

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

**GOVERNOR TAFT ANNOUNCES NEW TREASURER OF STATE
AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

COLUMBUS (December 21, 2004) – Governor Bob Taft today appointed Lieutenant Governor Jennette Bradley to the office of Treasurer of State, effective January 3, 2005. Bradley made history in January of 2003 as the first African-American woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor in the United States. Bradley also currently serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce.

“Jennette Bradley is uniquely qualified for this position and will be an excellent steward of Ohio’s taxpayer dollars,” said Taft. “Over the past two years she has championed the State’s efforts to protect Ohio consumers and educate our citizens on money matters. I am proud to stand alongside Jennette and thank her for agreeing to continue to serve the people of Ohio in this new role.”

While serving as Lieutenant Governor, Bradley was also a member of the Governor’s Jobs Cabinet, which is working to improve the business climate in Ohio. She was also Governor Taft’s Small Business Liaison, working closely with the Governor’s Small Business Advisory Council. In addition, Bradley chaired the Clean Ohio Council, which works to revitalize Ohio’s urban areas. She led the state’s efforts to provide affordable housing as chair of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Executive Board, and chaired the Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing as well.

Governor Taft also announced today that Director of the Ohio Department of Development Bruce Johnson will serve as Ohio’s new Lieutenant Governor. Johnson will continue to serve in his role as development director.

“Improving Ohio’s job climate is my number one priority. Bruce Johnson knows what it takes to create jobs and keep cutting-edge technology, research and development inside Ohio’s borders,” said Taft. “When business leaders from across the nation and around the world look to Ohio to expand or locate their business, they will deal personally with not only the development director, but also Ohio’s Lieutenant Governor.”

Johnson has worked diligently to fulfill ODOD’s mission of job creation and retention, and expanding job opportunities for the state’s highly skilled workforce. Under Johnson’s leadership, Site Selection magazine awarded Governor Taft and Ohio with the prestigious Governor’s Cup for being top state in the nation for the number of new and expanded facilities in 2003. Johnson also spearheaded the effort to create and launch the Ohio Business Development Coalition, a public-private partnership that is charged with marketing Ohio’s unique assets and developing a state brand. Prior to becoming Development Director, Johnson served as a member of the Ohio Senate from 1994-2001.

Johnson’s appointment must be confirmed by a majority of both houses of the Ohio General Assembly. Taft will submit Johnson’s nomination to the Ohio General Assembly early next year, and legislative leaders have agreed to hold confirmation hearings as soon as possible. Ohio law does not require the confirmation of the appointed Treasurer. Lt. Governor Bradley intends to take the oath of office on January 3, 2005.

Media Contact: Orest Holubec, Governor's Office, at (614) 644-0957
