

Dear Neighbor,

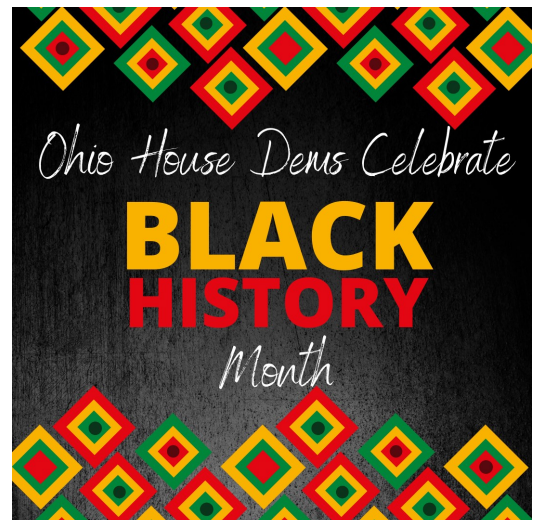
Happy Black History Month! Black history is American history and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day to build a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. House Democrats are committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. This month our district will take the time to highlight 50 Black owned business. If you have a business you would like highlighted please send it to Ashley.white@ohiohouse.gov! It has been an honor serving you thus far and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to put people first.

This past month the Republicans overrode the governor's veto of **HB 68**, which the House Democratic Caucus stands firmly against. Once again, the Supermajority is disregarding the voice of the people. These matters should be left to families and doctors, not politicians. House Democrats will always stand with the LGBTQ+ community, championing legislation that protects their rights and recognizes them as vital members of our communities.

On the 15th of February, the House Minority Caucus will be hosting the Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This pioneering event will gather stakeholders from around the country and Ohio to the Statehouse in an effort to push dialogue on stemming the tide of gun violence in the state. Space is limited, so if you would like to attend the summit, please RSVP at this link: <https://bit.ly/GVPSummit24>

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,
Representative Upchurch





House Democrats Announce Inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit

House Democrats are proud to announce the inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit. Join us in fostering discussions on crucial commonsense policies supported by a bipartisan majority of Ohioans on **February 15, 2024 at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.**

The event will consist of three panels featuring elected officials, law enforcement officers and gun safety advocates to address solutions, legislation and real-world stories that put us closer to stemming the tide of gun violence in Ohio.

The panels are as follows:

- Taking Guns out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals
- Promoting Responsible Gun Ownership
- Defeating Pro-gun Crime, Anti-cop Laws

Additionally, there will be a resource fair showcasing outside groups and initiatives that align with our commitment to address gun violence.



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION Summit

Let's unite for crucial discussions on responsible gun ownership, and anti-cop laws. Together, we can make a difference.

Thursday, February 15th
10AM-12:30PM
The Atrium at the Ohio Statehouse

Join Ohio House Democrats and additional stakeholders in being a part of the solution!

RSVP NOW

Presented By: Ohio House Democrats

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUMMIT

People first.

Interested in joining us? [RSVP here.](#)



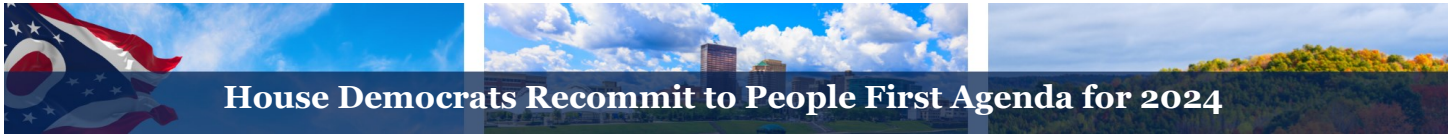
House Democrats Fight Against Corruption in Ohio

On January 30th the House Minority Caucus held a press conference unveiling the first step in our Cost of Corruption legislation package. House Democrats introduced multiple pieces of legislation aimed at weeding out corruption, strengthening ethics, protecting against and correcting wrongs created by the First Energy scandal, the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.



- The [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) (House Bill 112, Reps. Miranda/Sweeney) would require dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending.

- The [HB 6 Repeal and Repay Act](#) (House Bill 120, Reps. Weinstein/Brennan) would fully repeal and refund subsidies established in HB 6 during the 133rd General Assembly that are still being paid by Ohioans to bail out two Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) coal-fired power plants—one of which is located in Indiana.
- The [PUCO Nomination Reform Act](#) (House Bill 363, Rep. Troy) would adjust the broken nomination process involving the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), preventing individuals like Sam Randazzo, the former chair of the PUCO, who was indicted for taking \$4.3 million in bribes in exchange for helping FirstEnergy conduct nefarious activities.
- The [PUCO Consumer Refund Act](#) (Rep. Baker) would require PUCO to order refunds to consumers in the event that a utility charges are unlawful by the Ohio Supreme Court. Upon determination that utility charges are unlawful, full refunds would be required to be issued within 120 days.



House Democrats Recommit to People First Agenda for 2024

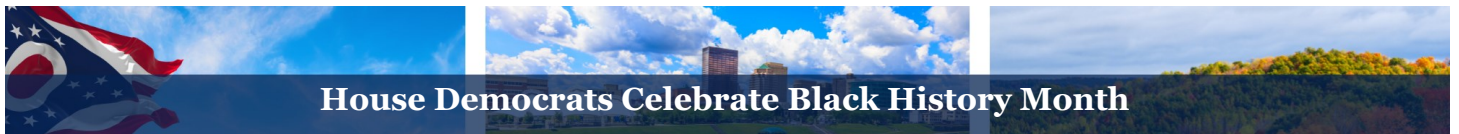
As we begin a new year, Ohio House Democrats want to reiterate their guiding values: the People First agenda. The People First agenda is built on top of three Democratic values: freedom, dignity, opportunity.

FREEDOM is the belief incorporated within fighting for our fundamental rights. A value that brings our communities, our tribes, our people together. Our mission is aimed at protecting the freedom of all Ohioans to vote, to choose, to live, to love and learn.

DIGNITY is focused on the value of building an Ohio we all deserve. Dignity means good jobs, fair wages, and suitable health benefits. The dignity found in the American dream of safe and affordable housing where we have a chance to reach our potential.

OPPORTUNITY is centered around the ideal that Ohio must invest in its most valuable resource that will lead this state forward- its people. This can be done by meeting people where they are supporting them, through good times and bad.

These values are what drive the Democratic Caucus. The new year is well underway, but the importance of these priorities remain the same.

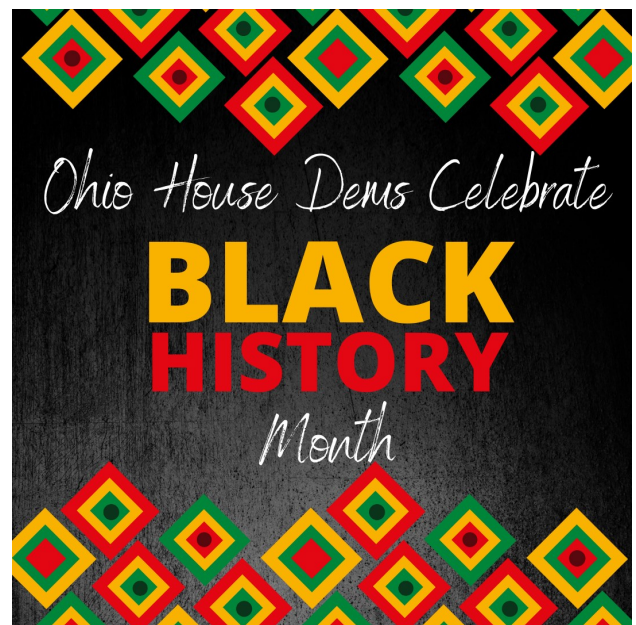


House Democrats Celebrate Black History Month

Happy Black History Month! Ohio House Democrats are fighting for equality and justice across the state. It is our mission to ensure that Ohioans of all races, ethnicities, sexualities, gender expressions, religions, classes, and backgrounds are treated with respect and given the tools needed to succeed.

“I find it such an honor and privilege to be Black. We are the change makers and the culture, this month we celebrate that! Be sure to take time to support some Black-owned businesses this month..” says Rep. Upchurch.

Black Ohioans are disproportionately affected by inequalities in our nation. Ohio House Democrats are committed to creating a state, and a world, that can better provide for all of its residents. This commitment is not limited to justice but extends to ensuring fair access to economic opportunities, housing, healthcare, safe communities, and transportation. Democrats are fighting to make Ohio a welcoming, safe, and prosperous state for everyone.





It has been a year since the catastrophic Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The derailment is an environmental disaster; the true magnitude and long-term impacts of which remain uncertain. House Democrats are committed to pursue lasting reforms that improve railway safety and instill public confidence in the state's commitment to preventing future railway catastrophes.



Happy Valentine's Day from the Ohio House Democrats. This is a special day dedicated to recognizing our love for others. It is a time for people to express their feelings of love, friendship, and appreciation for one another.



February 12 marks the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded exactly 100 years after Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the NAACP advocates for civil rights and justice for all. House Democrats will always fight for equality for all.



February 20 is the National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants. House Democrats support our Muslim, Arab, and South Asian friends, many of whom have found a home in Ohio. We must make Ohio a welcoming state where immigrants can live in peace, security, and prosperity.