**Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 3:30-4:45 PM**

**Present*:*** Laura Hartman Brandon Lawson, Dennis Blair, Matt Tway, Adam Price, Dan Studebaker, Nicole Marshall, Brian Reed.

Staff member: Janet Tressler-Davis.

**Community & Government Affairs**

**School Levy & Funding**

* .75 unearned income tax levy on the ballot; levy needed due to state funding model keeping property tax revenue flat.
* Public confusion over transfers to capital projects and termination benefits funds.
* State funding: district at 68.7% as of June 24 (Olentangy 67%, Dublin 39%, Hilliard 38%).
* Anti-levy misinformation is widespread.
* Potential October 2 public meeting to address the levy.
* 75cents per $100 of earned income

**Candidate Forums**

* Board of Education forum: Oct. 3, Westerville Public Library.
* City Council forum: Oct. 4, Renaissance Hotel.
* 10 City Council candidates; time management a concern during the forum.
* Volunteers, both forums need at least 6. Asked Otterbein Political Science Dept. & School PTO to volunteer.
* Doors open at 6:30PM and Forums 7-9:00PM both will be on Facebook live as well
* Thank you, Brandon, Brian and Dennis, for volunteering
* Please submit any questions for the forums

**Congressional Luncheon Update**

* Congressional luncheon canceled; replaced with state representative forum Sept. 23 at Little Turtle Country Club.
* Sept. we will discuss topics for crafting questions.

**Chamber Business**

**Business Regulations Update**

* Full report coming in September.
* New legislation increases equipment purchase deduction to $2.5M (phase-out at $4M).

**Workforce: Federal Child Care Tax Credit**

* Credit up to $150,000/year; currently 25% of expenses, potential increase to 40%.
* Unclear if funding a nearby daycare qualifies.

**Rick Carfagna, SVP Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce**

**Ohio State Budget & Tax Policy**

**State Budget**

* 2-year, 3,100-page budget; considered pro-growth by Ohio Chamber.
* 67 vetoes issued by Gov. DeWine.

**Income Tax Reform**

* Phased move to single 2.75% rate by 2026**.**

**Property Tax Reform**

* Four major reforms vetoed, including 40% school cash reserve cap.
* Veto override on Item 66 (levy restrictions) passed in House; awaits Senate vote.

**Statewide Ballot Initiative**

* Petition drive to eliminate property taxes; would severely impact local gov’t and schools.

**Property Tax & Fiscal Policy**

* Gov. DeWine’s work group to propose reforms by September; concerns over lack of taxpayer/business representation.
* “20.4 rule” and rising valuations driving tax increases.
* Large cash reserves acceptable early in levy cycle, problematic if >40% by year 5.

**Economic Development & Marketing**

**Data Centers**

* Industry added $11.8B to Ohio GDP in 2024; sales tax exemption restored.
* Amazon to announce a $3.5B investment for 30 new centers**.**

**State Marketing**

* Budget increased from $7M to $11M/year; still below neighboring states’ $25M average.

**America 250 Celebration**

* $10.75M allocated for county-wide events.

**Workforce & Education**

**Child Care**

* $200M voucher program to serve 20,000 more kids; new cost-share program (40% employer, 40% employee, 20% state).
* $3.2M in grants for rural in-home providers.

**Computer Science Education**

* $8M for teacher development; licensure waiver made permanent.

**Governor’s Merit Scholarship**

* $5,000/year to top 5% of high school graduates at public universities.

**Housing & Development**

* Low-Income Housing Tax Credit reauthorized; Brownfield tax credit doubled to $50M.
* New programs to encourage housing density and rural infrastructure.
* Referendum threshold for developments raised from 15% to 35%.

**Healthcare Policy**

* Proposed prescription dispensing fee ($10.50–$15.42) defeated; expected to return in fall.
* Out-of-network ambulance billing protections preserved.

**Legislation & Government Initiatives**

* Controversial school scholarship restrictions tied to Senate Bill 1 removed.
* Nuclear power plant security guard licensing approved.
* SNAP sugary beverage purchase restriction vetoed; work group to be formed.
* Next Generation 9-1-1 fee increased from 40¢ to 60¢.

**Economic & Business Development**

* Feasibility study funded for Amtrak line (Pittsburgh–Columbus–Chicago).
* Work-Learn Ohio and Manufacturing Technologies Assistance Program unfunded.
* Intel project delayed; uncertainty impacts 120 Ohio supplier businesses.

**Ohio Chamber Upcoming Events**

* **Workforce Summit:** Aug. 7, Nationwide Training Center; keynote by Lt. Gov. Trestle; Sal Khan speaking.

**Upcoming WACC BAC Meetings**

* **Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 2nd, 3:30PM at the Chamber office**
* Please reach out with any topic ideas for future meetings.