A Look Ahead in 2014: Local Government Edition

On the ballot, Franklin County voters can expect a request in May from The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for a permanent, 1.25-mill property-tax levy and Franklin County Children Services to appear on the ballot in November, details still to be determined.

From the Columbus Chamber perspective, the policy initiatives to which we will be focusing our attention include:

- **Education**
  - Develop a strong working relationship with the Columbus City Schools Superintendent, new Board Members, the Mayor’s Director of Education, and the developing public-private partnership
  - Ensure that a fiscally sound budget is set for the 2014-2015 academic year
  - Advocate that high academic goals are set and actions steps taken for implementation
  - Improved governance of the Board of Education

- **Small Business Assistance**
  - Complete the workforce survey in partnership with the City of Columbus and provide analysis and recommendations regarding the needs of small business

- **Economic Development**
  - Participate in the development of Franklin County’s new investment in job creation and strategic economic development efforts
  - Continue to support the initiatives and needs of Columbus 2020, MODE, and others that work to enhance the economic health of the Region

- **Development Services**
  - Work with the City of Columbus to pursue enhanced customer service and increased online capabilities for permit and plan review