

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

For the week ending Febuary 9 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) released official program guidelines for the \$85 million Appalachian Community Innovation Centers program.

"Schools are already centers of the community in Appalachia. With the support of the General Assembly, we can use federal funds made available from the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Projects Fund to promote student engagement while increasing the availability of resources for adults," said Governor DeWine.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024



Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted provided the keynote remarks at the Dayton Development Coalition's 2023 Annual Meeting and Economic Review.



Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks announced that more than a dozen local bridge projects will receive funding to support rehabilitation and replacement work.

Nearly \$59.5 million will be awarded to support 17 projects in 12 counties as part of ODOT's Local Major Bridge Program. In 2022, Governor DeWine expanded the definition of a "local major bridge," which more than quadrupled the number of bridges that qualify for the program. In this round, 11 newly eligible bridges are receiving funding.

"We expanded this program to make an impact on more communities," said Governor DeWine. "With these funding awards, we're helping local communities invest in the upkeep or replacement of bridges to ensure that those who

cross them are safe."

Lt. Governor Husted gave closing remarks to the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber during its annual Columbus Drive-In event held at the



Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Dolly Parton attended First Lady Fran DeWine's 2022 luncheon to support the Imagination Library.



Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine announced new records regarding participation in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio: 60% of Ohio's eligible children - from birth to age 5 - enrolled in the program in January, which means 400,611 children received the books.



"I'm so thankful to all of our partners in 88 counties for helping us to bring these books to kids, at no cost to their families," said First Lady DeWine. "We've come so far from the 13% enrollment when we started the effort to

create a statewide program in 2019. And, of course, I am extremely grateful for Dolly Parton, who has sparked such an amazing opportunity for our little ones to learn before they start kindergarten."

To celebrate the record enrollment numbers, First Lady DeWine sent her Buckeye Brownies, a family favorite, and Dolly Parton's Hello Dolly Bars to local Imagination Library partners. Caregivers can sign up little ones at <https://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/>



Lt. Governor Husted spoke during the Ohio Association of Career Technical Education Legislative Seminar to career tech leaders from across the state. While at the event, he accepted the Public Servant of the Year Award that both he and Governor DeWine received for the second year in a row for their work to support career technical education.

Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Andy Wilson announced the availability of \$1 million in funding to support the work of law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual assault in Ohio.

"Those who've committed sexual assault have no place in our communities," said Governor DeWine. "The goal of this program is to help ensure that local law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to get offenders into custody as soon as possible."



With two months until the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, Tourism Ohio launched an all-new Total Solar Eclipse map to make planning for the event

in Ohio even easier.

"We are excited to welcome eclipse enthusiasts to our great state," said Governor DeWine. "In Ohio, there's far more to see and do beyond watching the solar eclipse. There are countless activities and destinations to explore. We encourage travelers to come early and state late for a full Heart of it All experience."



At the Ohio Township Association's Winter Conference, Lt. Governor Husted provided remarks about the importance of keeping Ohio's communities strong.

Friday, February 9, 2024

From creating new routes to connecting existing paths, trails will be constructed around Ohio with the help of grants from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund - distributed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Fourteen communities will receive \$6.2 million for new projects.

"These new trails will encourage more people to get outside and discover all the natural wonders Ohio has to offer," Governor DeWine said. "These local projects will highlight the state's diverse landscape, demonstrating another reason why Ohio is the heart of it all."

The Ohio Department of Development released additional guidance on the application process for the All Ohio Future Fund, which will provide \$750 million to local communities to help increase the state's inventory of project-ready economic development sites.

"Increasing our inventory of project-ready sites is imperative for continued economic growth," Governor DeWine said when the program guidelines were released in December. "With the help of this program, we will usher in a new era of economic development for Ohio, fueling opportunity for generations to come."

Funding awarded through the All Ohio Future Fund will be used toward one-time local infrastructure costs that are necessary to prepare sites for future economic development projects.

Governor DeWine made the following appointments.

Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted Release Statements Following Court Decision of Preliminary Injunction that Blocks Social Media Parental Notification Act

February 12, 2024 (COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted released the following statements after Chief Judge Algenon L. Marbley, the United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, granted tech lobbying group NetChoice's request for a preliminary injunction that stops the Social Media Parental Notification Act from being enforced. NetChoice represents Meta and other social media companies.

"There is overwhelming evidence that social media has a negative effect on the mental health of minors, including increases in depression and suicide-related behavior," said Governor DeWine. "The Social Media Parental Notification Act remains a reasonable, clear, narrowly tailored, and, I believe, lawful approach to provide safeguards and parental guidance. I am disappointed in today's ruling by the district court and respectfully disagree with it. Since the federal courts are interpreting federal constitutional law as preventing the State of Ohio from protecting Ohio's children, then Congress needs to act to protect our country's children."

Lt. Governor Husted provided the following statement:

"It's disappointing, but it will not deter us from our responsibility to protect children from exploitative social media al-

gorithms that are causing a crisis of depression, suicide, bullying, and sexual exploitation among our children. These companies could solve this problem without passing new laws, but they refuse to do so. Because social media companies will not be responsible, we must hold them accountable.

"Now, more than ever, we have a responsibility to continue our fight to protect children so they will not be exploited and monetized at the hands of big tech.

"After we have time to review the decision, we will determine our next steps but we are resolved to escalate our efforts to protect kids from further exploitation."

The Social Media Parental Notification Act would have required certain online companies to obtain verifiable parental consent to contractual terms of service before permitting kids under the age of 16 to use their platforms. This proposal was championed by Lt. Governor Husted, passed by the General Assembly, and signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine as part of the 2023-24 executive budget and was to take effect on January 15, 2024.

The law also included a requirement for companies to provide parents with their privacy guidelines to show them what will be censored or moderated content on their child's profile.

Governor DeWine Announces \$106 Million to Support Local Transit Projects February 11 - 17 is Ohio Loves Transit Week

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks today announced more than \$100 million in investments to support quality public transportation in Ohio.

A total of \$106 million will be awarded to 383 transit projects throughout Ohio. ODOT's Office of Transit is awarding the funds through seven separate grant programs that focus on workforce mobility, senior citizen and special needs transportation, rural transit, and busing.

"This funding will help ensure that transportation is not a barrier to opportunity. We are improving the quality

of life for Ohioans who depend on public transportation to access jobs, education, and medical services," said Governor DeWine.

Funding will be used for a variety of purposes such as transit fleet expansion, replacement vehicles, preventative maintenance, facility upgrades, new equipment and technology, and operating assistance.

"Transportation isn't just about moving vehicles; it's about moving people. These grant funds target the pillar of ODOT's mission to make transportation accessible, especially in our rural communities," said Director Marchbanks.

Program	Funding Amount
Rural Transit Program	\$39,009,519
Ohio Transportation Partnership Program II	\$37,100,000
Specialized Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Transit Program	\$8,686,932
Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program	\$8,605,069
Buses & Bus Facilities Program	\$5,035,267
Mobility Management Program	\$4,618,738
Ohio Intercity Bus Program	\$3,280,200

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