

OIIPAC

* Ohio Insurance Institute Political Action Committee *

• 172 E. State Street, Suite 201 • Columbus OH 43215-4321 • Phone 614.228.1593 • Fax 614.228.1678 •

Ohio Action

Trial Lawyers Make Huge Gains in Ohio House

Practicing personal injury trial lawyers picked up eight seats in the Ohio House this election. This makes it as important as ever for the insurance industry's voice to be heard in the legislature. OIIPAC acts as that voice, and your support of OIIPAC is necessary for maintaining a competitive property/casualty insurance environment in Ohio, which ultimately benefits consumers with available and affordable coverage.

In January 2007, 32 new members will be welcomed to the Ohio House of Representatives. The Republicans have held the House majority since 1995, and while they will still have the majority in the 127th General Assembly, the current 60-39 majority will shrink to 53-46 in January 2007.

The following is the freshmen class of the next session of the Ohio General Assembly.



In the 1st District, Columbiana County Treasurer, Democrat Linda Bolon, defeated Republican Jim Hoppel 55%-45%. Bolon is a former auditor and audit manager for the Ohio Auditor of State and council member for the City of East Palestine.

127th Ohio General Assembly



Republican Lima personal injury trial attorney Matt Huffman defeated Democrat Dennis Shreefer 58%-42% for the 4th District seat. Huffman is the current president of the Lima City Council.

Republican Gerald Stebelton, a Lancaster personal injury trial attorney, won the 5th District seat by defeating Democrat Kelly Kirk 58%-42%. Stebelton is the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster-Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce.



The seat left open in the 8th District by the departure of Lance Mason for the Ohio Senate is being filled by Democrat Armond Budish, who ran unopposed in the election. Budish is a consumer journalist and attorney. He is a partner in the law firm of Budish, Solomon, Steiner and Peck, Ltd and works in the areas of consumer law, estate planning, and elder law. He has a syndicated column, "You and the Law", regularly in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Columbus Dispatch and periodically in other newspapers.

In the 9th District, former Democratic Ohio House member Barbara Boyd defeated Republican Jimmie Hicks 84%-16%. Boyd served in the House from 1992 to 2000 and is also the former mayor of Cleveland Heights.

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Democrat Eugene Miller defeated Republican Rosalind McAllister 84%-16% in the 10th District. Miller is a consultant and landscaping company proprietor.

In the 11th District, Democrat Sandra Williams ran unopposed for the seat left open by the departure of Rep. Annie Key. Williams has been the legislative aide for Rep. Key for the past five years.

In a very close race in the 16th District, Democrat Jennifer Brady defeated Republican Edward Herman 51%-49%. A stay-at-home mother of three from Westlake, Ms. Brady was a late addition to the race, replacing write-in candidate Michael O'Shea.

In the 17th District, Republican Josh Mandel bested Democrat Roger Goudy 67%-33%. Mandel is currently a Lyndhurst City Councilman and served as an Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.



Republican Kevin Bacon won the 21st District seat 52%-48% over Democrat Dean Hernandez. Kevin is a regulatory attorney with Farmers Insurance and a Blendon Township Trustee. He was also a prosecutor.



In the 24th District, House Insurance Committee Chairman Geoff Smith was defeated 55%-45% by Democrat Ted Celeste. Celeste is the brother of former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste and president of a real estate company.



In the 26th District, Democrat Tracy Heard defeated Republican Michael Elicson by a wide margin- 82%-18%. Heard defeated incumbent Rep. Mike Mitchell in the primary. She is a loan and compliance auditor and former news anchor.

Democrat Dale Mallory bested Republican Kimberly Hale 65%-35%. Mallory is a manufacturing facilitator for GE Aircraft Engines and is the brother of former state senator and the current mayor of Cincinnati Mark Mallory.

In the 39th District, Democrat Clayton Luckie easily defeated Republican George Coles 82%-18%. This seat was left open by the early departure of Dixie Allen, who switched parties to accept a GOP appointment to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. House Democrats seated Luckie the week after the election. Luckie is currently the sales and marketing director for Johnson Energy Company. He previously worked for the Montgomery County Community Development Office and spent 10 years on the Dayton School Board.

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Democrat Stephen Dyer defeated Republican Christine Croce 60%-40% in the 43rd District. Dyer is a personal injury attorney and was previously a reporter at the Akron Beacon Journal.



In the 57th District, incumbent Republican Rep. Earl Martin, a member of the House Insurance Committee, was defeated by Democrat Matt Lundy. Lundy is the Assistant Safety Service Director and Economic Development Director for the City of Elyria.



Democrat Vernon Sykes won the 44th District seat he held from 1983-2000 by defeating Republican Joseph Crawford 80%-20%. Sykes is a professor at Kent State University and the husband of Rep. Barbara Sykes, who did not seek re-election to the seat because of her bid to become Ohio Auditor of State.



In his second attempt to win the 58th House District, Democrat Matthew Barrett bested Republican Dan White in a close race- 51%-49%. White was appointed to this seat after the departure of Kathleen Walcher. Barrett is a personal injury attorney and Amherst City Councilman-at-Large.



In the 49th District, Democrat Matthew Szollosi bested Republican Steve Hornyak 70%-30%. Szollosi is a union lawyer and a member of the Oregon City Council. He was endorsed by the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers.



The 127th General Assembly will see the return of Democrat Robert Hagan to the Ohio House. Hagan is currently a state senator, but could not run for re-election because of term limits. He is a licensed train engineer and ran unopposed in this election.

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Democrat Mark Okey won the 61st District seat by defeating Republican Brant Luther 59%-41%. Okey is a personal injury lawyer and senior managing partner at the Okey Law Firm in Canton. This seat was vacated by John Bocchieri, who made a successful run for the Ohio Senate.



Republican Carol-Ann Schindel defeated Rep. Tim Cassell, the only House Democratic incumbent to lose, 52%-48% for the 63rd District seat. Schindel is a CPA and the owner of the accounting firm, Kolita and Company.

In the 64th House District, Democrat personal injury trial attorney Tom Letson defeated Rep. Randy Law 54%-46%. Law was one of four incumbent Republicans ousted. Letson is the past president of the Trumbull County Bar Association.

Republican Shannon Jones bested Democrat Jeff Ruppert 62%-38% in the 67th District. Jones is a former aide to U.S. Senator Mike DeWine and former press secretary and chief of staff for Congressman Steve Chabot.

The 69th District will soon have a veteran Republican legislator representing them. Bill Batchelder spent 30 years in the Ohio House before term limits ended his tenure. He defeated Democrat Jack Schira 55%-45% in this election. Batchelder is a retired judge, having served on the Medina Common Pleas Court and later on the 9th District Court of Appeals.



Republican Jay Hottinger will be returning to the House. Hottinger spent two terms in the House before being elected to the Ohio Senate in 1998. Term limits prevent him from seeking another term there and he is one of several legislators who will switch chambers in January. Hottinger defeated Thomas Holliday 64%-36% for the 71st District seat.

The 73rd District seat was up for grabs this year with the departure of Democratic Rep. Bill Hartnett. Democrat Jay Goyal secured a victory over Republican Phil Holloway by defeating him 63%-37%. Goyal, a Mansfield resident, is vice president of a family business.

Republican Bruce Goodwin won the 74th District seat by defeating Democrat Ben McCullough 55%-45%. This seat was left open by Steve Buehrer's departure to the Ohio Senate. Goodwin is from Defiance and is the Director of Career and Technical Education at Four County Career Center.



Republican State Senator Lynn Wachtmann is another legislator who will be switching chambers in January. He first served in the House from 1985 to 1998 before moving to the Senate. Wachtmann defeated Democrat Angie Byrne 56%-44% for this 75th District seat being vacated by Rep. Jim Hoops. In addition to being a legislator, Wachtmann is owner and president of Maumee Valley Bottlers.

Findlay Republican Cliff Hite will be joining the House in January representing the 76th

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District. He bested Democrat John Kostyo 60%-40%. Hite has been a teacher and high school football coach for the past 29 years and is best known as current Pittsburg Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's high school football coach.

In the 78th District, Sidney Republican John Adams defeated Democrat Adam Ward 52%-48%. Adams is a small business owner and former Navy SEAL who lost to Rep. Derrick Seaver in 2000. Seaver was eligible for one more term, but decided not to run.



The final new member to the Ohio House will be Democrat Dan Dodd. Dodd defeated Republican William Hayes 53%-47% for this 91st District seat. This race was open with the departure of Republican Rep. Ron Hood, who lost in the primary for an Ohio Senate seat. Dodd is a personal injury attorney who was defeated by Hood in 2004.

Ohio Senate

There will be six newly-elected Senate members, along with three appointed members, when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. Five of the newly-elected members are currently serving in the House.



In the 1st Senate District, Republican Rep. Steve Buehrer defeated Democrat Ben Nienberg 60%-40%. This seat opened up with the departure of Lynn Wachtmann to the House because of term limits. Buehrer is an attorney who won a hotly

contested primary against fellow House member, Rep. Jim Hoops.



The newest face in the Ohio Senate will be that of Democrat Sue Morano. Morano defeated Republican Martha Wise 63%-37% for this 13th District seat. In 2002, Sen. Jeffrey Armbuster narrowly defeated Morano, who is a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lorain.



Democratic Rep. Shirley Smith defeated Republican Richard Norris for the 21st District seat by a wide margin – 88%-12%. This seat is currently occupied by term-limited Senate Minority Leader C.J. Prentiss. Smith is a full-time legislator who has served four terms in the House.



The 25th District will also be represented by a legislator coming over from the House. Democratic Rep. Lance Mason bested Republican David Lynch 76%-24%. This seat was opened up because Sen. Eric Fingerhut is term-limited. Mason is an attorney and former Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

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Republican Rep. Tim Schaffer will soon be representing the 31st District. He defeated Democrat Dennis Luper 58%-42%. Schaffer and Luper squared off in a House race in 2000. Sen. Jay Hottinger's departure to the House left this seat open. Schaffer won the GOP nomination over Rep. Ron Hood in the May primary. He is the Executive Director of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.



Democratic Rep. John Boccieri ran unopposed in the election and will take the seat of term-limited Sen. Robert Hagan. Boccieri served three terms in the House and is a C-130 Pilot in the Air Force Reserves. He is a former Legislative Service Commission Intern and Legislative Aide in the House.

Three Ohio State Senators were elected to higher offices in the middle of their current terms. The Democrats have appointed two new members and the Republicans appointed one new member.

Democratic Sen. Charlie Wilson, who represents the 30th Senate District, won a seat in Congress, where he will represent the 6th Congressional District. The Senate Democrats interviewed candidates for the seat and chose his son, Jason Wilson. Wilson is a principal in a family business and has served on several community boards, including the Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Funeral Directors Association and the American Heart Association.

Democratic Sen. Marc Dann, of the 32nd Senate District, was successful in his bid for Ohio Attorney General and Capri Cafaro was chosen to serve the remaining two years of his term. Cafaro currently works as a coordinator for aging and a counselor for the Medical Rights Center. She has run for Congress twice and comes from a very wealthy family. Cafaro used over \$1 million of her personal funds in her last Congressional bid. She is a state policy liaison to the National Patient Advocate Foundation.

Republican Sen. Jim Jordan, of the 12th Senate District, won his bid for the 4th Congressional District. The Senate Republican Caucus selected Rep. Keith Faber of Celina to fill Jordan's unexpired Senate term. Faber is an attorney in private practice and was formerly a claims defense lawyer with Celina Mutual Insurance Company.

Support OIIPAC

As the face of state government changes, OIIPAC acts as the insurance industry's voice in the political arena by supporting legislators who are willing to consider our viewpoint. Your OIIPAC contribution is vital to maintaining a competitive and viable property/casualty insurance industry in Ohio.

For more information contact Dean Fadel or Amanda Peltier at (614) 228-1593. Checks should be made payable to OIIPAC and mailed to:

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