

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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OHIO HOUSE VOTES HOUSEHOLDER OUT; REP. CUPP (R-LIMA) NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

During the last week of July, the House 55-38 floor vote installed Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) as speaker.

The Republican caucus sought to cross the 50-vote threshold to elect a speaker without the support of Democrats, who throughout the day said they remained disenchanted with the prospect of backing either Republican.

In the end, Rep. Cupp narrowly defeated Rep. Butler in a caucus vote, according to members, prompting most of the latter's supports to join the Cupp camp. All Democrats voted against Rep. Cupp on the floor as did three Republicans: Rep. Tom Brinkman of Cincinnati, Rep. Bill Dean of Xenia, and Rep. Candice Keller of Middletown.

Rep. Cupp said after session he plans to discuss his next moves with the caucus, including whether and how to replace the leadership slate assembled by Rep. Householder. Details are forthcoming on whether there will be new committee chairs named, and who Cupp will place on his leadership team.

LAND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES UPDATE

OHBA ERAC Appeal: After filing an appeal with ERAC over OEPA's recent issuance of a new General Permit for impacts to ephemeral streams, OHBA is scheduled to have its preconference hearing later this week. OHBA plans to raise several key issues during the appeal process. During the rule adoption process earlier this summer, the agency admitted including many grey areas in practical application of the permit, but continued forward, regardless, blaming a June 22nd deadline when the new federal

navigable waters rule became effective. OHBA is one of three other trade groups filing an appeal with ERAC, hoping to get another chance to bring concerns and potentially some relief, as a result.

MS4 Draft General Permit Renewal: OEPA held a virtual information session last week on the proposed changes to the MS4 Permit currently out for public notice. OHBA is collecting information on potential concerns and specific changes which may have a negative impact on builders and developers. Please visit the following website to view documents associated with the draft general permit: <https://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index>

OHBA is currently reviewing further. Let us know if you have any comments or concerns ASAP (800)282-3403.