



NOVEMBER 19, 2020 REPORT #17

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGAIN LINE UP TO BLOCK AFFORDABLE HOUSING MEASURE

SB 212, sponsored by Senator Kirk Schuring, is a modest attempt to create housing opportunities in Ohio. It is also intended to spur housing development where housing markets are strained by lack of supply. The bill previously passed the senate by a wide margin. Fearing action on the bill in the lame duck session, local government unleashed their fury in an attempt to add restrictions that would essentially eviscerate the bill. What is surprising is the bill is PERMISSIVE. Nonetheless, county commissioners and auditors moaned about difficulties in administering the bail. School boards essentially do not want more burdens, (students) unless they bring bags of cash with them.

This is not new. Local government and no growth groups have stood in the way of any actions to spur any housing development. The county commissioners were the most outrageous in stating the bill is an attempt by developers to drive up housing costs. They also stated that housing starts are at record high levels. Upon questioning where that fiction came from, it was followed by complaining about all the farmland disappearing.

All this fiction left committee members in a confused state. It just reminded us of the strong bias these organizations hold against incentives to modernize and create housing development where it's needed most.

We have listed the members of the House Ways and Means Committee, if you care to reach out to them.



Derek Merrin (R)
Chair



Jeff LaRe (R)
Vice Chair



John M. Rogers (D)
Ranking Member



John Becker (R)



Janine R. Boyd (D)



Jack Cera (D)



Sedrick Denson (D)



Mark Fraizer (R)



Doug Green (R)



James M. Hoops (R)



Kris Jordan (R)



David Leland (D)



Riordan T. McClain (R)



Jena Powell (R)



Craig S. Riedel (R)



2021 OHIO HOUSE AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADERSHIP TEAMS FINALIZED

Both the House and Senate finalized its leadership teams for 2021. Bob Cupp will remain Speaker of the House, Tim Ginter, Speaker Pro Tempore, Bill Seitz, Majority Floor Leader, Rick Carfagna, Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Don Jones, Majority Whip, and Cindy Abrams, Assistant Majority Whip.

In the Senate, Matt Huffman will be the Senate President, Jay Hottinger, President Pro Tempore, Kirk Schuring, Majority Floor Leader, and Rob McColley, Majority whip. We look forward to working with all the newly elected leaders in the upcoming session.

OEPA ISSUES TO BE BROUGHT TO AGENCY ATTENTION

As OHBA prepares to meet with OEPA on several outstanding issues, now is the time to share any concerns, questions, issues you may be experiencing, along with specific instances/rules where issues are arising.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It was a busy week at the statehouse with numerous committees meeting, as well as, full session by both the House and Senate.

HB 289 ELEVATOR LAW (BALDRIDGE, B) To revise the Elevator Law. HB 289 had a hearing in the House Commerce and Labor Committee, where it was scheduled for a possible vote.

HB 199 ROOFING CONTRACTORS (PATTON, T.) To require commercial roofers to be licensed. HB 199 passed the House 62-22.