

# OHIO GFOA E-NEWS UPDATE

## Government Finance Officers Association

### President's Message

**Jessica Marquez, Manager-Financial Reporting, OPERS**



Dear Members of the Ohio GFOA,

Spring has arrived, bringing with it a sense of renewal and rejuvenation after the long winter months. As finance professionals, this season often means a busy schedule filled with audits, annual reports, and budgets, alongside our personal lives. Amidst the hustle and bustle, I hope you can find moments to enjoy the longer, warmer days and recharge your energy.

Since our last newsletter, the Board has been busy making sure that we meet the needs of all our members. We started with a member satisfaction survey, which many of you responded to, and we appreciate that as we are carefully considering the feedback as we move forward with future planning. [Read more...](#)

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### Empowering Ohio's Communities: Strengthening Support for the Agriculture Community and Individuals Living with Disabilities

**Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague**



In the Treasurer's office, we are dedicated to being responsible stewards of public funds and strategic investors in our state's future. With that mission in mind, we are making sure that our programs effectively support Ohio residents in maximizing their hard-earned dollars and establishing a more secure financial foundation for the future.

#### **Ag-LINK Continues to Support Ohio's Farmers and Agribusinesses**

Agriculture plays a vital role in our state, with Ohio's farms and agribusinesses being a fundamental driver of economic growth.

They not only provide food for our families but also foster a strong sense of pride within our communities.

For nearly 40 years, the Ohio Treasurer's Ag-LINK program has helped support farmers, agribusinesses, and more recently, agricultural co-ops, by making capital more accessible and easing some of the financial pressures that arise at the start of the growing season.

[Read more...](#)

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### Late Fee Findings for Recovery Total \$1.2 Million Since 2019

**Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State**



I have great respect for the men and women who take on the fiscal responsibilities for the 5,900-plus public offices that we audit.

They provide a valuable public service to Ohioans they represent. It's no minor task to meet the requirements that come with handling tax dollars and other public resources.

The vast majority of fiscal officers, school district treasurers, and others who oversee public finances are doing good work. The Auditor of State's Office regularly honors clients with clean annual and biennial audits. [Read more...](#)

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## Insights Gained from the GFOA Leadership Academy

**Gina Love, Deputy Finance Director, City of Westerville**



I have experienced other leadership programs before, but this was significantly better for several reasons. First of all, this course uses the lens of the finance professional - most leadership programs are more general and the participants are more varied, but this focus was even more meaningful and I could relate more to the other cohorts. The second factor was the varied speakers who all spoke to our area of expertise and were either finance professionals or educators who really spoke to our needs. The third most significant difference was the GFOA factor - the subject

matter was relevant, meaningful and presented in a way that really hit home, in addition to being well organized and professional. The fourth important factor was the cohorts - fellow finance professionals with varied experience, perspectives and backgrounds, and some of the nicest, most inclusive people I have had the pleasure of meeting. And finally, I have to mention the fantastic location - the College of Charleston, South Carolina, which is full of beauty, charm, delicious food and rich history. [Read more...](#)

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## City of Reynoldsburg Earns Prestigious GFOA Triple Crown Award

**Stephen Cicak, City Auditor, City of Reynoldsburg**



The City of Reynoldsburg has been honored with the GFOA Triple Crown Award for the first time, marking a historic achievement in the city's commitment to financial excellence and transparency. Each award program recognizes governments that produce reports that communicate their financial stories transparently and meet the highest standards. The prestigious recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) is awarded to governments that receive all three of the GFOA's highest honors in a single fiscal

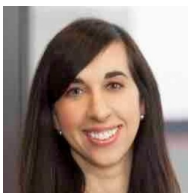
year: **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.**

This also marks Reynoldsburg's first time earning the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, a milestone that reflects the city's efforts to make financial information more accessible and understandable to residents. [Read more...](#)

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## Preserving the Tax Exemption for Municipal Debt

**Allison Binkley, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, and Brian Cooper, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC**



In case you haven't noticed, there is a lot going on in Washington, D.C. these days. As the White House and Congress move toward passing a tax bill this year that will extend the tax cuts provided in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, lawmakers are working on a plan to pay for those tax cut extensions. Unfortunately, the tax exemption on municipal obligations (think: bonds, notes

and lease obligations) has been proposed as a possible source of paying for those tax cuts. (Because investors do not have to pay taxes on the interest income they receive on tax-exempt municipal obligations, the U.S. Treasury is forgoing tax revenue due to the exemption.)

According to the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy's Center for Municipal Finance, the tax exemption on municipal debt reduces state and local government borrowing costs by an average of 54%, specifically saving Ohio taxpayers \$2.0 billion on borrowings of \$97.4 billion since 2015; in Ohio, 1,150 state and local governmental entities have outstanding municipal debt, and of those, 836 (72.7%) have borrowed less than \$30 million in the past decade. [Read more...](#)



## 2025 Ohio GFOA Awards - Nominations Now Open!

Celebrate excellence in Ohio public finance by nominating a colleague for one of Ohio GFOA's prestigious 2025 awards. These awards recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership, innovation, integrity, and outstanding service in our field.

Award Categories Include:

- Excellence in Government Achievement
- Career Achievement
- Ethics
- Bradford M. Sprague Award for Excellence in Client Service
- Innovation in Public Finance
- Hugh Dorrian Lifetime Achievement

Submitting a nomination is easy! We know that writing a nomination can feel daunting—but it doesn't have to be perfect to be powerful. Just share what you know. Our Awards Committee can follow up if additional information is needed. A few thoughtful sentences might be all it takes to help someone get the recognition they deserve. Whether it's a mentor who shaped your career, a peer who handled a tough situation with grace, or a public servant who quietly makes things better every day—now's the time to nominate them.

Nomination deadline is **Monday, July 21, 2025**. Presentations will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the 38th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Columbus. Click [here](#) to learn more and access nomination forms. Let's honor the people who inspire us, support us, and help strengthen public finance across Ohio.



## Ohio GFOA Membership Dues Adjustment Effective January 1, 2026

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional services, educational programs, and resources to our members, Ohio GFOA continually evaluates our financial structure to ensure sustainability and growth.

After careful consideration, the Board of Trustees has approved a modest increase in membership dues, effective January 1, 2026. This adjustment reflects our dedication to maintaining the high quality of benefits and opportunities that our members have come to expect. The new dues structure will be as follows:



Governmental Institute: \$100  
Non-Governmental: \$200  
Associates (Students, Interns, Retirees): \$25

We understand that any increase requires thoughtful consideration, and we are committed to ensuring that your membership provides exceptional value. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [gfoa@assnoffices.com](mailto:gfoa@assnoffices.com).

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## Join Us for a Special Reception

Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with fellow finance professionals while testing your putting skills, sipping cocktails, and savoring delicious bites—proudly sponsored by

**KeyBanc**  
Capital Markets



Monday, June 30, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Puttery DC, 800 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

RSVP by Friday, June 20, 2025 to [gfoa@assnoffices.com](mailto:gfoa@assnoffices.com)



Flying to #GFOA2025? Make sure you have a REAL ID. Beginning **May 7, 2025**, a REAL ID (or a passport) will be required for domestic flights and to access certain federal facilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

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### 2025 Ohio GFOA Scholarships - Apply Today!

Interested in attending the 2025 Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, September 17–19 in Columbus, but concerned about budget limitations?

The Ohio GFOA is pleased to offer several scholarship opportunities—each valued at \$900—to help make your attendance possible:

- Three (3) Annual Conference Attendee Scholarships

- Five (5) First-Time Annual Conference Attendee Scholarships
- Three (3) Student Attendee Scholarships

In addition to these Annual Conference scholarships, we also offer support through our Continuing Education Scholarship and Student College Scholarship programs.

Know someone who might benefit? Share these opportunities with colleagues, friends, and family members who are looking to grow in their finance careers.

The application deadline for all scholarships is **July 21, 2025**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.



**38th Annual Conference &  
Membership Meeting**  
September 17-19, 2025 – Columbus, OH

Join us at the Hilton Columbus at Easton for an event packed with valuable education, training, networking opportunities, and fun-filled entertainment. The Ohio GFOA Board and Education Committee are working hard to make this year's conference unforgettable!

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

Take advantage of the special conference rate of \$199 per night (plus applicable taxes) for attendees. Reservation Deadline: Thursday, August 28, 2025. After this date, rooms and rates will be subject to availability. Don't miss out—[reserve your room today!](#)

#### **Showcase Your Organization as an Exhibitor**

As an exhibitor, you'll have the opportunity to engage directly with over 500 public finance professionals in Ohio, including accountants, budget officers, elected officials, city managers, retirement system administrators, treasurers, and other public management experts. Ohio GFOA attendees are eager to discover the latest products and services in Banking, Computer Hardware and Software, Data Collection Systems, Engineering, Facility Management, Financial Management, Government Financing, Insurance, Risk Management, Telecommunications, Transportation, and more! [Sign up today!](#)

#### **Continuing Education Credits**

Enhance your professional credentials with credits 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), and the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE).

#### **Taste THE Fiesta – Taco Tuesday & Margaritas Await!**

Grab your registration packet early and spice up your Tuesday!

#### **Dust Off Your Boots — Wednesday Reception at PBR Cowboy Bar!**

Buckle up for a one-of-a-kind experience at the PBR Cowboy Bar! Join us Wednesday for a fun-filled evening with great food, drinks, and lively entertainment. Show off your line dancing skills, or take a wild ride on the mechanical bull if you're feeling brave! It's the perfect way to shake off the midweek blues and make some lasting memories. Don't miss out on the western-themed fun — we'll see you there, boots and all!

#### **Get Ready to Rock Thursday Night with the Bluewater Kings Band!**

Known for their electrifying performances and genre-spanning repertoire, the Bluewater Kings will have you dancing, singing, and grooving all night long. From classic hits to modern favorites, they bring high-energy tunes that'll keep you on your feet.



## **Officers: Safeguarding Local Municipalities and School Districts**

### **June 11, 2025 - Webinar**

This session will feature a dynamic combination of a PowerPoint presentation and a panel discussion with your peers, who will share real-world experiences and best practices in safeguarding their organizations. The

discussion will dive into the unique cybersecurity challenges faced by local municipalities and financial officers, highlighting effective strategies, lessons learned, and actionable steps. Attendees will gain invaluable knowledge on assessing their own cybersecurity maturity, understanding what others in similar positions have implemented, and how to take the next steps in building or enhancing their cybersecurity posture. Additionally, we will explore the critical role of trusted partners in supporting financial officers' efforts to strengthen their security framework.

### **Intermediate Governmental Accounting**

#### **June 18-19, 2025 – Columbus**

This two-day seminar focuses on intermediate-level governmental accounting and financial reporting concepts. It is tailored for state and local government fiscal officers, staff, government auditors, and independent public accountants with some experience or training in preparing, using, and auditing financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

### **Advanced Governmental Accounting**

#### **August 6-7, 2025 – Put-in-Bay**

Ideal for those with at least three years of experience in governmental accounting or participants of Ohio GFOA's Intermediate Governmental Accounting Seminar, this advanced seminar dives deeper into complex accounting and reporting topics.

To learn more and for registration, [click here](#).



Congratulations to Ohio GFOA member, **Keegan Radeff, CPFO, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**, for earning GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) designation.

GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) program is designed to prepare

individuals for leadership positions in state and local governments by enhancing fundamental skills and increasing knowledge of best practices and standards in public finance. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>.



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## **Ohio GFOA Launches Newly Redesigned Website**

Ohio GFOA is excited to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website! Created with our members and visitors in mind, the new site offers a fresh look, improved functionality, and a more user-friendly experience.

### **What's New?**

- **Modern Design:** A clean, updated layout that's visually appealing and easy to navigate.
- **Mobile-Friendly:** Optimized for all devices so you can access information on the go.
- **Enhanced Navigation:** Quickly find what you need—whether it's conference details,



- educational resources, or membership benefits.
- Streamlined Access: Simplified access to event registration, scholarship applications, and member resources.
- News & Updates: Stay up to date with important announcements, legislative alerts, and organizational news.
- New Member Request Feature: A new and improved feature that allows members to easily post a question to a shared community forum, where other members can respond and engage in meaningful discussions. [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions.

This redesign reflects Ohio GFOA's ongoing commitment to serving our members with accessible, relevant, and timely information. Whether you're a long-time member or visiting for the first time, we invite you to explore the new site and discover all that Ohio GFOA has to offer. Visit us [www.ohgfoa.com](http://www.ohgfoa.com).

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### Ohio GFOA Education Committee Update

The Ohio GFOA's mission statement is ***Supporting Our Members Through Collaborative, Innovative, and Inclusive Public Finance Education and Networking***. This is at the heart of what the Education Committee does.

2025 is off to a great start! Introduction to the Finance Office had a great turn out with 74 attendees. Intermediate Governmental Accounting is

July 16 and 17 in Dublin – there is still time to register!

We've had several great lunch and learn webinars. Our next webinar is June 11: *Cybersecurity Protection Strategies for Financial Officers: Safeguarding Local Municipalities and School Districts*.

Our Advanced Accounting course is scheduled for August 6 and 7 at Put-In-Bay, registration is open and we will have the course content with schedule out in the coming weeks.

Registration will be open soon for our annual conference that will be held in Columbus September 17 - 19. The annual conference offers over 16 hours of continuing education with approximately 50+ sessions to choose from. Our annual conference will kickoff with Dr. Bob Nelson and his topic of *Recruiting and Retaining Different Generations*.

The Education Committee would like to encourage public finance and fiscal officers and their staff to consider joining the Education Committee in the fall of 2025. This is when we will begin planning for 2026.

If you have questions about the Education Committee, please reach out to Jeff McCuen at [osucpa91@aol.com](mailto:osucpa91@aol.com) or Stacey Russell at [stacey@muskingumlibrary.org](mailto:stacey@muskingumlibrary.org).

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### Ohio GFOA LinkedIn Community

Connect with fellow finance professionals, share insights, and stay updated on the latest industry trends and best practice by joining Ohio GFOA's LinkedIn page. Let's learn, grow and make a positive impact together. [Connect Now!](#)

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***Supporting Our Members Through Collaborative, Innovative, and Inclusive Public Finance Education and Networking***

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