

Gov. Ted Strickland has appointed the first seven members of the Ohio Casino Control Commission.

Vanessa Whiting, a Cleveland Heights resident who is a partner with the Roetzel & Andress law firm, will join five downstaters and a Toledo-area man on the panel that will oversee the operation

of four casinos, including one around Tower City Center in downtown Cleveland.

Other members of the commission are Greta Russell, controller at Ohio State University; Joseph Rugola, executive director of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees; and attorney and former state Rep. Charles Saxbe, all of Columbus. Rounding out the commission are Michael Bolte of Harrison, a retired Cincinnati police officer; Jerry Chabler of Sylvania, a member of the board of directors for the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; and William Kirkham, a Cincinnati attorney.

Four of the appointees are Democrats, three are Republicans.

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