



## **DEWINE SIGNS STATE CAPITAL BUDGET; HISTORIC INVESTMENTS MADE ACROSS THE STATE**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and members of the Ohio General Assembly announced significant investments contained in House Bill 2, the capital budget bill. “This capital budget is all about creating jobs, growing our economy, and directly impacting the people of Ohio where they live and work,” said Governor DeWine. “The investments we’re making today impact our schools and universities, our hospitals, our parks and recreational spaces, and our communities. We know these needed investments will continue to make Ohio the best place to live, work, and raise a family for years to come.” “The investments made in this budget will change lives and make a real difference for the people living, working and raising a family here in Ohio,” said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. “From funding for a new behavioral health hospital in the Miami Valley to supporting cybersecurity efforts, this package addresses issues that matter to Ohioans.” “These are not just projects, but investments in our future,” said Ohio House Speaker Jason Stephens. “They will benefit not only local communities but also the region and the state, with many even having a national impact. These projects are designed for everyday Ohioans to see, use, and enjoy for generations, making everyone a part of this historic change.” “These are projects that people will see or use every day,” said Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman. “This investment makes a real difference in our neighborhoods across the state.” “The capital budget for Fiscal Years 2025-2026, combined with one-time strategic investments made in this bill, represents the largest support for Ohio facilities and local community infrastructure in history, generating jobs and continued growth throughout the state,” said Ohio Office of Budget and Management Director Kimberly Murnieks. The capital budget includes a total of \$3.5 billion in appropriations and details can be found in the accompanying fact sheet.

## **FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE LAST WEEK BEFORE SUMMER RECESS BEGINS**

In a 12-hour long marathon session Wednesday ahead of summer recess, Ohio lawmakers voted to advance more than 50 bills between the House and Senate—a figure not including individual measures they folded together into bigger, omnibus bills, per IdeaStream. It was likely the last session before the fall election. The most pressing agenda item, to pass the \$4.2 billion biennial capital appropriations budget after months of negotiations, took only a fraction of floor time. It cleared the Senate 30-1 with an emergency clause and is headed to Gov. Mike DeWine. Late in the night, lawmakers folded the GOP-backed bathroom bill into Senate Bill 104, an uncontroversial proposal on a college credit program for high school students. Under the amendment, all K-12 schools and colleges—public and private—in Ohio would have to require students use bathrooms and locker rooms matching the gender on their birth certificates. Earlier in the day, lawmakers sent a slew of other bills to DeWine. Some of them include: House Bill 47, which would require heart-shocking devices called automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all Ohio public schools, charter schools and athletic facilities in midsized towns or larger; House Bill 56, which would ban hooning, an umbrella term for stunt driving and street takeovers and increases the penalty for fleeing a police officer; Senate Bill 214, which would allow human trafficking survivors to erase some criminal records; Senate Bill 98, which started as a fraudulent business filings proposal but was heavily amended in the House but now extends numerous property tax exemptions and also includes a measure changing the way state ballot issues are numbered, making them consecutive through Issue 500 starting in November 2024, instead of starting over at Issue 1 every election; and Senate Bill 94, which started out as a bill to modernize county recorders records but now includes measures from the CAMPUS Act, among other changes.