

# OHIO GFOA E-NEWS UPDATE

**Government Finance Officers Association**



## President's Message

**By: Angel Mumma, Chief Financial Officer, COTA**



*A ship is always safe at the shore, but that is not what it is built for.*  
- Albert Einstein

If the past year and a half has demonstrated anything, it is that we can withstand the challenges presented to us. However, we need to continuously challenge ourselves and our teams to think differently, provide services differently, and explore new ideas. The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, taking place September 22-24 in Cincinnati is a great opportunity to do just that. With 50 different sessions, this conference is a great way to invest in yourself and your team members.

With my tenure quickly coming to a close, I want to thank you for the opportunity to not only serve as President, but to also as a Board Member. My involvement with the Ohio GFOA has been immensely helpful in my professional journey and I'm grateful for the knowledge I have gained and friendships that I have made through this wonderful organization.

Thank you for your service.



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## Local Governments: Be Careful Using Consent Agendas

By: **Brodi J. Conover, Warren I. Grody, Bricker & Eckler LLP**



Public bodies across the state utilize consent agendas during their public meetings to streamline certain routine items. Typically, these items include approval of minutes, payment of bills, acknowledgement of staff reports and routine business. Rather than individually vote on each item, public bodies package them into a single agenda item and consider them collectively in order to make public meetings more efficient.

There is nothing in the Open Meetings Act that specifically prohibits this—other than the general proposition that the public’s business must be discussed and voted upon publicly.

[Read more...](#)

*This is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be legal advice and does not create or imply an attorney-client relationship.*

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## A Strong Investment in Ohio's Future

By: **Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State**



For government leaders at every level, one of the most pressing challenges is cultivating communities that attract job creators and grow our economy. And for that reason, infrastructure is at the top-of-mind for many public officials. Our roads and bridges are more than just how we move people and products, they’re the foundation for a vibrant and prosperous economy.

Our team is committed to leveraging the tools in the Treasurer’s office to support our state and local partners as they complete important infrastructure and economic development projects. As I’ve mentioned previously, the Ohio Market Access Program puts the state’s high credit rating to work and helps lower interest costs for local governments. At the state level, we use another financial tool to stretch tax dollars and free up resources – the “GARVEE” bond.

[Read more...](#)

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## Ensuring State Programs Efficiently Serve Ohioan's Needs

By: **Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State**



During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio Auditor of State was asked to rapidly engage in a series of audits examinations to determine the scope of systemic failures associated with our state’s unemployment compensation system and their subsequent impact on our ability to provide resources for Ohio’s affected by the crisis. As the total number of unemployment claims rose, we noticed another alarming trend: the number of fraudulent unemployment claims and related scams was increasing at a rate never previously witnessed. Ohio’s unemployment system was not built to handle the high volume of unemployment claims that was coupled with an expansion in benefits initiated at the federal level. Simply put,

criminals across the globe saw an opportunity to take advantage of an overwhelmed system, resulting in the loss of billions across the country.

Thousands of Ohioans have arrived at their mailboxes and found out that fraudulent unemployment claims were filed in their names. These claims are estimated to have cost the state at least \$330 million, the majority of which is unlikely to be recovered as the schemes originated overseas.

[Read more...](#)

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### **Conference Kickoff Social Hour**

Ohio GFOA is excited to be back in person after a long year of virtual programs. If you are local or arriving early to Cincinnati, we hope you will consider stopping by the hotel lobby for the first-ever Ohio GFOA Conference Kickoff Social Hour, Tuesday, September 21, from 8-9 p.m.

### **Educational Opportunities**

Ohio GFOA's Annual Conference and Membership Meeting offers 2 1/2 days of unsurpassed networking opportunities and educational sessions focused on issues facing the industry. Continuing education credits will be provided through the Ohio Accountancy Board (CPE), Ohio Treasurer of State's Center for Public Investment Management (CPIM), Ohio Auditor of State's Fiscal Integrity Act (FIA), the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE), and The Ohio Society of CPAs (ethics credit). [Register today!](#)

### **Hotel Reservation**

The deadline to receive the Ohio GFOA discount rate of \$175/night, plus applicable tax, is August 31, 2021. Requests received after this date will be accepted based on room and rate availability. Click [here](#) to book your online reservation.

### **Welcome Reception**

The Welcome Reception will be held at the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#), in the Freedom Heroes Gallery, which includes the Eternal Flame Terrace overlooking the Ohio River, on Wednesday, September 22, from 6-9 p.m. Tour the "From Slavery to Freedom" and "Modern Slavery Today" exhibits at your leisure.

### **Register as an Exhibitor**

Thank you to our current and past exhibitors over the years! If you haven't yet registered as an exhibitor, there are still a few spaces available. Don't miss out...[register today!](#)

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### **Welcome New Members**

We are glad you chose to become a member and feel certain you will benefit from this affiliation. For a complete list of new members, click [here](#).

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### **2021 Ohio GFOA Trustee Online Election Ballot Now Open!**

It is time once again to read about the 2021 candidates and cast your secure vote by logging into the voting website at <http://eballot.vote/ohgfoa>, using a unique username and password. The deadline to cast your vote in this year's election is **August 9, 2021**.

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**Enrollment in the New CPFO Program is Now Open!**



Certification. Career. Community.

Candidates can begin their path to earning the certification by enrolling in the program and taking the Accounting and Financial Reporting exam. You can learn more about the enrollment process by reading the [CPFO Candidate Guide](#). Contact [Eric Roach](#) to schedule a short presentation about the program for your Association's board or leadership committee.

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### GFOA Resources

GFOA updates their Coronavirus Resource Center daily with helpful information to guide GFOA members through the coronavirus pandemic. Click [here](#) for more information.



GFOA continues to add resources to our Fiscal First Aid Resource Center to guide governments through financial stress. Click [here](#) for more information.

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is The Government Finance Officers Association's Mission Statement. By Promoting the Exchange of Information Among Finance Officers of all Local Governments, Ohio GFOA works to Meet the Challenges of the Ever-Evolving Profession of Government Finance and Fosters Increase Cooperation Among Governments and Private Financial Institutions.

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