



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

6500 Taylor Road, Ste. A

Blacklick, OH 43004

Phone: (614) 863-0045 Fax: (614) 863-9751

www.OhioTownships.org

---

**House Bill 476, Online Raffles  
House Finance Committee  
Proponent Testimony  
October 14, 2025**

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeny, and members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks, and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association. On behalf of Ohio's 1,308 townships, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 476, authorizing online raffles.

HB 476 seeks to codify online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law. Many non-profit organizations such as volunteer fire departments have used raffles as a fundraising tool. However, the Ohio Attorney General's Office has recently sent cease-and-desist letters to those utilizing online ticket sales as the Ohio Revised Code requires paper tickets to be issued as part of the drawings.

Townships depend highly on volunteers to provide safety services for their residents. Volunteer first responders save communities and states billions of dollars annually across the U.S., compared to the cost of full-time departments. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find volunteers and even more difficult to fund volunteer departments, as the cost of fire equipment has drastically increased over the last decade. Fire trucks now cost millions of dollars with a multi-year wait-time, and ambulance prices have more than doubled.

As you know, townships' primary revenue source are property taxes. With the increased costs of training and equipment, townships must repeatedly ask residents to approve levies. By authorizing online raffles, HB 476 offers fire and EMS departments and other non-profit entities another tool in the toolbox to raise funds and reduce the frequency of levy requests.

The OTA would like to thank Representative Craig and Representative Thomas for introducing this piece of legislation, and we urge your support of HB 476.

Thank you for considering our position. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Executive Director Heidi M. Fought at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Brooks  
Director of Governmental Affairs