

Dear Township Officials:

Please find below very important information for all townships. The Ohio Township Association strongly encourages you to review each section carefully.

Local Government Funding

Back on December 30, 2008, the OTA issued a legislative alert informing you that due to the declining state general revenue fund, which the Local Government Fund (LGF) is tied to, that townships are advised to budget 8-10% less in LGF revenue for 2009 budget year.

Unfortunately the state's general revenue fund, like the federal government and many local governments, has not gotten better since December 2008, but instead has gotten worse. At the beginning of June, the Office of Budget and Management and the Department of Taxation issued revised revenue forecasts for the state and informed the Ohio House and Senate that an additional \$2.6 billion would need to be cut from the pending state budget due to declining withholding and sales tax revenue.

That said, the Department of Taxation informed local government groups that they will revise 2009 LGF projections. The OTA is recommending that all townships cut 10%, on top of the reductions recommended in December 2008, of projected LGF revenue from your township budget for 2009. It is likely that the revised LGF revenue forecast by the Department of Taxation will show the LGF total for 2009 down by approximately 20% compared with 2008. Once the revised LGF estimates are released by the Department of Taxation, I will send them out to you.

HB 694

In 2006, the Ohio General Assembly passed campaign finance reform legislation (HB 694) that required local governments, including townships, to obtain an affidavit from every company/person with whom the township does business. In the affidavit, the company/person attests that they have not contributed more than a specified amount to any of the elected officials governing the township.

The law was challenged and in late 2007, the Franklin County Common Pleas Court ruled that the law should not have been enacted due to procedural errors. The Ohio Attorney General appealed the ruling and earlier this year, the 10th District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's ruling. The AG did not appeal this ruling and thus the appeal's court opinion stands.

Therefore, this means that townships do not have to obtain affidavits from companies/people any longer.

The Ohio Township Association encourages you to work with your prosecutor or legal counsel on this matter. Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner has issued an advisory for county elections officials and you may view that advisory at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Upload/elections/advisories/2009/Adv2009-05.pdf>. We have also confirmed with the Auditor of State's office that HB 694 is no longer in effect.

HB 141 Household Sewage Treatment Systems (Dodd)

The companion bill to SB 109 (Niehaus) will be up for all testimony tomorrow, June 17 in the House Environment & Brownfield Development Committee. The OTA will be submitting written testimony in support of HB 141.

SB 109 Property Tax Exemptions (Gibbs)

On Wednesday SB 109 will be up for all testimony before the Senate Ways and Means Committee, of which Senator Gibbs is the Chair. As a reminder, this bill would exempt from real

property taxation the increase in assessed value of a single-family residential property owned by a developer or builder until the title is transferred. The OTA, in conjunction with the County Commissioners, Municipal League, School Boards, School Business Officials and School Administrators, will be testifying in opposition to this bill. If you have any thoughts or concerns about this legislation, the OTA strongly encourages you to share those with your state senator and representative.

Recently Introduced

HB 220 Local Government Notices (Chandler) To implement the recommendations of the Local Government Public Notice Task Force by authorizing legal publication to be made in a newspaper of general circulation, eliminating certain publication and postal privilege requirements, reducing the number of times publication must be made, requiring newspapers to establish a government rate for publication, allowing publication of a summary of an ordinance rather than publishing it in its entirety, and allowing the costs of publishing delinquent property tax lists to be charged to delinquent taxpayers. To view this bill in its entirety, please visit www.legislature.state.oh.us.

NOTICE: This electronic mail transmission is for the use of the named individual or entity to which it is directed and may contain information that is privileged or confidential. It is not to be transmitted to or received by anyone other than the named addressee (or a person authorized to deliver it to the named addressee). It is not to be copied or forwarded to any unauthorized persons. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, delete it from your system without copying or forwarding it, and notify the sender of the error by replying via e-mail or by calling the Ohio Township Association at (614) 863-0045 so that our address record can be corrected.