



### *City of Columbus Mobile Food Curfew*

The [Columbus Dispatch](#) recently reported that the City of Columbus is considering an ordinance that would place a 2am operation curfew on mobile food vendors. This proposal is a response to complaints about noise and crime in the Short North area. According to the article the ordinance would:

- Require vendors to obtain permits to operate in so-called "congestion zones," which the city defines as an area that has parking limitations, meter restrictions, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Create an online reservation system so vendors could produce temporary permits while giving law enforcement the ability to view those reservations.

While the GOSA wouldn't expect this to affect our members, it is definitely something to pay attention to in case additional provisions are included.

### *"Cut Red Tape Unveiled"*

If there is an administrative rule or regulation that is adversely affecting your business or operation, you can now report that to "[Cut Red Tape Ohio](#)". This new tool through the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review *will allow you to report State of Ohio regulations that restrict your business, family or daily life*. Once reported, JCARR will investigate the submission and possible action could include calling the rule to be reviewed in advance of the statutory 5-year review. This new system is designed to make Ohio more business friendly.

### *Environmental Health Specialist Legislation*

Senator George Lang has introduced [Senate Bill 338](#). SB 338 would require ODAg and ODH to adopt rules governing the assessment of registered environmental health specialists and environmental health specialists in training who conduct inspections of retail food establishments and food service operations. The assessments created under this bill would test health inspectors' knowledge food safety and Ohio's food code. This will ensure local inspectors are fairly, accurately and competently inspecting food service operations.

This is an issue that has been discussed in Ohio for years. In Senator Lang's proponent testimony, he stated in part: *well-intentioned efforts seem to be misguided by transforming the food survey evaluations of local health inspectors from a risk-based assessment focused on critical violations of the food code that cause food-borne illness into an overly burdensome comprehensive field exam. This approach deteriorates collaborative efforts between regulators and operators to gain compliance and is not in the best interest of food safety.*

The bill would also require ODH to study the cost methodology used by local health departments for food service operation licenses.

SB 338 is pending in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. There have been 2 hearings. At the proponent hearing the legislation received wide support from local health departments as well as the Ohio Restaurant Association, the Ohio Environmental Health Association, and the Ohio Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

### 4-H legislation

Legislation has been introduced to require schools to provide students with excused absences for participating in 4-H activities. [House Bill 643](#) is sponsored by Representatives Thomas Hall and Rodney Creech. The bill does not allow these excused absences to occur during scheduled state testing.

### Senate Bill 215 – Gun Bill

The legislature has passed, and the Governor has signed legislation that removes the requirement for a permit and minimum training to carry a concealed weapon. The legislation did not make any changes to signage, gun-free zones, or the ability for businesses to ban carrying guns on their premises. County fairs who ban weapons in their buildings should not be affected by Senate Bill 215. However, you may want to check with your local prosecutor or legal counsel for any additional guidance on this law.

An Attorney General's opinion on concealed carry from 2005 is still applicable regarding open/conceal carry. In summary it states the carrying of firearms can be prohibited in buildings, but not on the property that is not within a building. But the opinion is pretty specific to grounds owned by the county.

### Ohio State Fair Back to Full Capacity in 2022



According to reports, the Ohio State Fair saw a slight decrease in total visitors this year compared to the last full-scale event in 2019, but revenues increased, officials reported. "Fairs are very weather dependent, and with a few days of rain, it is not surprising that we saw smaller crowds those days. On days with good weather, we saw higher attendance than 2019," Virgil Strickler, Ohio State Fair General Manager, said in a statement.

"In full, 886,473 visitors walked through the gates at the 2022 Ohio State Fair, and combined revenue was up across the board with record-setting concession revenue, sponsorships, and the highest-ever Sale of Champions."

Alicia Shoults, fair spokesperson, said in an email that preliminary revenue reports show record-breaking sponsorship at \$1.6 million and record concession revenue at more than \$6.9 million. Additional revenue could still be reported, and expenses have yet to be determined, she said.

The State Fair also saw the return of the Joint House and Senate Agriculture Committee meeting. Ohio's Fair queen was invited to give remarks, along with Farm Bureau, FFA and ODAg.

### Minimum Wage to Increase

Because of a ballot initiative approved by voter years ago, Ohio's minimum wage is adjusted annual for inflation. Starting in January of 2023, the state's minimum wage for non-tipped employees will increase to \$10.10 per hour.

### After August Primary, State Legislators Set Sights on General Election Campaigning

Statehouse incumbents generally came away unscathed from the August Statehouse primary, despite a low 7% turnout. There was a total of 18 contested Republican primaries – three in the Senate and 15 in the House, and 10 contested Democratic primaries – only one in the Senate and nine in the House. Of all the races, only three incumbents lost: State Rep. Mark Fraizer (R - Licking County), newly appointed Rep. Shawn Stevens (R - Delaware County) and Rep. Monique Smith (D - Cleveland), who was in the same district as fellow democratic incumbent Rep. Bride Sweeney due to redistricting.

With the primary behind them, candidates are in their communities campaigning with about a month to go until the general election. In general, Republican candidates seem to have an edge in fundraising so far, but there are several districts where the matchup looks to be incredibly tight.

### **Supreme Court Race Spotlight**

In addition to the higher profile statewide races for Governor and US Senate, Ohio voters will also have the chance to vote for 3 seats on the State Supreme Court, including electing a new Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. The current Chief is ineligible to run for another term because of constitutional limits on the age of Ohio justices. Justices have historically been elected in “non-partisan” elections, meaning their party affiliation was not listed on the ballot. Because of legislation recently enacted, this will be the first year these elections will have the candidates political party identified.

The matchups are as follows:

**Chief Justice** Sharon Kennedy (R) vs. Jennifer Brunner (D). Kennedy and Brunner both currently service on the Supreme Court, but have chosen to run for the Chief Justice position. Regardless of the outcome of this race, a seat on the court will open up. Governor DeWine will have the privilege to appoint the replacement here, regardless of the outcome of the Governor’s race.

**Justice** Pat Fischer (R) vs. Terri Jamison (D). Fischer is an incumbent justice running for another term. Jamison is currently serving as Judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals.

**Justice** Pat DeWine (R) vs. Marilyn Zayas (D). DeWine is an incumbent justice running for re-election. Zayas is currently serving as a Judge on a First District Court of Appeals.

Several Statewide business organizations have released endorsements of the Republican candidates including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business of Ohio.

### **How to Contact Your Lobbyist**

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