



Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier community.

July 27, 2018

Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Congressional District 12 August 7 Special Election Early Voting Opens

There is a special election August 7 to fill the unexpired term in the 12th Congressional District. This is the seat Pat Tiberi vacated and includes a portion of Mid-Ohio Foodbank's footprint. The May primaries set up for two succeeding elections, with the same individuals on the ballot for both elections:

- The August 7 special election will elect a candidate to serve the remainder of the unexpired term through this year;
- The general election November 6 will fill elect a candidate for the full term commencing in 2019.

While the 12th District Congressional election is the feature of the August 7 ballot, there may be local issues and offices to be decided; to check voter registration, candidate and issue listings along with other election information, go to <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/>. For information on early and absentee voting or other questions, click the "MyOhioVote.com" button; an extensive menu of voter information options will come up. To check with your county election board, go to <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

Farmer Markets and SNAP

The [National Association of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs](#) agreed is providing operational funding for 30 days so farmer markets will not see a disruption in service through the end of August. This is after the [USDA announced](#) earlier this month that a national technology vendor for processing mobile EBT transactions at farmer markets gave notice of intent to discontinue service at the end of July. This could impact up to 1,700 farmers markets across the country, including in Ohio, according to a related [story in the Washington Post](#). Efforts are under way to ensure funding beyond August and we will share updates.

Next for the Farm Bill

The House last week named conferees for the Farm Bill and the Senate is expected to name its conferees this week. Ohioans named to the committee are Republicans Steve Chabot of Cincinnati and Bob Gibbs of Lakeville, as well as Democrat Marcia Fudge of Warrensville Heights. The conferees will meet while negotiations occur between the chambers and within the respective caucuses; but, the Congressional schedule will impact the timeline. The House is expected to take its traditional August recess to allow members time in their districts. While there is talk of the Senate abbreviating its summer recess, there has been no formal move to do so. If the recesses occur, it is possible a final bill will be delayed until after November's general elections, necessitating a continuation of current provisions be enacted to keep programs funded. As the conferees are finalized and negotiations begin, we will share updates.

The Future Home of the Nutrition Title

The Administration has renewed its call to move Nutrition Title programs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The public argument for this move is to align SNAP, WIC, etc. with similar service programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare, to potentially allow better integration of public support programs. However, such a move opens up nutritional programs for cuts, like those proposed in the House version of the Farm Bill. Because it has agricultural-based programs that traditionally have Republican appeal along with nutritional programs that tend to have Democratic support, the Farm Bill has long been non-partisan in addressing issues that cut across broad interest lines. Taking nutritional programs out of the USDA splits them from agricultural interests and the wide support of the Farm Bill; in short, such a move would likely bolster efforts to cut nutritional program eligibility and funding. To move the programs from USDA to HHS would require legislative action; the Administration cannot simply move these programs from one department to another as they are legislatively authorized and funded. While such a proposal, if formally offered, would likely face significant opposition, this does warrant ongoing attention.

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