



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

August 14, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Senate Cancels Potential Session

The Senate has canceled potential session dates next week. While the House and Senate are traditionally on legislative recess at this time, this change still leaves both chambers with potential sessions the week of September 14th.

Bills Recently Introduced

[SB 352 MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING](#) (Roegner) - To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.

OTA Training Opportunities

Zoning Inspectors

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 19 (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Topic: Benefits and Process for Overlay Districts in Townships

Speaker: Wendy Moeller, Principal/Owner, Compass Point Planning

Description: This webinar will focus on overlay zoning districts in townships. We will discuss why and how they are used in townships, and the processes that can be used to develop and administer the overlay districts.

[Registration](#)

OTAN

Date/Time: Thursday, August 20 (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Topic: You've Just Been Made an Offer on a Cell Tower

Speaker: Andrew Wecker, Attorney, Manos, Martin & Pergram Co., LPA

Description: Do you have cell tower leases on our properties but don't have a clear understanding how the business works? Should you sell or hold, and if you decide to sell, on what terms? What public bidding and auction requirements apply under the Ohio Revised Code? More and more towers are coming for mobile and fixed wireless broadband.

[Registration](#)

Law Directors

Date/Time: Friday, August 21 (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Topic: Navigating the Workplace Accommodation Process for Townships

Speaker: Brad Bennett, Attorney, Bricker & Eckler LLP

Description: Townships, as employers, must operate under a variety of rules and regulations stemming from a multitude of laws governing the workplace. One such occurrence is when an employee requests a leave of absence or an accommodation for an illness, injury, religious belief or pregnancy. If such requests are not handled properly, your township could face liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. This session will

also discuss workplace accommodations issues related to Covid-19 and will provide an overview of the accommodation process and discuss management's responsibilities during the interactive process when faced with an employee's request for an accommodation. Case law will be reviewed throughout.

[Registration](#)

FEMA Fire Dept. Funding

Second AFG-COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) Application Period for Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments This Fall

FEMA is providing an additional chance for volunteer and combination fire departments to apply for funding under the FY 2020 AFG-S. Through this funding opportunity, FEMA will directly award funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies to support COVID-19 response. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020. Grants will be awarded, using a competitive process to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of AFG-S.

FEMA will be distributing additional information on this program, but webinars regarding funding between August 18th. You can find more information [here](#) and the webinar schedule [here](#).

STACVA Deadline Extended

To ensure ample time is given to local governments that have been focused on COVID-related issues during the nominations period, **the deadline for the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award program has been extended one month to September 15th.**

There has been a dramatic acceleration in the pace of nominations, and the program's sponsors want to ensure leaders in these localities have additional time to make award nominations. The quality of the nominations to date have been outstanding, describing compelling and heartwarming stories of civic volunteers providing incredible service in small townships and rural counties across the country. With all of the challenges being faced in these small communities, an extension will provide an opportunity for even more of these "hometown heroes" to be recognized.

The judging process will be completed by September 30th and an announcement of winners will take place shortly thereafter. More information can be found at the program's web site, www.civic-volunteer.com.

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The Senate was in session this week but no votes or committee-level activities were scheduled to occur. The House was not in session this week but did meet for a pro forma session. House Members and Senators remain on 24-hour notice to return to Washington if any votes are expected.

House and Senate leaders have delayed the official start of the August recess to continue negotiations on the next coronavirus relief package. However, late last week, Congressional leaders and the White House were unable to reach agreement on a relief package, prompting the President to sign several executive actions aimed at providing economic relief and leaving the status of further negotiations unclear. Congressional leaders and the White House have both expressed willingness to proceed with negotiations.

NATaT has created a [Coronavirus Guidance webpage](#) to store NATaT letters, memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the



2020 Census



All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

The Census Bureau has recently announced that it will end counting efforts on September 30th - one month early. This raises additional concerns for accurate counting, specifically for rural communities that are typically more difficult to count. It's more important than ever that your township engages in this process and conveys to residents the importance of the census to ensure all Ohioans are counted.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.

Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

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