

Cleveland Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 19, 2023

Ohio Public Policy & Political Update Report



Ohio Political Landscape

Republicans Maintain Control of All Statewide Offices

- Governor Mike DeWine
- Attorney General Dave Yost
- Auditor Keith Faber
- Secretary of State Frank LaRose
- Treasurer Robert Sprague

Republicans Control Supreme Court

- First in recent history candidates identified by party
- Sharon Kennedy elected Chief
- Justices Pat DeWine and Patrick Fischer reelected
- Joe Deters Appointed to fill vacancy
- Republicans maintain 4-3 majority

134th General Assembly “Lame Duck” Recap

- HB 45 appropriated nearly \$6 billion
 - \$1.750 billion for education
 - \$250 million for local water related projects
 - \$150 million for lead abatement
 - Spent \$1.4 billion of Ohio’s remaining \$1.9 billion in ARPA \$’s
- Election “Reform” HB 458
- Reform of Ohio Department of Education (SB 178) failed
- Constitutional Provision requiring 60% for future Constitutional Amendments failed
- Controversial issues including “divisive concepts” (HB 327 and 616) not considered

135th General Assembly

Ohio Senate

- 26 Republicans
- 7 Democrats
- Sen. Huffman re-elected President
- Sen. Nickie Antonio - Minority Leader
- Sen. Dolan - Finance Chair
- Sen. Cirino – Finance Vice Chair

Ohio House

- 67 Republicans
- 32 Democrats
- Rep. Jason Stephens elected Speaker with 22 Republicans and 32 Democrats
- Rep. Oeslager elected Speaker Pro Tem
- Balance of Republican leadership and committee assignments to be determined
- Rep. Bride Sweeney - Ranking Member of Finance

DeWine Administration 2nd Term

Staff Changes

- Stephanie McCloud, Chief of Staff
- Lee Ann Cornyn, Deputy Chief of Staff
- Aaron Crooks, Legislative Director
- Scott Partika, Policy Director
- Tax Commissioner appointment forthcoming
- Anticipate additional turnover

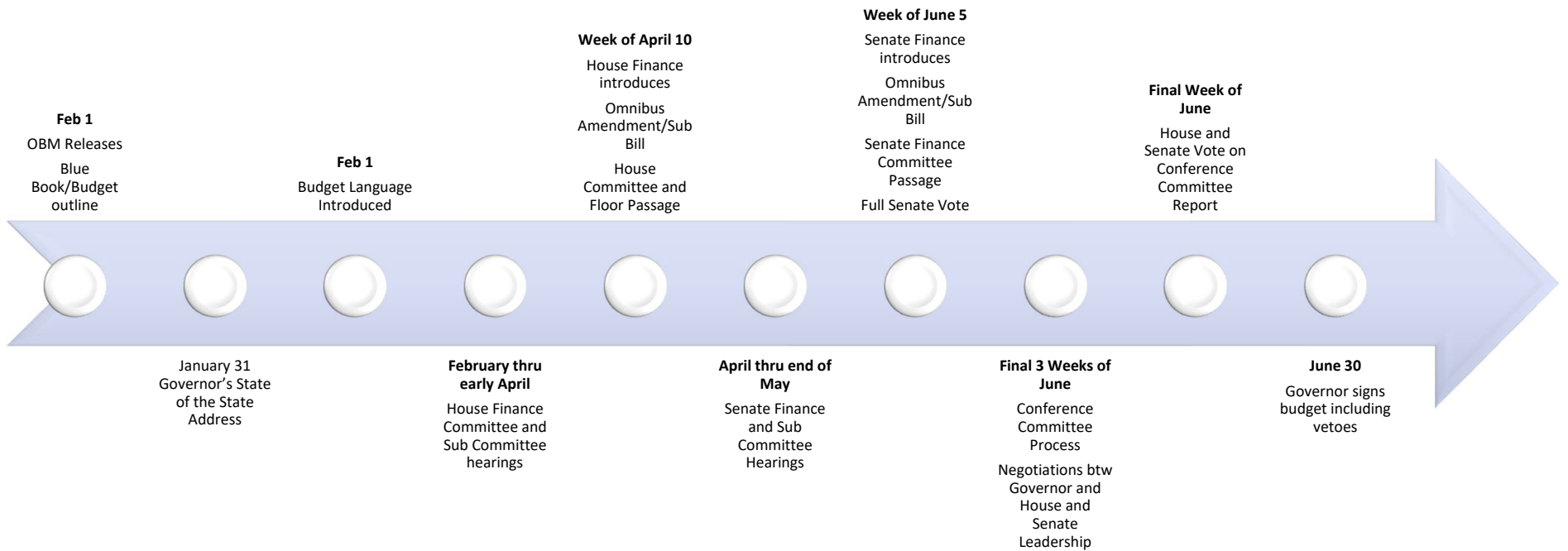
2nd Term Priorities

- Mental Health Initiatives
- Affordable Housing

2023 Policy Agenda

- General Revenue Fund Operating Budget
- Tax Reform/Tax Cuts
- Ohio Retirement Systems/Employer Contributions
- Redistricting/Reapportionment
- Social Issues including "Divisive Concepts"
- Capital Budget preparation
- Property Tax Reforms

FY 24-25 GRF Budget Projected Legislative Timeline



Ohio's Current Fiscal Position

- Ohio Revenues continue to exceed estimates
- YTD GRF revenues exceed estimates by 3.8% (\$510 million)
- Personal Income Taxes strongest performer
- December was the slowest monthly growth rate for FY 23
- YTD Expenses above estimate by \$1.5%

2023 CPL Legislative Priorities

January thru June

- PLF – 1.66% to at least 1.7% (permanent law)
- Library for The Blind Funding
- "Divisive Concepts" Legislation
- Stability of Property Tax Base

Fall

- Explore Capital Budget Opportunities

Action Steps

- Coordination with Ohio Library Council
- Continue series of legislative meetings that began in 2022
 - House Finance Committee Members (when determined)
 - Senator Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), Senator Cirino (R-Kirtland), Sen. Kent Smith (D-Euclid), Sen. Antonio (D-Lakewood)
 - Rep. Brent (D-Cleveland), Rep. Upchurch (D-Cleveland), Rep. Skindell (D-Lakewood), Rep. Robinson (D-Solon)
- Outreach to 4 new House delegation members
 - Rep. Darnell Brewer (D-Cleveland), Rep. Elliot Forhan (D-South Euclid), Rep. Richard Dell'Aquila (D-Seven Hills), Rep. Sean Brenna (D-Parma)
- Further embrace relationship with Rep. Bride Sweeney (D-Cleveland)
- Legislative/Columbus Day in April