



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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Taylor Announces Regional Advisory Board

Cleveland – Auditor of State Mary Taylor announced appointments to the Auditor of State’s Cleveland Regional Advisory Board. This is one of eight boards that Taylor is establishing throughout the state.

“The advisory board is an avenue for Ohioans to communicate the issues and needs of their community to my office,” Taylor said. “I look forward to working with the Cleveland area members and I am eager to begin an open dialogue with them.”

The regional advisory board meetings provide local officials with a forum to discuss major issues facing their communities that involve interaction with the Auditor of State’s office. The boards are part of Taylor’s continued commitment to improve service to local governments.

Each board has a variety of representatives - county and city officials, township officials, school treasurers and local independent public accountants. The meetings will also provide entities with up-to-date accounting regulations.

The Cleveland Regional Advisory Board met for the first time in November with the following officials:

Robert Berner, Avon Lake Mayor

Berner was elected mayor of Avon Lake in May of 2001 and re-elected in November of 2003. Prior to being elected mayor, he served as president of the Avon Lake Board of Education. He currently serves on the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Regional Income Tax Agency, Northeast Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, Lorain County Mayors Association and the Lorain County Community Alliance.

Kathi Blakey, Amherst Public Library, Oberlin Public Library and Grafton-Midview Public Library Clerk-Treasurer

Blakey has served as clerk-treasurer for Amherst Public Library since 1989, Oberlin Public Library since 1991 and Grafton-Midview Public Library since 1998. Blakey is a licensed certified public accountant.

Pamela Bobst, Rocky River Mayor

Bobst is currently in her first term as mayor of the city of Rocky River after serving six-terms as a council member-at-large on Rocky River City Council. Mayor Bobst is active in many professional and civic organizations throughout the region.

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Laura Brady, Rochester Township Fiscal Officer and Rochester Village Clerk

Brady is currently in her second term as Rochester Township Fiscal Officer and her first term as Rochester Village Clerk. Brady is very active in the community and is a member of many civic and social organizations.

Rita Canfield, LaGrange Township Trustee

Canfield has served as LaGrange Township Trustee since 1998 and was formerly registered as an investment advisor with the New York Stock Exchange. Canfield currently serves on the Lorain County Community College Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board. She was previously the chairperson of the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County.

Sally Conway Kilbane, Former Representative, 16th Ohio House District

Conway Kilbane served four terms with the Ohio House of Representatives, representing the 16th Ohio House District. While state representative, she served as chairperson of the House Ways and Means Committee. Conway Kilbane is a member of the Southwest General Health Center Board of Trustees.

Michael Evangelista, Madison Village Mayor

Evangelista took office as mayor of Madison Village in 2001, after serving since 1989 on Madison Village Council. He is currently supervisor of the appraisal division for the Lake County Auditor's office and is a State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser. Mayor Evangelista is president of the Lake County Mayors and Managers Association and is active with various civic and social organizations.

Sari Feldman, Cuyahoga County Public Library Executive Director

Feldman serves as the executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Prior to joining the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Feldman was the deputy director of the Cleveland Public Library. Feldman is a member of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2004.

Rhonda Hall, Ciuni & Panichi

Hall has more than 20 years of experience in accounting and is a partner in Ciuni & Panichi's Audit and Accounting Services Department. She is an expert in accounting issues that directly impact state and local governments and school districts. Hall is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, Government Finance Officers Association and various other professional organizations.

Christopher Hitchcock, Geauga County Treasurer

Hitchcock has served as Geauga County Treasurer since 1997. Prior to holding public office, he was an executive with Crawford Fitting Company. Treasurer Hitchcock currently serves as a board member of the Vatican Observatory Foundation.

Jerry Hruby, Brecksville Mayor

Hruby is currently in his fifth term as mayor of the city of Brecksville. In 2002, Hruby was appointed to the National Park Service Advisory Board and was re-appointed in 2004. He is a former board member of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and was board president of that group in 1999.

Marilyn Jacobcik, Lorain County Board of Elections Deputy Director

Jacobcik has served with the Lorain County Board of Elections since 1992 as director and deputy director after serving 11 years as auditor for the city of Amherst. Jacobcik is a member of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers, second vice president for the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE) and an eight year member of the OAE Legislative Committee.

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Tracy Jemison, Geauga County Auditor

Jemison has served as Geauga County auditor since December 1995. In 1999, Auditor Jemison was awarded the Richard J. Makowski Outstanding Auditor Award from the County Auditors Association of Ohio. In 2003, he served as president of the County Auditors Association of Ohio.

David Joyce, Geauga County Prosecutor

Joyce has been the prosecuting attorney for Geauga County since 1988. He has personally handled many high profile criminal investigations and has prosecuted numerous successful trials including the largest theft case involving a governmental entity in Ohio.

David Malinowski, Mentor Director of Finance

Malinowski has served as the city of Mentor's director of finance for the past two years and as the assistant director for the previous nine years. He is a licensed certified public accountant. His prior work experience was in the private sector for Northrop Grumman Corporation and various banking institutions.

Robert Miller, Cleveland Metroparks Treasurer

Miller has served as treasurer of Cleveland Metroparks since 1988. He has served as school district treasurer for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools and Ravenna City Schools. Mr. Miller has received the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 14 consecutive years.

Louis Mucci, Burton Township Trustee

Mucci has served as Burton Township Trustee since 2001. Mucci is currently the vice president of the Private Client Group for Butler Wick & Co., Inc. and graduated from Yale University with a degree in political science.

Kathy Mulcahy, Orange Village Mayor

Mulcahy has served as mayor of Orange Village since 1996 and is a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a licensed certified public accountant working in private practice since 1981. Prior to her election as mayor, she was the Orange Village tax administrator for 11 years.

Beatrice Nelson, Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority Commissioner

Nelson was appointed commissioner for the Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority in January 2002. Prior to serving as commissioner, Nelson worked for Palmcrest Nursing Home. She is active in the community and is a member of many civic and social organizations.

Kevin Penn, Kevin L. Penn, Inc. President

Penn has more than 20 years of governmental auditing experience and is president of Kevin L. Penn, Inc. He is a graduate of Dyke College and is a licensed certified public accountant. Penn is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Dr. Phillip Price, Mayfield City School District Superintendent

Price began his tenure as the superintendent of Mayfield City Schools on August 1, 1998. He was formerly superintendent of the Glencoe School District 35 in Chicago, Illinois, Dublin City Schools in Dublin, Ohio and Vandalia-Butler Schools in Vandalia, Ohio.

Joseph Regano, Solon City School District Superintendent

Regano currently serves as superintendent of the Solon City School District, a position he has held since 1987. Regano is a past president of the Greater Cleveland School Superintendents' Association as well as the Cuyahoga County Special Education Association.

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Jeffrey Riddell, Lorain County Community College Board Trustee

Riddell is serving his ninth year as a Lorain County Community College Trustee. He is president of Consumer Builder Supply, a 100-year-old family construction material supplier. Riddell is a member of the board of directors for Lorain National Bank.

Raymond Rogowski, Willoughby Director of Finance

Rogowski has served as the city of Willoughby's director of finance since 1995 after serving seven years in the city's finance department. Prior to his employment with the city he was an auditor in the office of the Auditor of State. He has served on the board of directors and is a former president of the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers.

Jim Rokakis, Cuyahoga County Treasurer

Rokakis took office as Cuyahoga County Treasurer in March 1997 after serving over 19 years on Cleveland city council, the last seven years as chairman of the finance committee. During his tenure as county treasurer, Rokakis overhauled Cuyahoga County's property tax collection system, significantly improved Cuyahoga County's investment function and enacted nationally recognized linked deposit loan programs.

Beryl Rothschild, University Heights Mayor

Rothschild is serving her ninth consecutive four-year term and is the longest serving female mayor in Cuyahoga County. Mayor Rothschild is the founder of the Northeast Ohio Mayor's Think Tank at Kent State University and on the University Heights Committee to Eliminate Hate out of which emerged the city's nationally recognized "Series of Discoveries" diversity program. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Mary Samide, Geauga County Commissioner

Samide took office as Geauga County Commissioner in 2004, after serving nine years as Munson Township Trustee. Aside from holding public office, she is the founder and president of S.O.S. Incorporated, a computer consulting/network/programming firm started in 1985.

Prashant Shah, Pepper Pike Finance Director and Village of Moreland Hills Treasurer

Shah currently serves as the finance director for the city of Pepper Pike and the treasurer for the Village of Moreland Hills. Shah is a licensed certified public accountant and serves as the vice chairman on the board of trustees at the Regional Income Tax Agency and is past president for the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Northeast Ohio.

Daniel Talarek, Lorain County Treasurer

Talarek has been treasurer of Lorain County since 1989 after serving as chief deputy treasurer from 1975 thru 1989. He is the chairman of the County Treasurers' Association of Ohio legislative committee, member of the Lorain County Community Alliance and former president of the Northeast Ohio Treasurers Association.

Richard Taylor, Painesville City Local School District Treasurer

Taylor has been treasurer of the Painesville City Local School District since 2002 and was previously assistant treasurer for the Lebanon City School District. Taylor received a bachelor of arts in finance from Kent State University and attended graduate school at the University of Dayton.

Merry Lou Tramont, Cardinal Local Schools and Berkshire Local Schools Treasurer

Tramont currently serves as treasurer for both Cardinal Local School District and Berkshire Local School District. He is a former employee of the office of the Auditor of State and the Geauga County Auditor's office. Tramont is very active in the community, and is a member of many civic and social organizations.

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John Veres, Independence Director of Finance

Veres has served as director of finance for the city of Independence since 2000 after serving on Independence city council. He has been a licensed certified public accountant since 1993 and certified public finance administrator since 2004. Veres is a member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, Ohio Association of Public Treasurers and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ohio.

Beverly Vitaz, S.R. Snodgrass, A.C. Senior Vice President

Vitaz is senior vice president of S.R. Snodgrass, A.C. She has extensive experience in government, nonprofit and closely held businesses. Vitaz became a licensed certified public accountant in 1976. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Georgine Welo, South Euclid Mayor

Welo was elected mayor of the city of South Euclid in November 2003. She began her career in public service in 1991 when she was elected to South Euclid city council. In 1998, she was appointed administrative bailiff to Judge Ann T. Mannen in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. Mayor Welo is Chairman of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium and Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office.

Daniel Wilson, Mentor Exempted Village Schools Chief Financial Officer

Wilson currently serves as the chief financial officer for Mentor Exempted Village Schools. Wilson, the former associate superintendent for the Center for School Finance and Accountability at the Ohio Department of Education, has been the recipient of numerous honors during his 34-plus years in the fiscal management of Ohio Public Schools.

Ronald Yacobozzi, Amherst Board of Education President

Yacobozzi is a 28 year member of Amherst Board of Education and presently serves as president of the board. Yacobozzi is president of 1st Nationwide Title Agency and graduated from the Ohio Savings and Loan Academy. He is a resident title agent with the State of Ohio Department of Insurance and licensed title agent with the State of Tennessee Department of Insurance.

Edward Zupancic, Lake County Auditor

Zupancic has served as auditor of Lake County since 1987. His prior experience includes the Cleveland Central Collection Agency from 1971 thru 1977 and director of finance for the City of Willowick from 1977 thru 1987. Auditor Zupancic is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association.

James Zupka, James G. Zupka CPA, Inc. President

Zupka has been in accounting for nearly 30 years and has been president of James G. Zupka CPA, Inc. since 1983. He is a licensed certified public accountant in Ohio and Pennsylvania. James G. Zupka CPA, Inc. specializes in auditing and accounting services to local governmental units.

The Ohio Auditor of State's Office is one of the largest accounting offices in the nation. The office strives to ensure that all public funds are spent legally and appropriately and works aggressively to root out fraud, waste and abuse in public spending. Taylor encourages anyone suspecting fraud or misspending of public dollars to contact her office toll free at 1-866-FRAUD-OH (1-866-372-8364).

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