

Andrea Cinadr

From: Susan Jagers <sjagers@aohc.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 23, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Andrea Cinadr
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Ohio News

Four Property Tax Measures Clear Legislature

Legislation that constitutes the largest overhaul of property taxation in decades is headed to the governor's desk. Four House-passed bills that have dominated months of Statehouse debate advanced from the Senate last Wednesday afternoon hours after landing changes from the Senate Local Government Committee. The House concurred in the changes soon after.

Legislation on its way to the Governor includes House Bill 309 which permits county budget commissions to reduce millage on voter-approved tax levies in cases of "excess" or "unnecessary" collections. The committee adopted an amendment to require the county budget commission to hold a public hearing permitting *both the taxing authority and unit* to present positions prior to reducing a levy—a key ask for AOHC.

The committee also amended the bill to allow the commission to reduce voter-approved levies after one year instead of five.

House Bill 129 revising the 20-mill floor calculation, House Bill 186 limiting school districts' property tax revenue growth, and House Bill 335 capping revenue increases tied to inside millage were also approved.

Senate Plans December Return Following House Action on Pot and Hemp

The Conference Committee on SB 56 finalized a report limiting sales of intoxicating hemp products, among other changes but too late to get it over the finish line last week.

The House voted 52-34 to adopt the report, which maintains the current 10% adult-use marijuana tax rate, eliminates the voter-approved Cannabis Social Equity and Jobs Fund, and allocates 36% of revenue from excise taxes to the Host Community Cannabis Fund for local governments.

The Senate will return to Columbus on Dec. 9 and is expected to adopt the conference report and take action on other bills.

Senate approval would mark an end to a yearslong debate in which the two chambers, under various leadership teams, remained at odds over how to revise a 2023 citizen-initiated statute legalizing recreational marijuana and respond to Gov. Mike DeWine's calls to regulate intoxicating hemp products.

The measure aligns with recent congressional action by barring sales of intoxicating products from outside licensed marijuana dispensaries, although it provides a 13-month period in which drinkable cannabinoid products of up to 5mg of THC can be sold under liquor permitting laws.

Additional provisions: ban public smoking and intoxication, crack down on packaging and advertising mimicking that of child-friendly products; maintain voter-approved home-grow limits but bar cultivation in halfway and recovery houses, as well as childcare centers.

ODH Provides Clarification for PHEP Core 6.2

In ODH's PHEP grant guidance for the 2026-26 grant year, Objective 6.2 (aka "PHEP Core 6.2") states that:

"By June 15, 2026, the subrecipient (local health department) must submit into GMIS a completed Inventory Spreadsheet for all PHEP-funded materiel."

In response to questions from the field, ODH provided the following additional information to clarify the objective and what should be included in the Inventory Spreadsheet:

- There has been a push for jurisdictional stockpiling which creates a need to know what assets and equipment LHDs have in their inventory throughout the state.
- This information helps to inform what the state needs to put funding towards/prioritize to build a robust inventory/stockpile.
- Items listed should be over \$1,000.
- Items should relate to PHEP/MCM – does not have to include every single item in your LHD.
- MARCS radios should be included in this inventory.

This information will be shared in the upcoming monthly office hours call for Emergency Response Coordinators.

Steps to Prepare for RHTP Funding

With the Rural Health Transformation Program grant set to begin in 2026, we wanted to provide some key steps that LHDs can take now to get ready to apply for funding in their communities. These steps have been garnered from a review of resources about the RHTP, including those on ODH's RHT website: <https://odh.ohio.gov/rht>.

Step 1: Review the proposed initiatives in Ohio's [program narrative](#).

- Of particular importance for LHDs are the "Healthier Ohio Initiatives," which begin on page 51 of the program narrative.

Step 2: Review the Program Key Performance Objectives in the program narrative

- These begin on the bottom of page 16 and end at the top of page 17.
- Alignment with these objectives will strengthen local applications.

Step 3: Define the "rural residents" in your community that you plan to serve

- This program is designed to focus on rural residents. Since many LHDs serve communities that are not exclusively rural, defining the exact population in your jurisdiction that would be served is critical to having an effective application.
- Choose a definition that is both clear and defensible and make that the population-of-focus for your initiatives.

Step 4: Build community initiatives with measurable outcomes

- Ohio will have to report to the federal government the progress they are making to improve health outcomes in rural communities. Defining projects that both align with Ohio's program narrative and are measurable will position your LHD to have stronger funding applications and help with program implementation once funding begins.
- Consider whether these initiatives are best delivered within your community exclusively or in partnership with other eligible counties.

Step 5: Start preparing now

- This program is set to begin in January of 2026. It is likely that funding opportunity will be opening soon, so gathering the information, data and community support for application now will help to ensure you are ready whenever it opens.
- The sooner we begin our preparations, the stronger the applications from LHDs will be.

We will share more information about the RHTP as we have it. In the meantime, good luck in preparing for this exciting opportunity!

National News

Statement on Recent Changes to CDC's Vaccine Webpage from NACCHO and BCHC

Together, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) issued the following [statement](#) in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recent changes to its vaccine webpage:

The nation's local health departments play a critical role in educating their community members, answering questions, and providing access to vaccines for those who choose to protect themselves and their loved ones from unnecessary illness or suffering. These critical conversations must be based on scientific evidence, [which shows no causal link between vaccines and autism](#). Efforts to misrepresent the evidence or distort public understanding without new evidence can cause real harm and further complicate the work of local public health to keep their communities safe and healthy.

Take Action: Tell Your Federal Representatives to Pass FY2026 Funding for Federal Health Agencies

With the government reopened, the Senate is expected to start considering a package of additional FY2026 spending bills which include important public health funding. NACCHO sent an [action alert](#) this week highlighting the bipartisan Senate Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. This is an important step to ensure that federal health agencies are fully funded for the rest of the fiscal year, beyond the current January 30, 2026 continuing resolution. While negotiations are ongoing, the full Senate could vote on a package of bills that includes critical public health funding very soon. NACCHO members are [encouraged to reach out](#) to their federal elected officials, asking them to pass the bipartisan Senate Labor-HHS bill.

Funding Opportunities

NACCHO

For more information on all of NACCHO's funding opportunities, click here:

<https://www.naccho.org/opportunities/opportunities/funding-opportunities>

Educational Opportunities

AOHC Educational Opportunities in 2026

Course	Dates
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New Employee Training Delaware Health Department 470 S. Sandusky St. Delaware, Ohio 43015	March 4 July 8 November 4
Health Commissioner University Embassy Suites, Dublin 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin, Ohio 43017	May 11-13
Fiscal Training Embassy Suites, Dublin 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin, Ohio 43017	April 14-15
LEHDS Embassy Suites, Dublin 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin, Ohio 43017	April 14-15

Click [here](#) for more information and course descriptions.

Spring Conference – April 27-29, 2026

The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center, Lewis Center (formerly the Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center)

Fall Conference – September 21-23, 2026

Embassy Suites, Dublin

NACCHO360 Abstracts and Registration Now Open!

The call for abstracts for the 2026 NACCHO360 Annual Conference, to be held July 14-17, 2026, in Louisville and virtually, is officially open! This year's theme, **"Racing Forward, Swinging Big: United for Public Health's Future,"** calls on the public health community to stay focused, swing with purpose, and race toward a future built on innovation, resilience, and access for all.

Submit an Abstract for the 2026 NACCHO360 Conference—to be held July 14-17, 2026, in Louisville, KY and online—by November 28. The Planning Committee will evaluate abstracts based on a number of criteria, including timeliness, relevance, design, clarity, outcomes, and potential impact. **All abstracts must be submitted via the Map Your Show (MYS) online abstract system no later than November 28, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.**

Registration Now Open: You can attend 2026 NACCHO360 your way—either in-person or online. Attendees may choose to join us onsite for face-to-face networking and interactive sessions, or participate virtually to access conference programming, recordings, and on-demand content from anywhere. Whether you join us in-person or tune in virtually, you'll

have access to expert speakers, dynamic sessions, and meaningful networking opportunities—all in the format that works best for you.

Limited Time Special Offer: Use Promo Code: "NA50" for a \$50 Discount on In-Person Registration—Ends November 30, 2025.

Renew or Apply for OABH Membership Today

The Ohio Association of Boards of Health offered free membership to Ohio local boards of health for 2025; this free membership will end December 31, 2025. To continue having access to the Resource page on the OABH website in 2026, it is time to complete a 2026 application for membership.

Ohio local Boards of Health will pay a fee of \$150.00 regardless of population served. If there are Associate Members that would like to join separately, a fee of \$25.00 applies (associate membership is available to any former public health board member). To complete the application, visit our website at www.oabh.org and click on the Start Your Application link in the upper right-hand corner to provide your current billing and Board information. Once an application is received, an invoice and a W-9 will be provided to make your payment.

New resources available in 2026! These include links to the presentation recordings from our Fall Membership Meeting held in September 2025 and access to the twelve videos developed in partnership with Kent State University, as a result of a needs assessment completed by 119 Ohio local public health leaders.

Your Board of Health is an integral part of your health department. The more they know, the better they are to advocate in your communities for the important work we all do every day. We hope you encourage your Board to join us!

We are looking for additional OABH Board members, especially in the Northwest and Southeast districts. If any of your Board members would like to serve on the OABH Board of Directors, please let us know. Public Health is at the forefront of many vital discussions both locally and nationally and the bigger voice we have, the better the results will be for all Ohioans.

Contact Lori Metivier at executivedirector@oabh.org or at 937-609-5540 if you have any questions.



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