

# Cable Views

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association

Issue 2 2017

## 'In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer' Launches on Spectrum Networks

**Weekly Public Affairs Program Features Elected Officials, Airls in 85 Counties Across Ohio**

In April 2017, Spectrum Networks launched "In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer," a weekly public affairs program exclusively available to Spectrum customers in Ohio. Through interviews with elected officials representing all levels of government and thought leaders from all corners of the state, this new show dedicates 30 minutes each week to in-depth discussions on the most important issues impacting Ohioans.

The program's unique format allows Kallmeyer, a seasoned journalist with two decades of experience covering Ohio news, to break down a topic from start to finish. By committing full episodes to one subject, guests are provided the opportunity to more fully explain their positions and viewers have the ability to absorb information about a single issue from multiple angles.

Since the show's inaugural episode on Sunday, April 9, more than 30 guests have appeared on "In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer," a third of whom are members of the Ohio General Assembly. Some of the issues brought into focus by the show include school choice, Ohio's opioid crisis and police-community relations, to name a few.

"In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer" airs nearly statewide, reaching more than 2.1 million Spectrum customers across 85 counties. It is the third public affairs program of its kind to be launched by Charter Communications in select markets across



*Sen. Bob Peterson, R-Washington Court House, and Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze, D-Parma, talk with host Mike Kallmeyer on the new Spectrum Networks public affairs program, "In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer." The program dedicates 30 minutes each week to in-depth discussions on Ohio's top issues.*

the company's 41-state footprint. Outside of Ohio, "In Focus with..." programs are also airing in New York City, Upstate New York and Florida.

"In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer" can be watched on Spectrum channels 1311, 510 or 511 every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 p.m. and Monday at 7:30 a.m.

For more information and to watch past episodes, visit [www.SpectrumInFocus.com](http://www.SpectrumInFocus.com).

## Cable Tax Rejected

The Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association, its members and their 8,300 employees and, most importantly, their two million video customers in Ohio, wish to extend our gratitude to members of the Ohio General Assembly for preserving Ohio's current tax structure on cable TV.

A special thank you goes to House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Senate President Larry Obhof, House Finance Committee Chairman Ryan Smith and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager, and subcommittee chairmen Rep. Tim Schaffer and Sen. Kris Jordan for their leadership on this issue.

Ohio cable television customers already pay a tax on their service at the local level, often referred to as a franchise or video service provider fee. The administration's proposed sales tax on cable service included in the administration's budget proposal would have more than doubled our customers' tax burden.

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*She has an extensive background in the public and private sectors and leads Ohio's largest regulatory agency, the Ohio Department of Commerce. In this issue, we talk Face to Face with Jacqueline Williams.*

# Face to Face

## with Jacqueline T. Williams

Jacqueline T. Williams was appointed Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce in April 2015 by Governor John R. Kasich. She serves as a member of the Governor's cabinet and is responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Commerce is one of the state's principal regulatory agencies. Williams has made promoting the growth, success, safety and soundness of Ohio businesses a top priority; the agency also has focused on providing exceptional customer service.

Prior to her appointment, Williams served in leadership positions with a number of public and private entities, including the Development Services Agency, the Ohio Liquor Control Commission and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Williams also spent 10 years as Executive Director of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, which administers the state's 529 college savings programs. Under her direction, assets and investors grew significantly.

Williams was elected and served two terms as Chair of the College Savings Plans Network. Under her guidance, the network secured tax free distribution for 529 plans. Prior to her public sector service,

Williams worked for AT&T in a number of national and international capacities in sales, marketing and public relations.

Williams earned both a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Arts from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She has completed executive education at the Aspen Institute, WELD and the Center for Entrepreneurial Education at Miami University.

### Fast Facts:

**Team colors:** Burgundy & Gold – Cleveland Cavaliers

#### Currently reading:

I just picked up "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. He won the Pulitzer Prize for the book and it's a topic I don't know much about, so I'm looking forward to reading it. But I will say, as an avid reader, one of the books that hit me hardest this past year has been "Dreamland" by Sam Quinones. It's about the opioid epidemic in Ohio and elsewhere. A very frightening book.

**Favorite cable channel:** CNN

**Favorite song:** "I Believe I Can Fly"

**Favorite meal:** Pizza



**Jonathon McGee:** Thank you for your time today. Where are you from originally?

**Jacqueline Williams:** I was originally born in Memphis, Tenn. My dad was in the military, so I lived in the Philippines, Okinawa, and Washington D.C. I went to boarding school in Pennsylvania when I was in elementary school. I went to high school in Dayton, Ohio. I've been to a lot of places because of my dad's service in the Air Force.

**JM:** You have an extensive background in the public policy arena, dating back to the Voinovich years. Tell us about your background.

**JW:** I worked in higher education for a couple of years after graduate school, then worked for Ohio Bell and AT&T, after deregulation. I worked in the private sector for about 15 years before working in government. I came over as chief administrative officer at the Bureau of Workers' Comp. Since then, I've served in a number of agencies. Probably the longest stint in my career was 10 years as executive director of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, which operates the state's 529 program, CollegeAdvantage. That was a terrific opportunity. After that, I went to Washington D.C. and worked for a think tank for two years. I came back to Ohio and, since then, I've been executive director of the Ohio



Liquor Control Commission, director of Minority Business Development with the Development Services Agency, and now director of Commerce for the past two years.

**JM:** One of your niches is in the area of 529 college savings plans. How did you first get involved with that?

**JW:** It's interesting. Both of my sons had accounts in Ohio's plan. When I saw they were looking for a new executive director, I was instantly attracted to it because of my marketing and public relations background and I thought it was a great program. I thought it was something that other parents should know about in order to help save in advance for their kids to go to college. But, I never thought that the program did a very good job of really marketing that to the public, and that was my primary interest. I felt very strongly about the program and I thought I could do a better job in some ways marketing the program more broadly.

**JM:** Tell us about your work with the Ohio Department of Commerce.

**JW:** Commerce is the state's largest regulatory agency. We have a diverse portfolio ranging from real estate and professional licensing to unclaimed funds where we return lost money to people. Also, the State Fire

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Marshal's office and the Divisions of Securities, Financial Institutions, Industrial Compliance and Liquor Control are all part of Commerce. We have very broad responsibilities here at Commerce. We license professionals, we inspect installations and operations to ensure that businesses are operating safely. We ultimately have a responsibility to protect the public. If we do our jobs right and ensure that companies and professionals are operating properly, then that helps to ensure the safety and security of the public.

A new initiative for Commerce is that we have been charged by the legislature with standing up the state's medical marijuana program. We have some of the responsibilities for that enterprise and it's pretty rare in government when you actually get to stand up something that's brand new. So, we have very mature industries that we regulate, and then on the other hand we have a brand-new enterprise that we are involved with helping to establish.

I think we have a very important job at Commerce and, if we do our job right, then the public is protected. But I think the other part of our job is to ensure that companies can operate without government interference. The vast majority of businesses make it their job to operate properly and within the confines of the law; and it's our job to assist them in that endeavor and to hopefully support a vibrant economy in Ohio.

**JM:** Is there anything on the horizon with respect to oversight and regulation of the cable industry?

**JW:** There really isn't. In fact, in many of the industries we regulate, such as banks and credit unions and precious metal dealers, there has been legislation introduced to change the structure of those industries and to make other changes. The cable television industry is one that I'm not currently aware of any regulatory or other initiatives that are on the horizon.

**JM:** What is your regulatory philosophy?

**JW:** I think our job is to ensure that the professionals and businesses we license are operating properly and safely within the law. That's our primary responsibility. And, for new businesses that are coming into those industries, our job is to support them, to educate them and provide the guardrails for them so that they will understand how to appropriately operate. But, if companies are not operating properly, we have a responsibility to ensure that we inspect, investigate and, in some cases, prosecute unscrupulous players or work with other law enforcement officials to do that. We have spent considerable energy in the last couple of years, even before my arrival here, working very hard to ensure that we are serving the needs of those professionals as opposed to looking at ourselves solely as a regulator. Rather, we look at ourselves as a facilitator - looking at how professionals and businesses operate, ensuring that we can support them and then letting them manage their businesses properly.

**JM:** Finally, do you have any advice for the cable industry?

**JW:** I think there really is an opportunity to be innovative and to look at the different needs of the populations that they serve. I think that there is a lot of opportunity to be innovative, and I encourage them to do that and really get to know their clients well and to offer products and services that appeal to those clients. That's the ultimate recipe for being successful in business, first know that client - if you know the client and you are responsive and receptive to what the client needs and wants, you are going to be successful and that's what is going to set you apart from your competitors.

#### Continued from Page 1 - Cable Tax Rejected

The OCTA greatly appreciates legislators' recognition that taxing cable service at both the local and state level would be inequitable and overly burdensome to Ohio cable customers.

## Ohio Cable★PAC

### Ohio Cable Political Action Committee

#### Company Participation

(January 1 – June 16, 2017)

Company	Amount Raised	Goal
Armstrong Cable	\$0	\$2,496
Buckeye Broadband	\$1,548	\$10,972
Comcast	\$2,750	\$1,430
Cox Communications	\$825	\$1,500
G.L.W. Broadband	\$400	\$400
MCTV	\$20,000	\$2,750
Suddenlink	\$0	\$1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,523</b>	<b>\$20,948</b>

#### Individual Contributions

(March 2 – June 16, 2017)

##### Buckeye Broadband

Jeffrey Abbas  
Mike Bilik  
Laurie Cichy  
Brad Mefferd  
Rick Mlcek  
Jessica Pitzen  
Sarah Riedeman  
Charles Riley  
Nicholas Vitou  
James Wolsiffer

##### Comcast

Jim D'Innocenzo

##### Cox Communications

Robert Brill  
David Butas  
Brian Ginley

##### Cox Communications (cont.)

Richard Volpe  
Steve Wild

##### GLW Broadband Inc.

Kevin Flanigan

##### MCTV

Nancy Gessner  
Richard Gessner  
Robert Gessner  
Susan Gessner

##### OCTA

Jonathon McGee

##### Precision Broadband Installation

Chris Steininger



# 29th Annual OCTA Golf Outing

*Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's golf outing a success!*

**Charter Communications** – Reception Sponsor  
**Comcast** – Golf Cart Sponsor & Print Sponsor  
**Cox Communications** – Continental Breakfast Sponsor  
**Precision Broadband Installations** – Hole-In-One Sponsor  
**Van Meter, Ashbrook & Associates** – Hole-In-One Sponsor  
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**Grant Street Consultants** – Print Sponsor  
**MCTV** – Print Sponsor  
**The Batchelder Group** – Print Sponsor  
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**Crown Media Networks** – Premium Hole Sponsor  
**GLW Broadband Inc.** – Premium Hole Sponsor  
**INSP** – Premium Hole Sponsor  
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**Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease** – Hole Sponsor

## Raffle Item Sponsors

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MAVTV  
MCTV  
NBC Universal  
Outdoor Sportsman Group  
Strategic Impact Consulting  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease



*LOW GROSS TEAM WINNERS – Charlie Winters, Eric Schoen, Chris Steininger and Kevin Heaton.*



*LOW NET TEAM WINNERS – Jeff Cooper, Brandon Draughn, Daniel Amburgey and Nathan Cope.*

The Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association held its 29th annual golf outing on June 12.

The event, held at the Pinnacle Golf Club in Grove City, was popular again this year, marked by good weather and even better fellowship.

Congratulations go to our Low Gross and Low Net team winners, pictured above, as well as this year's individual winners: Chrisy Wright (longest drive – women), Doug Christopher (longest drive – men) and Brad Mefferd (closest to the pin – men).

A special thank you goes to our sponsors, without whom the event would not be possible.

## Capital Update

### Legislative Update

**Disaster Relief:** House Bill 133, which exempts out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster, was favorably reported by the House Public Utilities Committee. The OCTA is supportive of this bill.

**Broadband Expansion:** Rep. Rick Carfagna, R – Genoa Township, recently introduced House Bill 281. This bill creates the “residential broadband expansion program (RBEP).” Under this program, grants would be made available to broadband providers to provide “last mile” service. The OCTA is currently reviewing this legislation.

### PUCO Update

**Pole Attachment Proceedings:** The PUCO in 2015 ordered pole owners to file new tariffs in accordance with newly adopted pole rules. In September 2016, the electric companies’ proposed tariffs were approved and the PUCO ordered the electric companies to file final tariffs, which they did. In April, the PUCO ordered the tariffs be approved effective on the date that they were filed, that is, retroactively. The OCTA has challenged this retroactive order and we await a decision.

**New FirstEnergy Pole Attachment Filing:** Even though the above tariffs have yet to be finalized, on May 25, FirstEnergy (FE) filed new tariffs under the PUCO’s new procedure governing pole attachment tariffs. Per the PUCO’s 60-day automatic approval process, the new rates will become effective on July 25, 2017.

**Retail Rules:** On Nov. 30, the PUCO issued an entry adopting revised retail rules. The OCTA immediately became involved in the docket providing comments on the rules and actively participated in the docket.

The rules adopted by the PUCO are problematic and the OCTA has requested that the PUCO revisit them. We remain concerned that the proposed rules would put Title II type regulations on currently unregulated providers and technology. The OCTA will continue to advocate for changes to these rules.

The amended rules and all filings in this docket may be reviewed here: <http://bit.ly/PUCO14-1554-TP-ORD>.

**Carrier-to-Carrier Rules:** On April 19, the PUCO issued an Entry adopting these rules. Overall, the OCTA is very pleased with the final rules issued by the PUCO. The rules still need to be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR), a legislative body that gives final approval to administrative rules. Once this review is completed, the rules will become effective and the OCTA will so advise you.

The rules may be found here: <http://bit.ly/PUCO16-2066-TP-ORD>

## 2017 Legislative Reception and Technology Demo



*House Finance Committee Chairman Ryan Smith, R-Bidwell, talks with Spectrum's Connie Luck and Megan Lashutka at the 2017 Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception and Technology Demonstration. The event was held May 23 in Columbus.*



*Reps. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, and Marlene Anielski, R-Walton Hills, take a look behind the scenes in a Spectrum production truck.*



*Reps. Tim Ginter, R-Salem, and Janine Boyd, D-Cleveland Heights, during this year's legislative reception and technology demonstration.*



# MCTV launches new service

MCTV, a leading internet, cable TV and phone provider in Stark and Wayne counties, recently announced the launch of its Excellerate internet service, utilizing fiber-to-the-home technology. MCTV is the first cable TV operator to bring this technology to northeast Ohio.

Community leaders were present to hear from MCTV President Bob Gessner, American Cable Association President and CEO Matthew M. Polka, U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Lakeville, State Rep. Thomas West, D-Canton, and Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Executive Director Jonathon McGee, who discussed the opportunities MCTV is not only bringing to the greater Stark and Wayne county area but nationally to the telecommunications industry.

"ACA is extremely pleased to stand behind its members, including MCTV, to upgrade and expand their networks," Polka said. "MCTV is not just bringing northeast Ohio some of the newest technology options, but is creating new broadband opportunities for rural customers who previously had none."

"MCTV has always strived to stay ahead of technology to create the best user experience for each of our customers," Gessner said. "With Excellerate, we are



*MCTV recently announced the launch of its Excellerate internet service, utilizing fiber-to-the-home technology. On hand for the announcement were U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Lakeville, and State Rep. Thomas West, D-Canton, pictured with MCTV President Bob Gessner.*

building the future of technology and are excited to share the great opportunity for our current and potential internet customers."

Excellerate is now available to residential customers in select areas.

More than 47,000 homes and businesses in Stark, Wayne, Summit, Holmes and Tuscarawas counties rely on MCTV for their telecommunications needs.

## Cable Calendar

### [www.csqmidwest.org](http://www.csqmidwest.org)

When: July 9-12  
Where: Des Moines Marriott Downtown  
Des Moines, IA

### [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org)

When: July 19  
Where: Conley Resort  
Butler, PA

### [www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org)

When: July 19-21  
Where: Hyatt Regency Denver  
Denver, CO

### [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org)

When: July 19  
Where: Conley Resort  
Butler, PA

### [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)

When: August 6-9  
Where: Boston Convention Center  
Boston, MA

### [www.wict.org](http://www.wict.org)

When: September 25-26  
Where: New York Marriott Marquis  
New York, NY

### [www.namc.com](http://www.namc.com)

When: September 26-27  
Where: NY Marriott Marquis  
New York, NY

### [www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org)

When: December 6-8  
Where: Omni Nashville  
Nashville, TN

[www.octa.org](http://www.octa.org)

172 E. State St., Suite 302  
Columbus, OH 43215