

OACTE Legislative Update

5.8.26

Members of the Ohio General Assembly are set to return to work on Tuesday, May 12, following a weeks-long recess during which lawmakers focused on campaigning for the primary election held on May 5. Legislators are expected to remain in session until June 10, after which they will break for an extended summer and fall recess to again focus on campaigning ahead of the November 3 general election. Lawmakers are then expected to return for a lame duck session following the November election, marking the end of the 136th legislative session.

Several notable education-related election results emerged from the May 5 primary. Current Senate Education Committee Chairman Andrew Brenner lost his Republican primary for an open Ohio House seat currently held by Rep. Beth Lear. Rep. Lear, meanwhile, also lost her primary election for Sen. Brenner's Senate seat, as the two had hoped to swap chambers. The loss of Sen. Brenner, who has long played a leading role on education issues within both the Senate and House Republican caucuses, will undoubtedly have an impact on education policy discussions moving forward in the General Assembly. A full election analysis is available at the end of this newsletter.

Several education committees are set to return to work next week, including the House Education Committee, Senate Education Committee, and House Workforce and Higher Education Committee. The main focus of lawmakers will be passage of the state's capital appropriations bill.

The House Workforce and Higher Education Committee will meet Tuesday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. for a second hearing for opponent testimony on [House Bill 698](#), which would enact the Senate Bill 1 Compliance Supplemental Appropriation Act for state institutions of higher education. Opponent testimony is due by Monday, May 12, at 9:00 a.m. The hearing will take place in Hearing Room 017 and will be streamed live on the Ohio Channel at ohiochannel.org.

The House Education Committee will also meet Tuesday at a time to be determined and is expected to hear testimony on [Senate Bill 19](#), including a newly revised version of the legislation to be unveiled during the hearing. The committee will additionally hear testimony on [Senate Bill 7](#), which would require instruction on the harmful effects of substance use, including marijuana, as well as bullying and hazing prevention. The committee will also hold a second hearing for proponent testimony on [Senate Bill 276](#), which would ratify the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists. Senate Bill 276 passed the Senate unanimously in November by a 31-0 vote, while Senate Bill 7 passed unanimously in April of last year by a 33-0 vote.

Notably absent from the committee's agenda are [Senate Bill 144](#) and [House Bill 523](#). Senate Bill 144 last received a hearing for sponsor testimony on March 3, and House Bill 523 last received a hearing for all testimony on March 3 as well. The likely remaining dates for the committee are May 19, May 26, June 2, and June 9, indicating minimal time remaining to enact both bills before a long legislative break.

The Senate Education Committee is scheduled to meet May 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the South Hearing Room. The agenda includes several bills and a presentation from the XQ Institute. Testimony for the Senate Education Committee is due Monday by 3:00 p.m. Like the House, the likely remaining dates for the committee are May 19, May 26, June 2, and June 9.

Only one bill is currently marked for a vote – [Senate Bill 328](#), which would expand required instruction in career awareness – and two omnibus education bills — [House Bill 455](#) and [Senate Bill 311](#) — are expected to be modified via new versions, called substitute bills. Other legislation on the agenda includes:

- [Senate Bill 326](#), which requires school districts to offer, and students to complete, at least one high school computer science course;
- [Senate Bill 272](#), which allows students to take a civics assessment in lieu of the state-required American government end-of-course exam;
- [Senate Bill 127](#), which prescribes closure requirements for low-performing public schools; and
- [Senate Bill 400](#), which provides for the designation of high-quality youth development programs by the Department of Education and Workforce.

Pappas Review | Primary Election Results

From Pappas & Associates <associates@pappaskc.com>

Date Wed 5/6/2026 3:11 PM

To William Schwartz <wschwartz@pappaskc.com>



Dear Clients and Friends,

Ohio voters cast ballots Tuesday to select party nominees for statewide offices, congressional seats, state legislative seats, and local offices, setting matchups for the November general election. Full results can be found [here](#).

Highlights

- **Governor:** Vivek Ramaswamy won the Republican nomination over Casey Putsch (about 82.5%–17.5%), setting up a November matchup with Democrat Amy Acton (unopposed).
- **Ohio Supreme Court:** Colleen O’Donnell beat out 3 other candidates in the packed Republican primary (32.2%). Democratic candidate Jennifer Brunner ran unopposed.
- **U.S. Senate (special):** Sherrod Brown won the Democratic nomination (about 89.3% to 10.7% over Ron Kincaid). Republican Jon Husted was unopposed—Brown vs. Husted is the expected November matchup.
- **U.S. House:** In Ohio’s 9th Congressional District, Republican Derek Merrin won the GOP primary (44.1%), with state Rep. Josh Williams finishing second, while Democratic incumbent Rep. Marcy Kaptur ran unopposed. The results set up a rematch between Merrin and Kaptur in November in what is expected to be one of the most competitive House races of the 2026 midterms.

- **Secretary of State:** Allison Russo won the Democratic primary (about 67.4%–32.6% over Bryan Hambley). On the Republican side, Robert Sprague won (about 70.2%–29.8% over Marcell Strbich).
- **Attorney General:** John J. Kulewicz won the Democratic primary (about 63.2%–36.8% over Elliot Forhan). Republican Keith Faber was unopposed.
- **Auditor of State:** Republican candidate Frank LaRose and Democratic candidate Annette Blackwell both ran unopposed in their respective primary races and will face off for the position in November.
- **State Treasurer:** Former Rep. Jay Edwards won the Republican primary, defeating Sen. Kristina Roegner (about 53%–47%). Edwards will face Democratic nominee Seth Walsh in November.
- **General Assembly Incumbent Wins & Loses:** Most incumbents in the GA won their respective primary races, including former Speaker Jason Stephens and Reps. Ron Ferguson and Rodney Creech. However, a few lawmakers who sought to switch chambers were defeated, including Rep. Jim Hoops, who lost to former Rep. Craig Riedel in the race for Senate District 1, as well as Rep. Beth Lear and Sen. Andrew Brenner, who unsuccessfully bid for each other's seats.

[Upcoming Events](#)

- May 12: Senate and House Committee Hearings
- May 13: Senate and House Sessions
- May 19: Senate and House Committee Hearings
- May 20: Senate and House Sessions
- June 2: Senate and House Committee Hearings
- June 3: Senate and House Sessions
- June 9: Senate and House Committee Hearings
- June 10: Senate and House Sessions
- June 17: **If needed** Senate and House Sessions
- June 24: **If needed** House Session

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PAPPAS & ASSOCIATES

Primary Election Results

Key/Contested State Races

*Incumbent

Race	Winner	Runner-up	Result (unofficial)
Governor (R)	Vivek Ramaswamy	Casey Putsch	82.5% - 17.5%
Ohio Supreme Court (R)	Colleen O'Donnell	Andrew King	32.2% - 29.7% (Other: Lanzinger 20%, Lewis 18.1%)
U.S. Senate (D, Special)	Sherrod Brown	Ron Kincaid	89.3% - 10.7%
U.S. House (R)	Derek Merrin	Josh Williams	44.1% - 25.3% (Other: Sheahan 20.2%)
Secretary of State (D)	Allison Russo	Bryan Hambley	67.4% - 32.6%
Secretary of State (R)	Robert Sprague	Marcell Strbich	70.2% - 29.8%
State Treasurer (R)	Jay Edwards	Kristina Roegner	53.1% - 46.9%
Attorney General (D)	John J. Kulewicz	Elliot Forhan	63.2% - 36.8%
18 th House District (D)	Davida Russell	Gabe Crenshaw	72.8% - 18.1% (Other: Grube 5.4%, Hoffman 3.7%)
61 st House District (R)	Shawn Stevens	Andrew Brenner	57.1% - 42.9%
40 th House District (R)	*Rodney Creech	Todd Smith	58% - 42%
86 th House District (R)	Ben Weber	Wezlynn Davis	45.1% - 31.3% (Other: Wolfe 23.6%)
93 rd House District (R)	*Jason Stephens	Larry Kidd	63% - 37%
96 th House District (R)	*Ron Ferguson	Frank Hoagland	63% - 37%
1 st Senate District (R)	Craig Riedel	James Hoops	50.98% - 49.02%
19 th Senate District (R)	Ryan Rivers	Beth Lear	51.84% - 48.16%