

DeWine Pledges 'No Surprises,' In 'Open Administration'

Attorney General Mike DeWine, the governor-elect, on Thursday advised observers seeking clues to his future actions to look toward the recent past.

Speaking at the 2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference in Columbus, he said "no surprises" are in the works for his forthcoming administration.

"What we're going to focus on is what we talked about during this campaign," he said.

Mr. DeWine reiterated his pledge to increase state support for children services, which he referred to as a "passion."

"They're going to get more money in a DeWine budget, a DeWine administration," he said.

Following through on a related campaign promise early, Mr. DeWine on Wednesday announced LeeAnne Cornyn's pending appointment as director of children's initiatives, a new cabinet-level post. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, November 7, 2018](#))

The governor-elect said he also intends to expand throughout the state pilot programs focused on foster care that he helped launch as attorney general. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, August 29, 2018](#))

The next administration also will be "dead serious" about increasing state support for early childhood education and development programs, Mr. DeWine said. The issue was one area where the attorney general and his Democratic opponent, Richard Cordray, largely found agreement on the campaign trail. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, September 27, 2018](#))

"If we don't do it right with early childhood development, we're going to have kids who just don't make it," he said.

Mr. DeWine said he also plans to run "a pretty open administration" that will actively seek data, opinions and policy ideas from experts.

"Don't confuse that with an administration that doesn't know where we're going," he said.

The governor-elect also said his administration would have a "sense of respect for local officials" and seek out their input.

"This is not going to be an administration that thinks we know everything," he said.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, AG DeWine's running mate, reiterated the forthcoming administration's openness to outside proposals.

"You should come with ideas because (Mr. DeWine) will listen," he said.

AG DeWine, repeating another campaign trail promise, said Mr. Husted will lead the administration's proposed "Innovate Ohio" initiative, which involves efforts aimed at using technology to enhance state government's customer service and making Ohio more attractive to tech firms. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, September 13, 2018](#))

"We believe that we can fundamentally transform government," Mr. DeWine said.

The attorney general said criminal justice reform also is "on our agenda" and promised to work with leaders in the House and Senate on the issue. Senate [President Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) and [Speaker Ryan Smith](#) (R-Bidwell) earlier in the day told conference attendees they also are interested in working on sentencing-reform measures in the future