a very big process" that will last "months and months" -- likely through the end of 2027.

New equipment was sent out to retailers in October but the overall effort involves replacing nearly 12,000 terminals and more than 9,000 pieces of self-serve equipment, with more than 70,000 equipment items in total. She confirmed that it is the Ohio Lottery's largest transition effort in history as well, also including the challenge of switching from one vendor to another. The new vendor can't receive all information as some of that is proprietary, Gillcrist continued, and they want customers to be able to buy a ticket on an old machine then cash it on the new one the next day.

"That's why it's so important in this transition that we have people here that have that institutional knowledge of the current gaming system and how we're going to transform that into the new gaming system," she added.

Gillcrist said New Mexico recently went from Ohio's current vendor to the new one as well, but that is a "much smaller lottery" system there.

"With all transitions, there are things that don't always happen smoothly. We are doing everything in our power ... Ohio is also unique in that we have a very robust IT department internally. We test a lot of things, so we are making sure that everything that is going to be put in place is tested, and we hope to be at that point for when we do go live that whatever is customer-facing is flawless, and whatever still needs to be updated or corrected can be done so behind the scenes as to not interrupt any type of sales or customer and retailer satisfaction," she continued.

Gillcrist previously updated commissioners on the process at their October meeting. (See *The Hannah Report*, 10/15/26.) She said during the November meeting that customers are benefitting from new self-serve terminals as well.

The commissioners received an additional update from Deputy Director of Marketing Tom Ackerman on lottery promotional efforts during the holiday season. He spoke at length about how they're tying into a theme of "holiday cheer" and providing a lot of color and imagery. Their promotions are also being developed in a way that can be reused in later years. He added that people are looking at "value proposition" as they consider how to spend money for themselves or buy gifts for loved ones. The lottery is also setting up a centralized "Holiday Hub" for those promotional messages that is accessible to phone users. They are setting them up in a personalized way while remaining responsible, Ackerman continued. Gillcrist compared that to how Starbucks personalizes customer experiences.

Finance Director Ed Slyman reported total traditional ticket sales in October were $358.1 million, down by $5.0 million or 1.4 percent from October 2025. Draw-based games brought in $169.4 million, $500,000 or 0.3 percent higher than October 2025 while net scratch-off ticket sales were $188.7 million, a decrease of $5.5 million or 2.8 percent. Holiday-themed games continued to perform "strongly," Slyman said.

He added video lottery terminal (VLT) revenues were $126.4 million. Racinos received $83.7 million as their commissions, and Ohio Lottery revenue totaled $42.4 million. Their traditional lottery sales were "modestly below prior year levels" but sustained growth in draw-based games and the continued VLT revenue growth put them in a "solid financial position for the month."

Slyman also said the commission's FY28-29 budget request was submitted on Oct. 29 and will go through review by Office of Budget and Management (OBM) analysts, who may ask follow-up questions.

Responding to member questions, Slyman said he believed players are shifting to the VLT option given the work that's been done promoting it. Commission Chairman Matthew Blair commented on competition trying to gain access to bars, saying he wanted to maintain the current legal system. That is important in light of the lottery's role providing funds to schools, he added. Commissioner Martin Sweeney echoed that point as well, and Blair added all commissioners should watch for outside interests seeking changes. That includes speaking with state legislators, Blair continued.

Gillcrist said the Ohio Lottery transferred $121.7 million to the Lottery Profits Education Fund (LPEF) for October, a decrease of $0.4 million from October 2025 and $0.5 million less than their budgeted commitment. In the fiscal year to date, they've transferred approximately $525.6 million, $5.7 million below the commitment and $4.9 million behind the prior year's figure. She added the holiday season and gift-giving will hopefully make up some of that ground.

Commissioners were also introduced to Emily Scharf, the new publications coordinator who will help with ticket sales publications and videos. At the end of the meeting Blair noted to commissioners that they'll hold a holiday party at a local restaurant after their Wednesday, Dec. 9 meeting and said he wanted former members to be invited as well.

## OFCC Approves Rules for Aging Schools Program in Capital Budget

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) aligned its rules with two separate recent actions by the General Assembly at its regular meeting on Thursday.

The Aging School Accelerator Pilot Program, established in capital budget SB450 (Cirino), directs OFCC to provide support for the classroom facilities projects meeting the following criteria:

- The district has at least one building that is used primarily for classroom instruction in which all or a significant portion of the structure is at least 100 years old.

- The district has never been approved to receive assistance under a Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP) or has not completed all segments of a project approved under the program.

- The district's operating expenditure per pupil for FY25 was in the lowest 25 percent of all school districts in the state.

- The district qualifies to serve all of its students in one school building according to the commission's policies.

In the one-time determination established in SB450, OFCC will decide which school districts will be eligible for capital funding based on the above requirements, and school districts that participate will no longer be eligible for CFAP.

OFCC Chief of Planning Joe MacNeil told Commissioner Kathleen Madden OFCC hadn't determined yet how many school districts would be eligible for the program.

The commission also adopted a resolution on Thursday allowing the OFCC executive director to formalize rules for construction project contracts pursuant to SB262 (Blessing), also called the Show Your Work Act.

The bill requires agencies throughout state government to clearly disclose modifications made to industry-standard contract forms. OFCC legislative officer A.J. Thomas said the resolution adopted by OFCC would condense four of the agency's rules into one, pending the JCARR process.

The commission also amended project agreements on Thursday for the following school districts:

- Cleveland Metropolitan School District (Cuyahoga) - Accelerated Urban School Building Assistance Program.

- Springfield-Clark Joint Vocational School (Clark) - Vocational Facilities Assistance Program.

MacNeil told Madden that of the $33 million total adjustment to the Springfield-Clark JVS project, $20 million was due to a projected increase in enrollment at the school. MacNeil said the increase in JVS enrollment matches a statewide trend in which a higher percentage of students are enrolling in vocational schools.

The commission also authorized the Ohio Attorney General's Office to initiate litigation against Columbus-based Altman General Contractors for problems following work done at the medical facility and dormitories at Ross Correctional Facility. The initiation of litigation was also approved against two separate contractors for issues arising from roof replacements at two Ohio Department of Transportation facilities.

## BEMC Discusses Coverage Infrastructure, Budget Request

As it gears up to make the case for its role in state government amid another budget cycle and a gubernatorial transition, the Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) discussed Thursday how its infrastructure played a role in live public media election coverage.

Dan Shellenbarger, general manager of Ohio Public Media Service, the umbrella organization for the Ohio Channel and the Ohio Public Radio and Television Statehouse News Bureau, discussed live coverage provided for last week's mid-term election. Technological innovations allowed public media to pull off the effort at far less cost than a similar production 12 years ago.

Public media journalists used LiveU technology units for last-mile connections from election night events for the major parties to public media stations, which then used the BEMC infrastructure to broadcast statewide. The Statehouse News

Bureau produced a live show featuring bureau chief Karen Kasler and BEMC's chair, retired WHIO-TV journalist Jim Otte. "I was drafted, and I was paid nothing," Otte quipped.

"Twelve years ago, we had to use two satellite trucks and set them up outside and go into space in order to go just a couple of miles, and this was a huge savings," Shellenbarger. "This could not have happened without the infrastructure of BEMC."

"The budget differential is just incredible," said Otte. "I've worked with satellite trucks before, the meter runs not just the day you use it."

"It is the eve of a new administration and the OBM budget process," Shellenbarger said in stressing the "critical" nature of BEMC resources to public media operations. "This is basically the same framework that we were able to go live within just a few hours of the pandemic."

"In some point in the next administration, maybe within the next year or maybe four years away, there's going to be some kind of - it may not be COVID or East Palestine or Shady Side, but there's going to be something to cause you to go live someplace. Now you're ready," Otte said.

"There are not other states that are as interconnected as we are," said Shellenbarger.

The commission also heard a presentation from Cincinnati-based WCET about a partnership between travel expert Rick Steves and the Cincinnati Symphony.

Commissioners discussed the agency's FY28-29 budget request, which seeks about $13 million in General Revenue Fund (GRF) money in FY28 and $10.9 million in FY29, compared to $11.9 appropriated in FY27.

The bulk of the increase falls within the portion of the budget representing commission assistance to public media stations, largely representing a movement of equipment costs for public media stations from the capital to the operating budget.

BEMC operation costs would go up about $63,000, driven by projected increases in lease costs, OARnet expenses and utilities. Geoffrey Phillips, executive director, noted that payroll costs, while flat in the request, will be adjusted over the next several months at the conclusion of negotiations between the state and its labor unions on a new three-year contract. He noted "extensive" reviews of health insurance costs by the state.

## Brown Announces Duggan as Chief of Staff

Sen.-elect Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Thursday announced Abigail Duggan will be his new chief of staff when he takes office.

A former staffer in Brown's office during his prior time in the U.S. Senate, she most recently served as chief of staff for U.S. Rep. John Mannion (D-NY).

"Over the 12 years she served Ohio in our office, I saw firsthand the strength of Abby's leadership, her compassion for the people we serve, and her commitment to fighting for the interests of working families in Ohio," said Brown. "Ohioans are ready to see a government that works for them, not just for billionaires and special interests. Under Abby's leadership, we'll hit the ground running to deliver real solutions for Ohioans that will lower costs and end this reckless war in Iran."

Duggan spent more than a decade in Brown's office, starting her tenure as a legislative correspondent and working her way up to the role of legislative director.

While in Brown's office, she spearheaded efforts to expand access to affordable health care for Ohioans including playing an instrumental role in advancing pediatric research, fighting to lower drug prices for seniors, strengthening the Children's

Health Insurance Program, and working to expand Medicaid in Ohio under the Affordable Care Act, Brown's announcement explained.

Duggan received her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law, where she continues to serve as an adjunct professor, and earned a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University. Her mother was born and raised in Youngstown and Duggan spent several weeks each summer staying with her grandparents in the Mahoning Valley.

## OCC Warns of Double-Digit Rate Increases, Weighs Data Center Legislation in Lame Duck

Governor-elect Amy Acton has a lot to say about utility rates and their nexus to Big Data and likely a few thoughts for members of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) - whom she appoints - and for the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) as residential utility advocate. Itself an independent, statutory agency, OCC convened its Governing Board this week to news some regional utilities are proposing major rates hikes exceeding Consumers' Counsel Maureen Willis's requested cap at a time of high inflation.

Chaired by former Republican House Majority Whip Cheryl Grossman, the board commenced Monday with Willis's bi-monthly update on PUCO filings and proposed double-digit rate hikes. She offered Ohio Gas Company's requested rate increase of 15.6 percent in addition to a fixed monthly service charge "nearly triple" its current $9.

"My recommendation to staff and OCC consultants is that we can't have a double-digit increase," the consumers' counsel observed, citing unsustainable consumer costs. "At this time, it is just not feasible nor appropriate to have more than a single-digit increase."

Willis said she would confirm the percentage rise in other utility requests and compared Duke Energy Ohio's current bid for an additional $90.2 million to PUCO staff's $42.5-$52.6 million and OCC's much lower $22.9 million proposal; Enbridge Gas Ohio's requested $144.6 million increase, again higher than commission staff's; Columbia Gas Ohio's proposed three-year rate hike of $14.69 monthly in the first year to $25 in the third; and Duke's natural gas rate request of $24 per month and increased reconnection fees from the current $70 to $164.

"A huge increase," she summarized, turning to data center energy consumption and HB646's (Click) prospects in lame duck session.

Willis said all parties appear to agree Big Data must absorb its own costs, not the least of which being energy and water.

"Trying to make sure that happens is the hard job," she admitted, saying OCC and PUCO are "fairly linked" on the solution and learned from Ohio Power Company a/k/a American Electric Power's (AEP) approved data center rates in what she described as AES Ohio's superior plan.

"It's really important that the load forecasts be right. We want reliable service, but we don't want to overbuild," said Willis, addressing profitable utility capital investments.

OCC Legislative Liaison Nicholas Stallard offered some Statehouse scuttlebutt on HB646's future in the 136th General Assembly. The bill includes some but not all of the OCC-backed data center alternative HB706 (Rader-Thomas), he noted.

"There is momentum on this. They do want to get this done for so many reasons. We saw what happened in the election. We saw what voters are saying on data centers," Stallard told the board.

He suggested data center tax breaks had slowed HB646 going into summer break and remain an open question going into lame duck

"Will [the bill] be perfect coming out? Likely not. But as I understand it, there is this thought: 'Let's get something in place; then let's tweak it as we go forward,'" said Stallard. "Will that change with a Democrat governor and no more supermajority in the House? We don't know."

Grossman offered some deeper wisdom from her eight years in the state as assistant minority and majority leader before rising to majority whip.

"Lame duck can be such a dangerous time if things aren't thought thoroughly through. This has risen to the top for a lot of reasons, which I hope is a good thing," she said.

## America 250-Ohio Invites Young People's Ideas for Future of Ohio

The commission that has spent 2026 celebrating Ohio's role in the nation's history will pivot to try to envision generations to come as America 250-Ohio is inviting young people to submit their ideas for Future Ohio Symposium planned for December.

Young people ages 15-20 are invited to submit an original idea that would change, create, improve or imagine a better future for the state through America 250-Ohio's Be Your Future, Ohio! initiative.

"Young people are not only the future of Ohio, they're helping shape it right now," said Todd Kleismit, executive director of America 250-Ohio. "Be Your Future, Ohio! gives youth an opportunity to share their creativity, vision, and perspectives with leaders who are actively working to strengthen our state's future. We want to hear the ideas that inspire them and the changes they hope to see."

The Future Ohio: Projecting Ohio in 2076 initiative encourages Ohioans to reflect on the state's past while envisioning its future, and the initiative will culminate with a symposium in December to explore the opportunities and challenges that will shape Ohio for generations to come.

Submissions for the symposium will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 20, 2026, and selected participants will be invited to present their ideas before C-suite executives, innovators and leaders from across sectors at the Future Ohio Symposium on Thursday, Dec. 10. 2026 in Columbus.

More information about the free Future Ohio Symposium can be found HERE.

Interested youth are invited to submit ideas related to any of the following:

- Technology and Science
- Health and Well-being
- Arts, Culture and Creativity
- Environment and Sustainability
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Business, Workforce and Entrepreneurship
- Education and Learning
- Community Belonging and Philanthropy
- Civic Engagement, Government and Leadership

Participants do not need to be experts related to their idea or have fully formed plans to participate.

"Your idea doesn't have to be perfect. It just needs to be yours," said Kleismit. "We're looking for imagination, curiosity, and fresh perspectives from young Ohioans who care about their communities and the future of our state.

Youth ages 15-20 can submit ideas HERE.

# USDOE Approves DEW ESEA Waiver, ESSA Amendments; DEW Officials Highlight CTE, Literacy Updates

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) officially approved the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's (DEW) finalized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver request and proposed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amendments late last month, DEW Chief Performance and Innovation Officer Chris Woolard said Thursday during the department's regular public meeting.

The approved waiver request, which had undergone several revisions prior to its submission over the summer (see *The Hannah Report*, 9/3/26), allows the state to consolidate over $38 million in federal funds through 2029, according to USDOE.

"Ohio has already proven it is ready to meet the moment in education, recently boasting a five-year high in reading proficiency by aggressively incorporating evidence-based literacy instruction,"?said U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon in a statement.?"By embracing new flexibilities and aligning federal resources with Ohio's own priorities, the state is driving exciting innovation that puts students and workforce readiness at the center. Washington should serve as a partner to state success, not a barrier, and we are proud to give the Buckeye State the flexibility to advance its own vision and best meet the needs of their students."

"Every Ohio family wants their child to read well, feel supported at school and graduate ready for a good career, and every Ohio employer is counting on that same graduate. This waiver gives schools and districts the flexibility to focus resources on those priorities: stronger literacy, student well-being and preparation for in-demand jobs," added DEW Director Stephen Dackin. "The best decisions are made closest to students. We appreciate USDOE's partnership in allowing Ohio communities to direct resources where they will have the most impact, and we will hold ourselves accountable for the results."

McMahon's letter approving the request can be viewed HERE, and letter approving the department's proposed ESSA amendments can be viewed HERE. Additional information is available HERE.

Beyond the waiver, DEW's meeting Thursday included a slew of other technical administrative updates regarding workforce readiness and career technical education (CTE), and literacy and academic success.

Jeremy Varner, DEW director of workforce readiness and CTE, drew attention to $2.8 million in recently reappropriated funds supporting nine new CTE Access grant recipients to expand and accelerate manufacturing pathway opportunities for students across the state. Grants were awarded to the following recipients, Varner said:

- Auburn Career Center
- Butler Tech
- C-TEC
- Lorain County Joint Vocational School District
- Upper Valley Career Center
- Great Oaks Career Campuses
- Tri-County Career Center
- EHOVE Career Center
- Pickaway-Ross County Joint Vocational School District

He added the department also received a $9 million USDOE Career Pathways Exploration Grant to support the implementation of DEW's career connected learning framework, noting over 150 organizations have already expressed interest in applying.

DEW's Chief Academic Officer Melissa Weber-Mayrer, joined by a handful of other officials on her team, presented details on the state's efforts to roll out updated learning standards, high-quality instructional materials for reading and math and science of reading instructional implementation teams. The group highlighted another USDOE grant awarded to the state:

the Education and Innovation Research Grant, which will serve an estimated 36,000 middle school students and 360 teachers across the state, according to DEW Office of Literacy Achievement Administrator Sherine Tambyraja.

The $10 million grant, to be administered over the next five years, will fund a project testing the effects of instructional strategies within social studies and science through a randomized control trial design study.

"What that means is that we will be able to actually test the causal effects of these strategies on student outcomes, and this is a huge win for Ohio to be able to do that within the context of classroom settings," Tambyraja said, adding the study comes at a "perfect time" given pending legislation such as SB328 (Koehler) and recently enacted SB19 (Brenner).

Weber-Mayrer added that all students, even those in the study's control group, will eventually receive intervention services through the grant. Separately, she provided updates on DEW's literacy "Learning Walk" evaluation method intended to measure the effectiveness of implementing the science of reading across Ohio's schools.

Weber-Mayrer reported that as of late October, 2,375 learning walks have been completed within 268 buildings across all five regions of the state. She said 92.5 percent of participating schools were found to be engaged in curriculum-based professional learning. However, she said less than half of learning walks -- approximately 47 percent -- included building leader engagement, and noted communication with school principals needs to improve.

"That's mind-boggling to me. It should be 100 percent, absolutely 100 percent," Dackin said. "There's really nothing more important for the principal than to be a partner with teachers in helping to implement this kind of work."

Chad Aldis of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute commended the department's work concerning literacy, saying that despite operating as an executive agency, none of its work has been politically motivated.

"This isn't a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is about kids' reading," he said. "You have laid the framework and established the foundation that the governor-elect and the director, whether it's this director or a new director, will be able to grab the baton and continue running forward and making progress for Ohio's kids."

DEW's next public meeting will be held in January 2027.

## JLEC Registration Changes for November 12, 2026

Recent legislative agent and executive agency lobbyist registration changes:
**New Registrations:**
Sheila Boehner | Massa Financial Solutions | Executive
Sheila Boehner | Massa Financial Solutions | Legislative
Sheila Boehner | Massa Financial Solutions | Retirement
William L Byers, IV | Ohio Children's Alliance | Executive
William L Byers, IV | Ohio Children's Alliance | Legislative
Andrew Minton | Ohio Children's Alliance | Executive
Andrew Minton | Ohio Children's Alliance | Legislative
Shawn Nelson | Jupiter Power LLC | Executive
Shawn Nelson | Jupiter Power LLC | Legislative
Stephen E Tugend | Massa Financial Solutions | Executive
Stephen E Tugend | Massa Financial Solutions | Legislative
Stephen E Tugend | Massa Financial Solutions | Retirement
**Terminated Registrations:**
Graciana Flajnik | CareSource Mission | Executive
Graciana Flajnik | CareSource Mission | Legislative
Bridget E McAuliffe | CareSource Mission | Executive
Bridget E McAuliffe | CareSource Mission | Legislative
Brenton Temple | CareSource Mission | Executive

Brenton Temple | CareSource Mission | Legislative

*Hannah News* makes all attempts to be accurate with the reporting of new or terminated lobbyist registrations. Please refer to Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Ohio Lobbying Activity Center (OLAC) for the official listing of registered legislative agents and executive agency lobbyists

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS FOR 11/12/2026

**The House adjourned until Monday, Nov. 16, 2026 at 9 a.m. (Nonvoting Session)**

**The Senate adjourned until Monday, Nov. 16, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. (Nonvoting Session)**

**Copyright 2026 Hannah News Service, Inc. All rights reserved. *The Hannah Report* is published by Hannah News Service, Inc., 21 W. Broad St., Suite 1000, Columbus OH 43215. Phone 614-228-3113, Fax 614-228-5897. Website: www.hannah.com. Duplication or reproduction in any form, including electronic, is prohibited without prior permission of the publisher. Publisher: Judith Tieman Bird.**




# *Preliminary Committee Agenda*

## Monday, November 16, 2026

**STUDY COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE PLACEMENT OF DELINQUENT CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

*Mon., Nov. 16, 2026, 9:30 AM, Hearing Room 313*

The study committee will take public testimony.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGENCY RULE REVIEW**

*Mon., Nov. 16, 2026, 1:30 PM, Senate Finance Hearing Room*

## Tuesday, November 17, 2026

**HOUSE FINANCE** Rep. Stewart: 614-466-1464

*Tue., Nov. 17, 2026, 10:00 AM, Hearing Room 313*

HB328 LOCAL REIMBURSEMENT-COMMUNITY RECREATION SPACES (BREWER D, ROBB BLASDEL M) To establish a grant program to reimburse local government entities for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of community recreation spaces, to name this act the Fit, Safe, and Strong Communities Act, and to make an appropriation.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB583 REGARDING LIBRARY DATABASE PROVISIONS (RITTER K, NEWMAN J) Regarding the provision of online library database resources by public schools, public libraries, and state agencies.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB772 ESTABLISH RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM (BARHORST T, MOORE T) To establish the Rural Health Transformation Program.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB800 SPORTS GAMING TAX RATE INCREASE (LETT C, ROBINSON P) To increase the rate of the sports gaming tax on certain operators, to require all-day kindergarten, to establish universal preschool programs, and to name this act the Preschool forAll Act.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB817 CREATE PUBLIC SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM (WILLIAMS J) To create the NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program, to authorize Local Government Fund reductions if Lucas County or the City of Toledo fail to abide by certain terms of a grant under that Program, and to make an appropriation.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB924 CREATE PUBLIC DEFENDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (WILLIAMS J) To create the court-appointed public defender loan repayment program.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB953 SUPPORT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT-APPROPRIATION (WILLIAMS J) To make an appropriation to support Junior Achievement of Northwestern Ohio's fifth year program.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

**HOUSE MEDICAID** Rep. Gross: 614-466-8550

*Tue., Nov. 17, 2026, 11:30 AM, Hearing Room 018*

HB810 ESTABLISH MEDICAID VOLUNTARY TRANSITION PROGRAM (WILLIAMS J) To establish the American Dream Voluntary Transition Program as a component of the Medicaid program and to designate this act the American Dream Act.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB822 REGARDING MEDICAID ALLOWANCE-ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOMES (CLICK G) Regarding the Medicaid personal needs allowance for individuals eligible for the Medicaid-funded assisted living program and for residents of nursing homes and ICFs/IID.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony, AMENDMENTS**

HB883 REGARDING MEDICAID COVERAGE-TREATMENT IN PLACE (GLASSBURN C) Regarding Medicaid coverage for treatment in place services provided by EMS organizations, and to make an appropriation.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB1008 REGARDING MEDICAID PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE (TROY D, GRIM M) Regarding the Medicaid personal needs allowance for individuals eligible for the Medicaid-funded assisted living program and for residents of nursing homes and ICFs/IID.

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION** Rep. Willis: 614-466-2038

*Tue., Nov. 17, 2026, 3:30 PM, Hearing Room 122*

HB951 EXCLUDE SEMITRAILERS-MOTOR VEHICLE SALES LAW (ROBB BLASDEL M, BARHORST T) To exclude semitrailers from the Motor Vehicle Sales Law.

**Third Hearing, Opponent/Interested Party Testimony**

SB280 ALLOW HUMVEE REGISTRATION (JOHNSON T) To allow for the registration of a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle manufactured for military purposes, commonly known as a humvee.

**Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony**

HB753 ENGLISH REQUIREMENT-DRIVERS EXAMS (SCHMIDT J) To require the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to administer all drivers exams in English.

**First Hearing, Sponsor/Proponent Testimony, AMENDMENTS**

HB482 HIGHWAY DESIGNATION-BILL POWELL (KISHMAN M, OELSLAGER S) To designate a portion of U.S. Route 30 in Stark County as the "Bill Powell Memorial Highway."

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

HB812 ROAD DESIGNATION-ANASTASIA JEHOREK (LORENZ B) To designate a portion of State Route 750 in Delaware County as the "Anastasia Jehorek Memorial Highway."

**First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony**

SB16 CHANGE LANES-STATIONARY VEHICLE (WILSON S) To prohibit failing to change lanes or proceed with caution around a stationary vehicle in distress.

**Third Hearing, Opponent/Interested Party Testimony**

HB948 REGARDING E-BIKE OPERATION, SAFETY (WHITE A, MILLER K) Regarding electric bicycle operation, education, and traffic safety.

**Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony**

# Wednesday, November 18, 2026

**HOUSE DEVELOPMENT** Rep. Hoops: 614-466-3760

*Wed., Nov. 18, 2026, 9:45 AM, Hearing Room 122*

HB765 AFFORDABLE HOME CREDIT MODIFICATION (WHITE A) To modify the affordable single-family home credit.

**Fourth Hearing, All Testimony, AMENDMENTS/POSSIBLE VOTE**

SB102 LAW CHANGES-FORECLOSURES, LAND REUTILIZATION (PATTON T) To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations, and to name this act the Gus Frangos Act.

**First Hearing, Sponsor/Proponent Testimony**

SB135 CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY FORECLOSURES, ESTATE SALES (BRENNER A) Relating to real property foreclosures and estate sales.

**First Hearing, Sponsor/Proponent Testimony**

**HOUSE RULES AND REFERENCE** Rep. Huffman: 614-466-6344

*Wed., Nov. 18, 2026, 10:30 AM, House Chambers*

**OHIO SENATE**

*Wed., Nov. 18, 2026, 1:30 PM, Senate Chambers*

**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Wed., Nov. 18, 2026, 2:00 PM, House Chambers*