



# SANITARY ENGINEER'S SUMMER CONFERENCE

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# REINSTATEMENT OF OHIO WATER & SEWER ROTARY LOAN PROGRAM

- The Ohio Water and Sewer Rotary Loan Program (OW&SRLP) provided a 0.0% loan to counties, municipalities and 6119 water and sewer districts which allowed the deferral of special assessments relating to water and sewer extension projects.
- This program was ended in 2012 under former Governor Kasich which was previously under the Ohio Department of Development.
- The program will support Ohio EPA's Regionalization Initiative by enabling rural communities to create a larger and more stable water and sewer system.
- The program will be self-sustaining once re-established through the recoupment of deferred agricultural district assessments that are collected when the agricultural parcel changes use.

# HB 93- LIMITATIONS ON RECOVERY AND LIEN IMPOSITION BY MUNICIPALITIES



- ❖ Sponsors- Representative McClain & Representative Johnson
- House Chamber Passed 12,13,2023 /Vote 63-25
- Senate Local Government Committee- First Hearing held on 5/21/2024
- A lien filed from a municipal authority may be certified by the County Auditor under the following circumstances:
  1. Property owner occupies the residence.
  2. Property owner agreed to pay all unpaid rates and charges.
  3. The municipality attempted to mitigate any unpaid rates or charges by adhering to its protocol for terminating service for delinquent payments.
  4. The municipality attempted to collect any unpaid rates or charges before proceeding against the property owner.
- A lien cannot be placed on a property that the homeowner does not reside in. However, a lien can be placed on owner occupied property as long as the owner was notified by the municipal authority prior to the lien being placed on the property.
- Allows a municipal authority to track individuals with unpaid rates or charges for any municipal service under certain circumstances.
- Allows a municipal authority to add a “tenant reinstatement fee” if the municipal service was terminated either by the tenant owner or the municipal authority.
- An individual believed to have been improperly billed will have the ability to file a complaint to the service provider.

# HB 93- CONTINUED

- The Service provider will have 10 business day to respond to the complaint. If the complaint is not resolved to the complaining person's satisfaction, an appeal may be filed with the county or municipal court when the amount is \$300 or greater.
- The county or municipal court must also hear appeals in situations where the property owner is held responsible for payment when a tenant fails to make payment for municipal services.
- The count or municipal court must rule in favor with the property owner under the following circumstances:
  - Unpaid rates or charges did not arise from a contract with the property owner.
  - Property Owner did not reside in the property under contract.
- The municipal authority must pay attorney's fees if the municipal or county court finds for the property owner.



# SB 85- COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES



## ❖ Sponsor- Senator Ingram

- First Hearing- Senate Local Government Committee, 6/28/2023
- Allows a Board of County Commissioners to expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates to the following individuals:
  1. People aged 65 or greater.
  2. Low to moderate income (Defined by OHFA)
  3. Temporary Hardship
- Current Law- Board of County Commissioners have the ability to reduce county sewer rates on individuals that are 65 years or older and qualify for a homestead exemption or meet the threshold of low to moderate income.

# OHIO PUBLIC WORKS STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BALLOT ISSUE

- The State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) was created in 1987 and renewed three times (1995, 2005, 2014) .
- The SCIP uses state general obligation bonds to fund the program. This requires approval from Ohio voters to all allow the issuance of the bonds.
- The Program roughly funds 400 projects annually serving improvements to roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, wastewater systems, storm water collection systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.
- Eligible Applicants- Counties, Cities, Villages, Townships, and Water and Sanitary Districts (ORC 6119 or 6117)
- For 31 years the SCIP has been on the same ballot schedule, which has the potential of being threatened this cycle. The Ohio Public Works Commission would like to be on the ballot no later than the May election in 2025.



# CCAO ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR UPCOMING MONTHS

- **Jail Funding:** HB 2 (House Capital Budget) has \$250MM for county jail construction projects for FY 25-26. There will be \$100MM dedicated towards large county projects and \$150MM will be used for all other counties. HB 86 (Senate Marijuana Bill) contains up to \$800MM for county jail construction over 10 years using tax revenue from marijuana sales.
- **Expanded Sales Tax Holiday:** Most items under \$500 from July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 8<sup>th</sup> will be exempt from sales tax. The Operating Budget allocated \$750MM to reimburse County Governments.
- **HB 491:** Requires political subdivisions which includes counties, and regional water and sewer districts to participate in the Ohio State and Local Government Expenditure Database. The political entity will be required to report each expenditure along with any revenue that is received to pinpoint amount, and the source. The bill also requires that each entity provide a link to the database on it's website.



# HOUSE BILL 327

- Requires certain employers to use the federal e-verify system for new employees: applies to the state, any political subdivision, any employer employing 75 individuals within Ohio, and any nonresidential construction contractor employing one or more individuals within Ohio
- A “nonresidential construction project” is any construction project involving a building or structure subject to the Ohio Building Code (commercial buildings), except that it does not include an industrialized unit.
- Every contract for the construction or maintenance of a public improvement must include a provision that the contractor and any subcontractor will use E-verify to confirm the identity and legal working status of new hires and individuals assigned to the contract in Ohio.
- Complaint-based investigation by Attorney General; automatic fines for violators; and one year debarment from contracts using state funds for reckless violations.

