**Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts
*Legislative Report – January 2025***

**GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.
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**January in Ohio: News to Know**

Happy New Year! To kick off 2025, there are a variety of Ohio Statehouse updates that may interest you. From the legislative member breakdown of our 136th General Assembly to the standing committee leadership lists for the Senate and House chambers, please continue reading below for information that will inform the rest of this legislative session.

**136th General Assembly: Member Leadership Teams**

Monday, January 6, 2025, marked the beginning of the 136th Ohio General Assembly. A total of 27 new members joined the Ohio House—16 Republicans and 11 Democrats. In the House, Republicans hold 65 seats, while Democrats hold 34 seats—up two from the previous legislative session. In the Ohio Senate, six new members joined the chamber—three Republicans and three Democrats. Now, Republicans hold 24 seats while Democrats hold 9 seats, up two from the previous legislative session.

Members of the Ohio House formally elected **State Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) to serve as Speaker of the House** for the new legislative session. Speaker Huffman was elected by his House colleagues by a vote of 96-0 and was immediately sworn into office, accepting the gavel from former House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill).

**Joining Speaker Huffman in the majority leadership team will be:**

* Rep. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville) as Speaker Pro Tempore
* Rep. Phil Plummer (R-Dayton) as Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore
* Rep. Marilyn John (R-Shelby) as Majority Floor Leader
* Rep. Adam Bird (R-New Richmond) as Assistant Majority Floor Leader
* Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky), Rep. Steve Demetriou (R-Chagrin Falls), Rep. Nick Santucci (R-Niles) and Rep. Josh Williams (R-Oregon) as Majority Whips.

**For the minority leadership team**, the House Democrats have re-elected Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) as Minority Leader, Rep. Dontavius Jarrells (D-Columbus) as Assistant Minority Leader, Rep. Dani Isaacsohn (D-Cincinnati) as Minority Whip, and Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) as Assistant Minority Whip.

In the Ohio Senate, both the majority and minority leadership teams were elected as expected**.** Members of the Senate unanimously elected **State Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) to serve as Senate President,** who was immediately sworn into office for the new legislative session.

**Joining President McColley in the majority leadership team will be:**

* Sen. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) as President Pro Tempore
* Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) as Majority Floor Leader
* Sen. George Lang (R-West Chester Twp.) as Majority Whip

**For the minority leadership team,** the Senate Democrats have re-elected Sen. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) to serve as Minority Leader for the 136th General Assembly. Leader Antonio will be joined by Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) as Assistant Minority Leader, Sen. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) as Minority Whip, and Sen. Beth Liston (D-Dublin) as Assistant Minority Whip.

**136th General Assembly: Committee Assignments**

On Friday, January 10, 2025, President Rob McColley released the full Ohio Senate committee membership directory for the 21 standing committees this session. See the committees and their leaders below:

* **Addiction & Community Revitalization:** Chair Sen. Al Landis (R-Dover), Vice Chair Sen. Terry Johnson (R-Portsmouth), Ranking Member Sen. Willis Blackshear (D-Dayton).
* **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster), Vice Chair Sen. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield), Ranking Member Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo).
* **Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety:** Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville), Ranking Member Sen. Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson).
* **Education:** Chair Sen. Andy Brenner (R-Delaware), Vice Chair Sen. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati), Ranking Member Sen. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati).
* **Energy:** Chair Sen. Brian Chavez (R-Marietta), Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Sen. Kent Smith (D-Euclid).
* **Finance:** Chair Cirino (R-Kirtland), Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson.
* **Financial Institutions, Insurance & Technology:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Sen. George Lang (R-West Chester), Ranking Member Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus).
* **General Government:** Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green), Ranking Member Blackshear.
* **Government Oversight & Reform:** Chair Sen. Susan Manchester (R-Lakeview), Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein.
* **Health:** Chair Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City), Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Sen. Beth Liston (D-Dublin).
* **Higher Education:** Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram.
* **Housing:** Chair Sen. Michele Reynolds (R-Canal Winchester), Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Craig.
* **Judiciary:** Chair Sen. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville), Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson.
* **Local Government:** Chair Sen. Sandra O'Brien (R-Rome), Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith.
* **Medicaid:** Chair Sen. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield), Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston.
* **Public Utilities:** Chair Sen. Shane Wilkin (R-Hillsboro), Vice Chair Sen. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), Ranking Member Sen. Bill DeMora (D-Columbus).
* **Rules & Reference:** Chair Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), Vice Chair Sen. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), Ranking Member Sen. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood)
* **Small Business & Economic Opportunity:** Chair Sen. Al Cutrona (R-Canfield), Vice Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Craig.
* **Transportation:** Chair Sen. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville), Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood).
* **Ways & Means:** Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora.
* **Workforce Development:** Chair Sen. Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Speaker Matt Huffman (R-Lima) released the Ohio House committee assignments for Republican members. The next day, the remainder of the House committee assignments were released for Democrat members. See the 27 standing committees and their leaders below:

* **Agriculture:** Chair Rep. Rodney Creech (R-West Alexandria), Vice Chair Rep. Johnathan Newman (R-Troy), Ranking Member Rep. Joseph Miller (D-Amherst).
* **Arts, Athletics, & Tourism:** Chair Rep. Melanie Miller (R-Ashland), Vice Chair Rep. Mark Hiner (R-Howard), Ranking Member Rep. Dontavius Jarrells (D-Columbus).
* **Children & Human Services:** Chair Rep. Andrea White (R-Kettering), Vice Chair Rep. Jodi Salvo (R-Zoar), Ranking Member Rep. Crystal Lett (D-Columbus).
* **Commerce & Labor:** Chair Rep. Mark Johnson (R-Chillicothe), Vice Chair Rep. Beth Lear (R-Galena), Ranking Member Rep. Lauren McNally (D-Youngstown).
* **Community Revitalization:** Chair Rep. Gary Click (R-Vickery), Vice Chair Rep. Diane Mullins (R-Hamilton), Ranking Member Rep. Darnell Brewer (D-Cleveland).
* **Development:** Chair Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon), Vice Chair Rep. Brian Lorenz (R-Powell), Ranking Member Rep. Munira Abdullahi (D-Columbus).
* **Education:** Chair Rep. Sarah Fowler Arthur (R-Ashtabula), Vice Chair Rep. Mike Odioso (R-Cincinnati), Ranking Member Rep. Phillip Robinson Jr. (D-Solon).
* **Energy:** Chair Rep. Adam Holmes (R-Nashport), Vice Chair Rep. Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland), Ranking Member Rep. Chris Glassburn (D-North Olmsted).
* **Finance:** Chair Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Ashville), Vice Chair Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea), Ranking Member Rep. Bride Sweeney (D-Cleveland).
* **Financial Institutions:** Chair Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), Vice Chair Rep. Justin Pizzulli (R-Franklin Furnace), Ranking Member Rep. Eric Synenberg (D-Beachwood).
* **General Government:** Chair Rep. Sharon Ray (R-Wadsworth), Vice Chair Rep. Tex Fischer (R-Boardman), Ranking Member Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland).
* **Government Oversight:** Chair Rep. Thomas Hall (R-Middletown), Vice Chair Rep. Ron Ferguson (R-Wintersville), Ranking Member Rep. Layna Humphrey (D-Columbus).
* **Health:** Chair Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Loveland), Vice Chair Rep. Kellie Deeter (R-Norwalk), Ranking Member Rep. Anita Somani (D-Dublin).
* **Insurance:** Chair Rep. Brian Lampton (R-Fairborn), Vice Chair Rep. Meredith Craig (R-Wooster), Ranking Member Rep. Desiree Tims (D-Dayton).
* **Judiciary:** Chair Rep. Jim Thomas (R-Canton), Vice Chair Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon), Ranking Member Rep. Dani Isaacsohn (D-Cincinnati).
* **Local Government:** Chair Rep. Angela King (R-Celina), Vice Chair Rep. Matthew Kishman (R-Minerva), Ranking Member Rep. Veronica Sims (D-Akron).
* **Medicaid:** Chair. Rep. Jennifer Gross (R-West Chester), Vice Chair Rep. Tim Barhorst (R-Fort Loramie), Ranking Member Rep. Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati).
* **Natural Resources:** Chair Rep. Don Jones (R-Freeport), Vice Chair Rep. Monica Robb Blasdel (R-Columbiana), Ranking Member Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo).
* **Public Insurance & Pensions:** Chair Rep. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina), Vice Chair Rep. Michelle Teska (R-Centerville), Ranking Member Rep. Sean Brennan (D-Parma).
* **Public Safety:** Chair Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison), Vice Chair Rep. Kevin Miller (R-Newark), Ranking Member Rep. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati).
* **Rules & Reference:** Chair Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), Vice Chair Rep. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), Ranking Member Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington).
* **Small Business:** Chair Rep. Haraz Ghanbari (R-Perrysburg), Vice Chair Rep. Levi Dean (R-Xenia), Ranking Member Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland).
* **Technology & Innovation:** Chair Rep. Thad Claggett (R-Newark), Vice Chair Rep. Heidi Workman (R-Rootstown), Ranking Member Rep. Ismail Mohamed (D-Columbus).
* **Transportation:** Chair Rep. Bernard Willis (R-Springfield), Vice Chair Rep. Jack Daniels (R-Akron), Ranking Member Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo).
* **Veterans & Military Development:** Chair Rep. Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville), Vice Chair Rep. Ty Mathews (R-Findlay), Ranking Member Rep. Derrick Hall (D-Akron).
* **Ways & Means:** Chair Rep. Bill Roemer (R-Richfield), Vice Chair Rep. David Thomas (R-Jefferson), Ranking Member Rep. Daniel Troy (D-Willowick).
* **Workforce & Higher Education:** Chair Rep. Tom Young (R-Centerville), Vice Chair Rep. Kevin Ritter (R-Marietta), Ranking Member Rep. Beryl Piccolantonio (D-Gahanna).

**Below is a list of legislation we are tracking on your behalf:**

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| **HB14** | **INCORPORATE FEDERAL TAX CHANGES** (ROEMER B, WORKMAN H) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 15, 2023, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/28/2025 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-14> |
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| **HB18** | **DIGITAL ASSET INVESTMENT, CRYPTOCURRENCY RESERVE** (DEMETRIOU S) To address investments in exchange-traded products by the state retirement systems, to permit the Treasurer of State to invest certain interim funds in digital assets, and to name this act the Ohio Strategic Cryptocurrency Reserve Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/23/2025 - Introduced |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-18> |
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| **SB3** | **PHASE DOWN OHIO INCOME TAX** (LANG G, HUFFMAN S) To phase-down the state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% over two years. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/29/2025 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-3> |
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| **SB8** | **PROHIBIT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION-UNION ACTIVITIES** (HUFFMAN S) To prohibit a public employer from providing paid leave or compensation for a public employee to engage in certain union activities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/22/2025 - Introduced |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-8> |
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| **SB9** | **INCORPORATE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES** (BLESSING III L) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 15, 2023, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/29/2025 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-9> |
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| **SB15** | **ALLOW ESTABLISHMENT-COMMON BOND FUND PROGRAM** (BRENNER A, WILSON S) To allow port authorities to establish a Common Bond Fund Program to finance port authority facilities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/22/2025 - Introduced |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-15> |
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