Ohio Lakefront Group
Representing the Rights of Waterfront Property Owners

Visit our website for current and past news as well as information about the Ohio Lakefront Group.

https://www.ohiolakefrontgroup.com

P o l i t i c a l   a n d

And almost overnight, Ohio's state government is up and running with the new administration and members of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly.

The last three weeks have been a flurry of activity at the Ohio Statehouse, with newly elected and returning legislators being sworn into office (a photo directory, courtesy of Gongwer is available **here** for Ohio House members and **here** for Ohio Senate members), new members of the Ohio Supreme Court taking their seats, and the inauguration and oaths of offices for Ohio's new slate of statewide elected officials taking place. In addition, Ohio's 16 members of the US House (including newer faces from central Ohio - Troy Balderson and NE Ohio - Anthony Gonzales) and re-elected US Senator (and potential 2020 presidential candidate) Sherrod Brown will return to DC. A complete directory of federal and state elected officials is available **here,** also courtesy of Gongwer.

After a long and contentious battle, State Representative Larry Householder was voted as to be the Speaker of the Ohio House. Householder held the position fifteen years ago before leaving the General Assembly due to term limits. The House Republican (majority) caucus has not yet finalized its leadership team. House Democrats recently announced their leadership team with Representative Fred Strahorn stepping down as minority leader after his failed effort to support Ryan Smith as speaker. A formal vote will take place in February, but Democratic leaders are expected to be Akron-area Emilia Sykes (minority leader), Columbus area Kristin Boggs as assistant minority leader, Euclid's Kent Smith and Toledo's Paula Hicks-Hudson round out the leadership team as minority whip and assistant minority whip).

Lake-area lawmaker Senator Randy Garnder has resigned his seat in order to accept a position in Governor DeWine's cabinet. State Representative Theresa Gavarone (Lucas Co) and Monclova Twp Trustee Barbara Lang have applied for the position. If Representative Gavarone is appointed, her seat will be open in the House for another appointment.

Governor DeWine continues to make cabinet appointments. In addition to the appointment of Mary Mertz as Director of ODNR, OLG members are likely interested to note that Dorothy Pelanda (attorney, farm owner, and former legislator) was named Director of the Department of Agriculture, Laurie Stevenson (long-time employee of the EPA) was named Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jack Marchbanks was named Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation. A full list

of cabinet directors nominated is available **here**. All are subject to approval by the Ohio Senate, where Larry Obhof will continue as President.

M o n i t o r i n g   T

NOAAs Great Lakes Water Level Monitoring **website**.

Ohio EPA's Algae Levels for Recreational Waters **website**.

US Army Corps of Engineer's **website** and predictions.

M a k e   Y o u r   V o i

Membership dues are now just $50 per year, per household. If you have given an aggregate of $1000 or more over the past years, dues are just $25 per year.

While we won the lawsuit, we continue to have ongoing operational needs. We continue to work to make sure that ODNR follows the guidelines of the settlement for future regulations and restrictions. We continue to be the leading voice for education to our members, municipalities, counties, and the state. We also continue to monitor and review legislation and other government action. Please continue your supporting donations to and membership in the Ohio Lakefront Group!

You can mail in your contribution at the address below or join securely **Online Today**!

N e w s   &   V i e w

Conneaut dredging facility would be first of its kind (Star Beacon 1/24/19)
The new dredge material facility in Conneaut will be unlike anything else in the state, officials said at a public meeting about the project Tuesday.

Federal Government Shutdown Stalls Great Lakes Research (WCPN 1/23/19)
Kent State University professor Dr. Anne Jefferson is not a federal employee, but she and other science professors and researchers at universities across the Great Lakes say they're being affected by the partial government shutdown.

Keep dredge help coming (Toledo Blade 1/23/19)
Ohio's latest grant of $1.9 million to boost the on-shore disposal of material dredged from the Port of Toledo shipping channel is a positive move from the state.

Ohio court rejects final Lake Erie Bill of Rights challenge (Toledo Blade 1/23/19)
The Ohio Supreme Court has denied what appears to be the final possible challenge aimed at keeping the proposed Lake Erie Bill of Rights off Toledo's Feb. 26 special election ballot.

Mylander Foundation awards grant to Lake Erie Foundation (Sandusky Register 1/23/19)
The Mylander Foundation decided to give the Lake Erie Foundation a boost. The Mylander Foundation has awarded a $5,000 grant to the Lake Erie Foundation, making it easier for the lake group to reach out to the public.

Storm Water Solutions
ODNR Updates Lake Erie Coastal Erosion Area Maps (SWS 1/22/19)

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) released the final version of the Lake Erie Coastal Erosion Area Maps. The maps will be used to determine if a property is located in the designated coastal erosion area along Lake Erie.

The Columbus Dispatch
[US EPA shouldn't gut the Clean Water Act](#) (Dispatch 1/19/19)
As Ohio struggles to find ways to limit the agricultural pollution that turns parts of Lake Erie green every summer, the last thing we should do is strip away protection from streams and endanger much of the state's meager remaining wetland acreage.

* Note: Including an article or opinion piece in the news and views does not indicate that the OLG has taken a position on the subject or agrees with the author. We like to provide this as helpful information on the news and views in different parts of the region.