



The Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach Salutes Ohio's Women Cabinet Members

With the recent appointment of women directors to the Ohio Lottery Commission and Ohio departments of Public Safety and Development, Gov. Ted Strickland's cabinet reached a significant milestone - of 26 cabinet members, 13 are now women. Several of these women (*) are the first females to hold their positions and represent nontraditional career choices for women.

While women have made significant gains in fields such as education, politics, health and the military, much remains to be done in order to continue to advance the status of women in leadership. The United States ranks 67th in the world in terms of women's political representation, and women lead only 13 Fortune 500 companies. According to the Institute for Women's Policy and Research, Ohio ranks 34th in the United States for the percent of women in managerial and professional occupations. We need more women at the top alongside men. Research shows that when women sit at the table, they enhance the decision-making process. In short, increased diversity in leadership can be considered a gain for all Ohioans by ensuring that a broader sphere of perspectives is represented.

Please join us in saluting these women by spreading the word in your community. Below you will find more information about each of these women and which agency she leads. To learn more about what Strickland's administration is doing concerning women, please visit our Web site at www.governor.ohio.gov/women.

Kathleen Burke

Ohio Lottery Commission*
(First permanent Director)

Cathy Collins-Taylor

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS)

Angela Cornelius Dawson

Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug
Addiction Services (ODADAS)

Deborah Delisle

Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

Mary Jo Hudson

Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI)

Jolene Molitoris

Ohio Department of Transportation
(ODOT)*

Lisa Patt McDaniel

Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)*

Marsha P. Ryan

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
(OBWC)*
(First Senate-confirmed director)

Barbara Riley

Ohio Department of Aging (ODA)

J. Pari Sabety

Ohio Department of Budget Management
(OBM)

Sandra Stephenson

Ohio Department of Mental Health
(ODMH)

Cristal Thomas

Executive Medicaid Management
Administration (EMMA)

Kimberly Zurz

Ohio Department of Commerce (ODOC)



Kathleen Burke

Kathleen Burke joined the Ohio Lottery Commission on August 24, 2009. As Executive Director, she oversees a state agency with sales of \$2.4 billion a year, administering instant and on-line lottery game products through a statewide network of licensed retailers. The agency is charged with maximizing Lottery game profits for use in public education. She also oversees the administration of Ohio's charitable bingo licensing and monitoring, and the implementation of Video Lottery Terminals in Ohio racetracks.

Ms. Burke comes to the Lottery as a partner from Jones Day in Cleveland, where she has been a corporate litigator since 1973. She served as the first woman president of the Ohio State Bar Association from 1993-1994. As president, she led the successful effort to, for the first time, have the Supreme Court establish contribution limits for judicial campaigns. She also served as president of the Ohio State Bar Foundation from 2000-2001 and is currently a board member for the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation.

Ms. Burke is a member of the Notre Dame College Board of Trustees, serving as chair from 2002-2006. She has also served in numerous leadership capacities for the American Bar Association, including her current role as state delegate for Ohio and co-chair of the Federal Practice Task Force. Additionally, Burke has received numerous professional recognitions. Crain's Cleveland Business recognized her as a Woman of Note in September 2002, and she was named by Cleveland Magazine as one of the 29 Most Influential Women in Business in 1997. She was recognized in the 2007-2009 editions of "The Best Lawyers in America" and received the 2008 St. Thomas More Award from the Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Ms. Burke received a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in New York City in 1969 and a law degree from St. John's University in 1973. In the time between receiving her bachelor's degree and returning to law school, Burke served as a reporter for the Yonkers Herald Statesman, a Gannett newspaper in Yonkers, N.Y., and also worked for CBS Network News.



Cathy Collins-Taylor

September 3, 2009: Columbus, Ohio— Ohio Governor Ted Strickland today announced the appointment of Cathy Collins-Taylor as the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Collins-Taylor, 52, has served as the executive director of the Ohio Investigative Unit at the Department of Public Safety since March 2007. She will assume the position of director of Public Safety effective on September 19.

"Cathy is an experienced professional whose background in law enforcement and safety has prepared her to lead the Ohio Department of Public Safety," Strickland said. "I am confident that Cathy will be able to work with the divisions within ODPS to ensure the agency is running effectively and efficiently, and with the safety and wellbeing of the public at its forefront."

As executive director of the Ohio Investigative Unit, Collins-Taylor oversees the enforcement of state, federal and local laws with emphasis on liquor, food stamp and tobacco offenses and offers education and professional assistance to law enforcement agencies and the public. She has worked to bring consistency to the seven enforcement offices and oversaw the implementation of new systems and tools that allow agents to more effectively carry out investigations.

As executive director, Collins-Taylor has also upgraded agency policies in order to make the division compliant with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

Collins-Taylor previously served as a branch chief of State and Local Coordination and Domestic Security for Ohio Homeland Security, where she oversaw the creation of the Ohio Response System by coordinating resources from local and state first responders and state agencies.

Prior to joining ODPS, Collins-Taylor spent 26 years in the Columbus Police Department, retiring from active duty in September 2004. She was the first female motorcycle officer in the department's history and helped establish the Exploited Children's Unit. Additionally, Collins-Taylor has served as an instructor at the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy.

"I'm honored to accept this opportunity to lead an agency that I've called home for more than five years," said Collins-Taylor. "I look forward to continuing to work with the dedicated staff at the Department of Public Safety as we move forward with the department's critical mission of education, service and protection."

Collins-Taylor is a past recipient of the City of Columbus Outstanding Women in Government Award. She graduated from the Ohio State University in 1977 and Columbus Police Academy in 1978.

As director of ODPS, Collins-Taylor will receive a salary of \$128,544.

Collins-Taylor resides in Columbus with her husband, Mike, and two daughters.

Angela Cornelius Dawson

Governor Ted Strickland appointed Angela Cornelius Dawson as the director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) effective March 5, 2007. As director, Dawson oversees a staff of 106 employees and an annual budget of \$195 million. ODADAS plans, initiates and coordinates an extensive system of services designed to prevent substance abuse and treat Ohio's addicted populations. The Department, by statute (Am. Sub. H.B. 317), coordinates the alcohol and other drug services of state departments, the criminal justice system, law enforcement, the legislature, local programs and treatment/prevention professionals.



Beginning in 1988, Dawson has served as the executive director of Project Linden, Inc., a private non-profit outpatient alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention services center in Franklin County. Before becoming the executive director of Project Linden, Inc., she served as that agency's clinical director.

Prior to that role, Dawson worked for the State of Ohio as an employer services specialist from 1986-1987 and a vocational rehabilitation counselor from 1985-1986 for the Rehabilitation Services Commission in Dayton. She has been a member of the ODADAS Workforce Development Committee, chair of the Hazel Booth Sutton Christian Learning Center and the Mental Health Association's Raising the African American Potential Committee.

“Governor Strickland and I are committed to helping Ohioans reach their full potential, especially Ohio’s children, and the only way that can happen is for our communities to fight drug and alcohol abuse,” Dawson said. “Education, prevention and successful treatment will lead to better educated, more productive Ohio citizens.”

Dawson received her bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation education, a master’s degree in counseling and guidance and second master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from Wright State University.



Deborah Delisle

Innovation and 21st century creativity mark the career of Deborah S. Delisle, Ohio’s 35th State Superintendent of Public Instruction. With 30 years of experience in five Ohio school districts, Delisle has served as a school district superintendent, principal, curriculum director, classroom teacher of both language arts and gifted education, and college instructor in education.

Named as a “2008 Tech-Savvy Superintendent” by *e-school news*, Delisle is committed to diminishing the digital divide among students through cutting-edge technology. She piloted a one-to-one laptop teaching and learning program at a middle school in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, which will transition into all of the District’s middle and high schools over a five-year period. Delisle also established a television production studio at the high school, as well as wireless labs and electronic assessments for educators so they can access and use advanced technology as they craft instruction to better meet students’ needs.

Delisle understands urban educational needs, having spent the past five years as the superintendent of a district where the student population is 82 percent minority and 60 percent low-income. She is a member of the governing board of the Minority Student Achievement Network, a consortium of 25 national school districts dedicated to eliminating the achievement gap. Leading high school reform, Delisle transformed the District’s large, comprehensive high school into five small schools. Through her collaboration with John Carroll University, one of the District’s elementary schools is now a pre-K to 16 teaching and learning environment and has received recognition by the International Center for Leadership in Education as a model school. To prepare students with global knowledge and skills, Delisle also initiated collaboration on an International Academy with nearby universities and school districts for students to learn Mandarin Chinese through an immersion program.

Through various committees and initiatives, Delisle has established networks across the State with educators on issues paramount to Ohio’s schools. Currently, she is the chairperson for the Greater Cleveland Schools Superintendents Association and the Ohio Schools’ Council Executive Board. Delisle also has worked on the Buckeye Association of School Administrators’ State Report Card Committee and the Women’s Leadership Committee, as well as serving as the

Co-Chair of the Superintendents' Committee for the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council and on the ODE International Education Advisory Committee.

Her high skills in collaboration will help her with the many partnerships and relationships at the state level. "I am excited to jump right in and work with the State Board, governor, legislature, our districts and the many other education stakeholders to ensure our students are prepared for success in today's global economy," Delisle said, just moments after the State Board of Education unanimously approved her appointment as state superintendent October 14.

Delisle's experience extends to higher education. With postgraduate work at Kent State and Ashland universities in administration and curriculum development, Delisle received a master's degree in special education at Kent State and a bachelor's degree from Springfield College in Massachusetts. She taught graduate level courses at Kent State, Ursuline College, the University of North Colorado, and Simon Frasier University. She and her husband, Jim, a retired Kent State education professor, co-authored *Growing Good Kids*, which received a Parents' Choice Award.

Mary Jo Hudson

An accomplished public servant, attorney and community leader, Mary Jo Hudson officially took office as the 46th Director of the Ohio Department of Insurance on January 8, 2007. She was appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to join his cabinet on December 21, 2006.

Director Hudson is familiar with the Ohio insurance industry and regulatory role of the Department.

She has practiced law for eighteen years, most recently with the Columbus offices of Bailey Cavalieri LLC and its predecessor, Arter and Hadden LLP, focusing on insurance regulation and liquidation law, consumer finance and retail law compliance, unclaimed property planning and reporting, commercial lending, state and federal advertising law, and general corporate matters. From 1989 to 1995, Director Hudson worked as an attorney with the Ohio Department of Insurance and as General Council for the Office of the Ohio Insurance Liquidator.



Appointed to Columbus City Council in 2004 and elected in 2005, Mary Jo served as Chair of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee and focused on efforts that produced good jobs and increased income tax revenue to support basic city services. She also sponsored legislation supporting a strategy for attraction and retention of young talent in Columbus, encouraged regional cooperation for economic growth in Central Ohio, and helped form a coalition to develop and brand the 315 Research + Technology Corridor.

Director Hudson championed investments that leveraged private dollars to encourage the growth of entrepreneurs and new business, and helped the Columbus Chamber of Commerce enhance the technical assistance they provide emerging and minority businesses.

Prior to joining the Ohio Department of Insurance, Director Hudson served on the Boards of The United Way of Central Ohio, The Center for New Directions; The Women's Fund of Central Ohio; The Human Rights Campaign and Human Rights Campaign Foundation; The Greater Columbus Arts Council; TechColumbus and SciTech.

Director Hudson received her B.A. in Public Administration from Miami University in 1985. She received her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1988, graduating with honors.

Director Hudson resides in Columbus, Ohio



Jolene Molitoris

Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jolene Molitoris strengthens Governor Ted Strickland's commitment to moving Ohio into a prosperous new world by modernizing the state's multi-modal transportation system through collaboration and innovation.

"From her work in Washington and Ohio, Jolene is nationally recognized for her historic leadership in the transportation industry," said Governor Strickland, appointing her to the position in January 2009 and giving her the distinction as the department's first woman director since the establishment of the Ohio Department of Highways in 1905.

At the state level, Ms. Molitoris began her career at the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority (ORTA), achieving the position of Executive Director. During her tenure, Ohio led the nation in state-developed high speed rail planning. From ORTA, she was appointed Deputy Director for Rail at ODOT, where she worked with port authorities statewide to create 13 new short line railroads - the most in any state following the deregulation of the railroad industry. This initiative positively affected 220 industries and 40,000 jobs.

Appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, Ms. Molitoris was the first woman to head the Federal Railroad Administration. During her eight years in Washington, she led agency-wide changes to make significant improvements in safety and customer service. The changes resulted in the seven safest years in US railroad history. Her tenure was also highlighted by innovative efforts to develop public-private partnerships in financing national transportation improvements. Because of her achievements, Railway Age magazine named her one of the great 20th Century Railroaders.

In 2007, Governor Strickland appointed Ms. Molitoris as chair of the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), the first woman to lead that organization.

"In all that we do, ODOT will strive to integrate the many modes of transportation in this state, giving Ohioans real choices and connecting the investment of state dollars to the creation of new

jobs and economic development,” Director Molitoris said. “As director, I will work closely with our public and private partners to truly transform transportation and move Ohio into a prosperous new world.”

Ms. Molitoris received her undergraduate degree from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. and her graduate degree from Case Western in Cleveland. Among the awards she has received are the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, The WTS International Woman of the Year, the WTS DC Chapter and Columbus Chapter Woman of the Year, and the Sojourner Truth Award from the White House Women’s Office.

Lisa Patt McDaniel

Lisa Patt-McDaniel is the Director of the Workforce and Talent Division in the Ohio Department of Development. The Workforce and Talent Division manage the Ohio Investment in Training Program, Workforce Guarantee Program and the Governor’s Workforce Investment Act Discretionary funds as well as staff the Governor’s Workforce Policy Board. The office is currently involved with the Strickland/Fisher Administration’s creation of a vision for Ohio’s workforce system that is competitive in the 21st century demand-driven economy.



In 1987 Lisa began her career in state government as a Researcher for the State and Local Government Commission – a 13-member bipartisan commission that was established in 1978 by the Ohio General Assembly.

In 1990, Lisa joined Development’s Office of Local Government Services, which later became known as Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP). Each year, the office provides approximately \$120 million of financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio. The funded projects benefit low- and moderate-income citizens. Lisa served as a Field Representative and Downtown Program Coordinator for three years.

In 1993, Lisa became the office’s Economic Development Coordinator. As the Coordinator, Lisa administered approximately \$8 million annually and worked with communities across the state to locate or expand businesses and create and retain jobs. In December 1997, Lisa became Manager of the Department’s Office of Business Development (OBD). This office works with Ohio companies, as well as companies looking to expand and/or locate in Ohio. The office structures incentive packages, provides information regarding Ohio’s business assistance programs and conducts site searches for companies.

In 2000, Lisa rejoined the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships as the Office Chief. During her tenure the Community Distress Grant Program was introduced to provide grants of up to \$300,000 to communities with low and moderate-income populations of at least 60%. The funds are used to accomplish a comprehensive group of activities meant to have a major impact

on a neighborhood or community. The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COCSDA) appointed Lisa to the Federal Task Force on Performance Measures for Housing and Urban Development Programs. She also served on the Board of COSCDA. Lisa also co-chaired the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing Policy Team, a collaborative effort of state government to develop policies and strategies to end homelessness in Ohio.

In September 2004, Lisa was appointed the Assistant Deputy Director of the Community Development Division in Development. The Community Development Division includes the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, the Office of Community Services, and the Office of Energy Efficiency. These offices administer over \$300 million in federal and state funds. Lisa earned her BA in Public Policy from Miami University and her MPA from the Ohio State University. She is married to Dana McDaniel and has two children – Caitlyn and Colleen.

Marsha P. Ryan

Marsha Ryan has spent her entire career helping people and organizations adapt to change. An experienced executive, she has an expertise in a variety of subjects including energy issues, regulatory policy, customer care and service, government affairs and board governance. Ryan is a leader in strategic planning and organizational design and has successfully led large organizations through major integrations of customer service operations and systems.

Appointed by Gov. Ted Strickland, Ryan has served as administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) since May 1, 2007. She is leading an effort to comprehensively reform BWC by providing its customers with stable costs, better services, accurate rates and safe workplaces. Ryan's previous executive expertise is apparent in her leadership at BWC.

She was formerly the vice president for customer operations for American Electric Power (AEP), where she led strategic efforts and made infrastructural improvements to provide high-quality care to customers. She also served as president and chief operating officer for Indiana Michigan Power (an AEP operating company) and has held positions in government affairs, marketing, customer care and field operations.



Before joining AEP in 1990, Ryan served more than 18 years in the public sector, focusing on consumer protection, customer service, public policy and regulation at the Ohio Department of Commerce, the Ohio Office of the Attorney General, the Consumers' Counsel, and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

From 2002 until her appointment as BWC administrator, Ryan served as a director of State Auto Mutual Insurance Company, where she chaired the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board. She also chaired the selection committee for State Auto's president and chief executive officer in 2006.

Ryan also served as a trustee of Franklin University (Columbus, Ohio), most recently as vice chair of the Board of Trustees, a position she held from 1996 until her appointment as BWC administrator. She also served as an advisory board member for U.S. Bank in central Ohio, helping to guide investment and business contacts in the community. She has served on multiple not-for-profit and civic boards in Ohio and Indiana, and has special interest in regional vitality issues. A graduate of Ohio Dominican College, Ryan was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Community Leadership from Franklin University in 2008.

Ryan resides in New Albany with her husband, Harry J. Ryan.



Barbara Riley

Barbara Riley was appointed director of the Ohio Department of Aging by Governor Ted Strickland in February, 2007. As director, she is leading the state-wide, team effort to revamp Ohio's long-term care system, ensuring seniors have long-term care options that meet their choices and needs, while also containing Medicaid costs. Under her guidance, the department also is working to promote healthy and active aging by making sure employment and volunteerism and life-long learning opportunities are available to older Ohioans.

Director Riley has more than 35 years of combined public and private sector experience. Her Ohio state government service began in 1990 as Chief of the Health, Human Services and Justice Division of the Legislative Budget Office. She served in several offices in the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, including director.

Riley holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Pennsylvania State University, and a master's degree in Political Science and Public Policy from Washington University in St. Louis.

She currently resides in Columbus with her husband Tom McIndoe.

J. Pari Sabety

A certified public accountant, J. Pari Sabety brings more than 20 years of experience in the field of economic development to her role as OBM director. She was most recently a fellow at the Brookings Institution and director of the think tank's Urban Markets Initiative. That program was singled out by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke for recognition because of its pioneering work in exposing the role of information in unleashing the full power of urban markets (www.brookings.edu/metro/umi.htm)



Prior to this position, Sabety founded the Technology Policy Group (TPG) at the Ohio Supercomputer Center and Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business. The group performed nationally recognized, trend setting work on enterprise architecture within state

government, e-government initiatives, electronic records, Internet privacy, network performance, assessments of e-commerce readiness, digital divide issues and rural infrastructure. J. Pari Sabety has had a longstanding commitment to public service, having served Governor Richard Celeste as his economic development policy advisor during his second term in office.

Sabety holds an MBA in Accounting from Rutgers University, and a Masters in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She completed General Studies coursework at the London School of Economics and completed her undergraduate work at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.



Sandra Stephenson

Sandra Stephenson currently serves as the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health. She entered this position in June, 2007. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Stephenson served as the Executive Director for Southeast, Inc., Recovery & Mental Health Care Services in Columbus, Ohio. She began her employment with Southeast, Inc. in 1983 as the Clinical Director and Associate Executive Director and became Executive Director in 1987.

Ms. Stephenson received her education from Ohio State University, graduating with a B.S.S.W. in Social Welfare from the College of Social Work in 1974, a Master of Social Work with Clinical and Planning Majors from the College of Social Work in 1975, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from the Administrative Sciences Department in 1980. While at Ohio State, Ms. Stephenson graduated Summa Cum Laude with her bachelor's degree; she was also the recipient of a Merit Scholar Award and selected for membership in Phi Kappa Phi, The Ohio State University Chapter, as well as being named a "Pace-Setter" in Administrative Sciences.

Ms. Stephenson has served in the following additional capacities: Board Member of PLAN of Central Ohio, Board Member of the Ohio Association of Behavioral Healthcare Management, Board Member of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers and member of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Policy Committee. Ms. Stephenson continues to serve as Chairwoman of the Mental Health/Chemical Dependency/Mental Retardation Advisory Committee at Columbus State Community College.

Ms. Stephenson has received many honors and awards recognizing her efforts. To name a few, since 1985, she has received numerous Certificates of Appreciation for service from the Ohio Council of Community Mental Health Agencies; and in 1993, she received the "Outstanding Leadership as President" award from the Ohio Council of Community Mental Health Agencies. Ms. Stephenson was selected as the 1998 recipient of the "Dr. Norman Guitry Award" from the Mental Health Association of Franklin County. More recently, she was the 2006 recipient of the "Hero" Award from the Community Shelter Board of Franklin County, the "Above and Beyond Award" presented by The Ohio Cluster-Based Planning Alliance—Synthesis Inc.;the Ohio

Council of Behavioral Healthcare Provider, Inc.; and the “Activist and Visionary of the Year” from the Mental Health Court of Franklin County.

Ms. Stephenson holds the following licenses: State of Ohio Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), State of Ohio Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC-E), and State of Ohio Medical Board Licensed Massage Therapist (L.M.T.). Ms Stephenson also holds a Certification in the use of (auricular) Acupuncture for Substance Abuse, New York State.



Cristal Thomas

Throughout her career Cristal has focused on healthcare. She served as a policy and regulatory analyst in the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where she handled many aspects of federal healthcare policy, including health research, public health, occupational safety and health, bioterrorism, and veterans healthcare issues.

After leaving OMB, Cristal joined the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services as Director of Strategic Planning. HFS is a state agency with 2,300 employees and a \$15 billion budget responsible for administering the Illinois Medicaid, Child Support Enforcement and Energy Assistance programs, as well as healthcare finance and purchasing. As Director of Strategic Planning, Cristal crafted the Department’s vision and five year strategic plan.

In August 2005, Cristal was appointed by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to serve as Assistant Director of HFS. In this role, she oversaw the Department’s operations, including procurement, human resources, and information systems, as well as management of the three main programs. She helped lead the Department through the development and implementation of the Governor’s landmark All Kids health insurance program, implementation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit, transition of the state’s Medicaid program from a fee-for-service to a primary care/case management health care model, and consolidation of healthcare purchasing from four separate state agencies.

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed Cristal to be State Medicaid Director in January 2007. She is responsible for administration of the Ohio Medicaid and SCHIP programs, as well as implementation of many of the new Governor’s healthcare initiatives.

Cristal holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Molecular Genetics from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Kimberly Zurz

Governor Ted Strickland appointed Kimberly A. Zurz Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce on January 23, 2007. Zurz is a veteran businesswoman, who was a State Senator representing citizens in northeast Ohio at the time of her appointment to the Strickland Cabinet. She is committed to providing strong leadership to carry out the Department’s mission of

consumer protection and fair, efficient regulation of business to fulfill the Strickland Administration Turnaround Ohio plan.

The President of her family's 78-year-old business, The Eckard-Baldwin Funeral Home, in Akron, Zurz has an informed perspective about the needs and concerns of small businesses and the importance of excellent customer service. She knows first hand how safeguarding the public and fair, efficient regulation of business work together to strengthen the state's economy.



While serving more than three years in the Ohio Senate, Zurz earned a reputation as a staunch advocate for education and job creation. She represented Ohio's 28th District, which includes Portage County and a portion of Summit County. One of only a handful of women Senators in the Ohio General Assembly from 2003 to 2007, Zurz served as the Ohio Senate's Assistant Minority Leader and as the Ranking Member on the Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee. She also served on the Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice, the Judiciary Committee on Civil Justice and the Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Before her appointment to the Ohio Senate in 2003 and election in 2004, Zurz served more than 11 years on the Summit County Council, including three terms as President. During her service on the Council, she presided over a county budget of over \$560 million.

Zurz's career in public service has included membership in the National Conference of State Legislators. She also has served on many boards and commissions, including the Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau Board; the National Association of County Officials; the Summit County Information Technology Board; the Summit County Audit Committee; and the Summit County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. She also served as Vice Chairman of the City of Green Charter Commission.

Zurz has received many honors and awards including the 2000 Corrine Rho Award from the Community Health Center Foundation; the 2002 Jane Quine Democrat of the Year Award; the 2003 Friends of Education Award from the Summit County Educational Service Center; the 2006 Ohio State Chiropractic Association President's Award; the 2006 Omeris Senator of the Year Award, and the Greater Akron Chamber Economic Development and Community Improvement Award in 2006.

Zurz is married to Richard Zurz, Jr., and has three children. She and her family reside in Green in Summit County. Zurz graduated from Firestone High School in Akron and attended the University of Akron.