

## TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, prosecutor

Repeat violent offender newsletter

Death Penalty Law Update: December 10, 2024

*"It is time for Ohio to get out of the muck and mire of the swamp of delay. Defeat Senate Bill 101 and pass a law to allow nitrogen gas and other execution methods or just do what Missouri did last week when it carried out the nation's 23<sup>rd</sup> execution of the year: Get some Pentobarbital and enforce Ohio's current (death penalty) law!"*

- **Prosecuting Attorney Dennis Watkins, past president of OPAA in 1991, in his Dec. 10, 2024, letter to OPAA**

### **Watkins asks OPAA to back Trump's execution efforts**



Prosecutor Dennis Watkins today wrote the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and its Executive Director Lou Tobin, shown in photo at left with Watkins after appearing earlier this year before Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, to tell them that prosecutors need to support President-

Elect Trump's efforts to restore and resume federal executions in this country and end the Merrick Garland 2021 moratorium and at the same time, end Ohio's 2018 moratorium on executions by procuring lethal injection drugs or by passing laws which facilitate full justice for victims of heinous crimes against humanity instead of ending it by recycling evil-doers as continuing threats to others.

A Dec. 7, 2024, editorial in the Tribune Chronicle, one of Ohio's oldest newspapers, echoed the feelings of many in Northeast Ohio: "... In the past five years, zero executions have taken place. That's a disheartening track record, particularly for those seeking long-delayed delivery of a deliberative jury's just and well-reasoned verdict."

See Watkins' letter to the OPAA and a compendium of material attached.

This material includes:

- The Dec. 7, 2024, editorial in the Tribune Chronicle which urges the Ohio General Assembly to “act fast to end death penalty’s state of limbo.”
- The Nov. 14, 2024, Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office Repeat Violent Offender newsletter that chronicles Prosecutor Watkins’ address before the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee urging them to oppose Senate Bill 101 which would repeal Ohio’s Death Penalty law.
- A Nov. 15, 2024, story by Michael Ruiz details plans by President-elect Donald Trump to end the Biden-Harris administration’s moratorium on federal executions, putting 40 federal death row inmates on notice. Similar stories were also written at the time by Fox News, NBC and CNN. Other stories enclosed also give summary of Trump’s 2025 agenda for his administration.
- Prosecutor Watkins’ notes from a May 10, 2023, with a Tribune Chronicle reporter on topics related to Attorney General Dave Yost’s public comment about Ohio’s broken capital punishment system.
- A March 7, 2024, special request report to the Attorney General’s office regarding the summary of facts regarding death row inmate Stanley Adams’ cruel and unusual punishment of his three murder victims. This information was contained in Attorney Generals’ extensive report on capital punishment in Ohio.
- The May 22, 2024, Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office newsletter that covers Prosecutor Watkins’ address before the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, which supported legislation that would permit the use of nitrogen hypoxia to carry out Ohio executions.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office at 330-675-2485 or [Guy.Vogrin@co.trumbull.oh.us](mailto:Guy.Vogrin@co.trumbull.oh.us)

[\*\*View Prosecutor Watkins’ Open Letter to Prosecutors\*\*](#)

[\*\*Compendium of Information\*\*](#)