BALLOT ISSUES

While the federal government does provide protections against foreign entities gaining control of critical infrastructure in Ohio and across the U.S., the Buckeye State should adopt a constitutional amendment to better protect its power plants, electric transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines and water treatment plants, Reps. Don Manning (R-New Middletown) and Jamie Callender (R-Concord) said Wednesday.

Speaking to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee during the panel's first hearing on HJR2, Manning said they have been "troubled by the growing trend of foreign entities acquiring or financing some of our country's most critical infrastructure," so they'd like to place the "Ohio Critical Infrastructure Protection Amendment" (OCIPA) on the November 2020 ballot.

FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) says the state must quash the referendum campaign against HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) energy subsidies once and for all or risk losing its two nuclear power plants and their half billion dollars in annual gross domestic product (GDP). The company lodged a second request this week for expedited briefings in State ex rel. FES v. Ohioans Against Corporate Bailouts after its first attempt failed in early September. The Ohio Supreme Court answered Thursday by ordering the campaign and Secretary of State Frank LaRose to respond to FirstEnergy's "new exigencies" no later than Tuesday, Nov. 5.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Cleveland will be the home of the new Americas headquarters for the London Stock Exchange's ELITE initiative and the site of its "Global ELITE Day 2020" conference next year, according to a Monday announcement. ELITE is the London Stock Exchange Group's (LSEG) international business support program for small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs), which selected nine Ohio companies and the city of Athens for its first U.S. division in December 2018. Lt. Gov. Jon Husted was in London on an economic development trip when the announcement was made during this year's ELITE Day where he gave a keynote address.
ELECTIONS 2020

The Ohio Republican Party announced that Corey Lewandowski, the former campaign manager for President Donald Trump, will be speaking at the party's fundraiser and 2020 election kickoff next month. The event will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Spread Eagle Tavern, 10150 Plymouth St., Hanoverton, OH. The event will also feature Bob Paduchik, a senior advisor to Trump's re-election campaign.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced the following endorsements: former U.S. Rep. Edward Feighan; Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown; former Mahoning County Democratic Party Chair Dave Betras; Parma City Council members Brian Brochetti, Mark Casselberry, Allan Divis, Larry Napoli, Kristin Saban and Roy Jech; Rep. Jeffrey Crossman (D-Parma); Parma City Auditor Brian Day; Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter; former Ohio Department of Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson; Lorain Clerk of Courts Ted Kalo; Fremont City Councilman Christopher Liebold; Parma City Treasurer Tom Mastroianni; Upper Arlington City Councilwoman Susan Ralph; Lorain County Treasurer Daniel Taralek; and Parma Clerk of Courts Marty Vittardi.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) spoke with reporters Tuesday about his thoughts on impeachment proceedings, the 2020 presidential election and recent legislative developments. Portman said that some have criticized Senate Republicans for not taking a stronger stance against impeachment as some Republicans in the House have. However, he said, should the House vote to impeach President Donald Trump, the Senate's job would be to act as jurors. Reporters asked if Portman still intended to vote for Trump in 2020. "I am."

Members of Ohio's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives voted along party lines Thursday on a resolution formalizing the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump and laying out the guidelines moving forward.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The General Assembly Monday sent three bills to Gov. Mike DeWine for his consideration including SB26 (Kunze) which includes the sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products as well as authorizes a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies, and modifies the business income deduction to allow lobbyists and lawyers to claim it. Also sent to the governor was HB189 (Patterson-Blessing) -- Tyler's Law -- which addresses amusement ride operation and safety and SB24 (Wilson-Yuko) which creates the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Task Force.

The Ohio House unanimously passed two bills during its session Wednesday to update state laws regarding humane societies and humane agents (HB24 [Hambley]), and to correct errors in the Ohio tax code (HB197 [Powell-Merrin]).
After session, House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) told reporters that the chamber continues its work on HB194 (Greenspan-Kelly), the sports betting bill, and said the bill will move when they work out all of the issues. He said they are addressing language dealing with mobile devices among other issues in the bill. Asked if the House is working with the Senate on the issue, he said they are going to do what the House thinks is right, and the Senate will do what it thinks is right, and maybe they will be able to come to an agreement on their differences. He also said that he doesn't think HB381 (Keller), the latest "stand your ground" legislation, will be merged into HB354 (Plummer-Swearingen), which addresses gun background checks and mental health.

The Sunset Review Committee heard from six state agencies at its Tuesday meeting, with all seeking continuation. They included State Emergency Response Commission, Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Assistance Council, Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety, Ohio Grape Industries Committee and Farmland Preservation Advisory Board.

The Senate Judiciary Committee continued its antitrust investigation into "Big Tech" Monday at the University of Cincinnati, where witnesses debated whether existing state and federal antitrust laws are equal to "Big Data's" power in the 21st century -- whether, in fact, online giants like Google, Facebook and Amazon are empowering rather than emasculating smaller firms and warrant antitrust worries at all. The committee heard from Co-Director Felix Chang of UC’s Corporate Law Center, President/CEO David Chavern of News Media Alliance, Thomas Zych of Thompson Hine LLP in Cleveland, President Jake Ward of Connected Commerce Council, Vice President/General Counsel Carl Szabo of NetChoice, and Co-Founder MaryEllen Reider of Yarlap in Oxford.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) and Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) Thursday announced that the Senate will broadcast and stream all of its committee hearings live beginning in January.

Freshman Rep. Adam Holmes (R-Zanesville) drew support from House Speaker Pro Tempore Jim Butler (R-Dayton) and Majority Whip Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) Thursday in announcing the reintroduction of "surprise" medical billing reforms vetoed by Gov. Mike DeWine in budget bill HB166 (Oelslager). Holmes, Butler, Edwards and Rep. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton) joined at the Statehouse to discuss the as-yet unnumbered bill, which would require out-of-network providers to bill patients at their in-network rate or negotiate a different rate with their insurer, among other alternatives.

Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) and Rep. Beth Liston (D-Dublin) announced Thursday a package of legislation meant to address high insulin costs, including a price cap on insulin provided by health plans.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) announced that Phase Two of the Ohio Statehouse parking garage repair project officially begins Monday, Nov. 4. During Phase Two of the repairs, the garage will remain in service, however at a reduced capacity. Approximately 25 percent or 300 spaces will be under construction throughout the entire project.
Despite warnings from criminal justice reform advocates that the bill would continue to increase the prison population without effectively addressing the state's drug problem, the House Criminal Justice Committee unanimously reported out SB55 (Gavarone) on Thursday. The "Relapse Reduction Act" would enhance penalties for most drug trafficking offenses when committed within 1,000 feet of an addiction services provider's facility if the offender "recklessly disregards" where the offense is being committed.

Ohio lawmakers took another step toward cracking down on drivers passing stopped school buses on Thursday. The House Criminal Justice Committee accepted a substitute version of school bus photo evidence bill HB83 (BrownSchaffer) that now includes language from HB89 (Antani) and HB105 (Brown-Scherer) requiring deputy registrars to display graphics on school bus procedures, increasing penalties for repeat offenders and making a $1 million appropriation, among other provisions.

Proponents of a bill that would eliminate a requirement for a financial institution to provide notice of a consumer's legal rights prior to collecting a debt on a junior lien on a residential property, such as a second mortgage, said the requirement is vague, onerous and creates a negative consumer experience, while opponents said the requirement provides protections for consumers who may otherwise be taken advantage of by predatory, non-depository institutions. At Thursday morning's meeting of the House Financial Institutions Committee, proponents of HB38 (Hillyer) included representatives of bank and credit union associations, while opponents included consumer lawyers specializing in mortgages.

In other action, the House Health Committee reported out HB210 (Carruthers) which deals with TB screenings for child care and preschool workers, HB287 (Russo-Perales) regarding home- and community-based waiver services for military families and SB101 (Yuko) designating May as "Preeclampsia Awareness Month"; the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee reported out HB106 (Scherer-Sheehy) that tightens teen driving restrictions and HCR14 (Sheehy-Rogers) which designates Sept. 7, 2019 as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day; Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee reported out HB10 (Brown-Stoltzfus) which establishes the Governor's Office of Drug Policy, SB194 (Rulli) which deals with voter registration systems and SB165 (Schaffer) which establishes requirements for EBT cards; Senate Higher Education Committee reported out SB181 (Coley) which addresses

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

Gov. Mike DeWine's administration has been working hard to comply with a new law requiring state agencies and a number of state commissions to create a "base inventory" of regulatory restrictions in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), DeWine spokesperson Dan Tierney told *Hannah News* in an interview.

The biennial budget, HB166 (Oelslager), includes language requiring all administrative agencies and the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Lottery Commission, Ohio Casino Control Commission, Ohio State Racing Commission and Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to review their existing rules to identify regulatory restrictions that include the words "shall," "must,"
"require," "may not," and "prohibit." The base inventory must be completed by Tuesday, Dec. 31.

The Ohio inspector general Thursday issued two reports, the first dealing with misappropriated lumber by an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) employee, and the second regarding several issues within the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Division of Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion and Division of Construction Management.

Despite opposition testimony from the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (OAND), the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) allowed the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) to move forward with rescinding a rule that made OAND the official liaison between SMBO and the industry.

The Ohio Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) Monday continued developing plans to honor the 100th anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote and encourage voter participation. Since the prior meeting, the group has a drafted a letter intended to go to potential partners with the goal of engaging youth during the centennial through projects, essays and creative contests for students.

**TAXATION**

Policy Matters Ohio's Wendy Patton was the sole opposition witness Wednesday on legislation that would create a new tax credit for "transformational mixed use development" (TMUD) projects. In testimony and throughout questioning by members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee on SB39 (Schuring), Patton repeatedly pointed out that tax credits do, in fact, spend taxpayer money. She said Ohio already sees approximately $9 billion a year in revenue "foregone" and this bill would only add to that total of tax expenditures.
Bills Introduced Since 10/28/2019

HB382 PROHIBIT INCOME TAX-MUNICIPAL NONRESIDENTS (JORDAN K) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents’ compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident.

HB383 BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH (CLITES R) To designate March as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month."

HB384 PERMITTING STOP SIGN REQUESTS (BOGGS K, LELAND D) To permit a local resident, neighborhood association, or neighborhood organization to request the erection of a stop sign at an intersection and to support a request for a lower prima-facie speed limit on certain streets and highways.

HR258 RELATIVE TO TRAVEL ALLOWANCE. (HOUSEHOLDER L, SYKES E) Relative to travel allowance.

SB229 DIABETES AWARENESS WEEK (SCHAFFER T) To designate the second week of November as "Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection Week."

Tracked Bills

HB48 LOCAL GOVT ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND (GREENSPAN D) To provide for a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund for local governments to fund road improvements.

  Current Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance

HB62 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To increase the rate of and modify the distribution of revenue from motor fuel excise taxes, to make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

  Current Status: 4/3/2019 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days, Taxes eff. 7/1/19

HB75 PROPERTY VALUE CONTESTS (MERRIN D) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.


HB149 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPT-RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION (MERRIN D) To enact the "Affordable Homebuilding and Housing Act" to temporarily exempt from property tax the increased value of land subdivided for residential development.

  Current Status: 4/10/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)

HB168 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE-HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (ARNDT S) To establish an affirmative defense to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances from a facility for certain bona fide prospective purchasers.

  Current Status: 9/25/2019 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)
HB175  **TAX EXEMPTION-GOODS MOVEMENT** (ANTANI N) To exempt from sales and use tax things used primarily to move completed manufactured products or general merchandise.

*Current Status:* 10/22/2019 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

HB176  **OPEN MEETINGS-VISITORS BUREAUS** (BRINKMAN T, BECKER J) To require certain convention and visitors' bureaus to make available for inspection by the public all meeting minutes, vendor payment information, and financial information.

*Current Status:* 4/2/2019 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB209  **ABOLISH ESTATE BY DOWER** (CARRUTHERS S, KICK D) To abolish the estate by dower.

*Current Status:* 10/24/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 61-32

HB218  **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS** (PATTON T) To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.

*Current Status:* 6/19/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

HB251  **CONTRACT ACTION-PERIOD OF LIMITATION** (LANG G, HILLYER B) To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract.

*Current Status:* 10/29/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Civil Justice, (Fifth Hearing)

HB252  **LAND REUTILIZATION** (GREENSPAN D) To create the Land Reutilization Demolition Program and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 6/30/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee

HB288  **EMINENT DOMAIN** (MANNING D) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 10/1/2019 - House Civil Justice, (Fourth Hearing)

HB380  **CONTRACTOR PAYMENT DEADLINE** (CROSS J, SWEENEY B) To require owners of construction projects to pay a contractor within thirty-five days of receiving a request for payment.

*Current Status:* 11/6/2019 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)

SB2  **STATEWIDE WATERSHED PLANNING** (PETE RSON B, DOLAN M) To create a statewide watershed planning structure for watershed programs to be implemented by local soil and water conservation districts.

*Current Status:* 10/16/2019 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)

SB8  **TAX CREDITS-OHIO OPPORTUNITY ZONE** (SCHURING K) To authorize tax credits for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.

*Current Status:* 5/8/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
SB39  **MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS-TAX CREDIT** (SCHURING K) To authorize an insurance premiums tax credit for capital contributions to transformational mixed use development projects.

*Current Status:*  11/6/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)

SB95  **STATE AND LOCAL TAX INDUCEMENTS** (KUNZE S, PETERSON B) To enhance state and local tax inducements for businesses making substantial fixed asset and employment investments and their suppliers.

*Current Status:*  10/22/2019 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

SB180  **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS** (SCHAFFER T) To authorize the issuance of industrial development bonds by a township and to authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to issue industrial development bonds without requiring the county, township, or municipal corporation to designate a community improvement corporation as its agency for industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development.

*Current Status:*  10/1/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)