

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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Committees:

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*
- *9-1-1 Steering Committee*

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. While it is hard to believe that we are already 1/3rd through 2024, there is a great deal of information to share with you in this month's newsletter.

First, I wanted to highlight and express a timely application opportunity for eligible families. During Governor DeWine's State of the State address, he announced the creation of the Child Care Access Grants and Child Care Choice Programs. While not a holistic fix to the difficulties many of our families are experiencing with finding quality and affordable childcare, these grants could certainly assist with short-term costs. I have attached more information on the next page, including steps to apply.

While many of our families are feeling the financial pinch of child care costs, others are seeing similar strains with caring for loved ones. I'm sure you have read previously my bill [HB 405](#), a program to allow tax credits for caregivers of disabled individuals. I anticipate having a first hearing on this bill around or shortly after this newsletter goes out, and would greatly appreciate any and all advocacy or personal experiences you wish to share with the Committee in recommending its passage.

One concern will be the total cost of the program. As presently configured, the proposal is capped at \$15M annually.

As a former caregiver, I can certainly attest to the struggles that many of us go through in attempting to bridge the gap with supporting our loved ones' quality of life in their familiar home surroundings and the company of loved ones, rather than more expensive institutional settings—and the great sacrifice to work and savings required to achieve those goals.

I hope you enjoy and this newsletter and find it informative. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can ever be of assistance to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

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Around the District



DISTRICT 15—During his State of the State Address, Governor DeWine announced the creation of the **Early Care and Child Care Choice Program**. This program, using reallocated federal funds, will assist families in child care affordability. Families within 146-200% (\$60,000) of the Federal Poverty Line may qualify for assistance, with family copayments set at 9% upon approval covering costs for a 12-month period.

Applications are open until full utilization of funds. Application processing began on **April**

29th. If you qualify, application information including eligibility information and a paper application can be found [here](#).

Click [here](#) to apply online by selecting “Apply for Benefits” in the bottom left corner (Cash, Food, Medical or Child Care Assistance).

CUYAHOGA COUNTY—I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable solar eclipse experience last month! While the next total solar eclipse to be visible in Ohio won't be until 2099, I'm grateful for sharing this experience as a community and for the state's preparedness handling thousands of visitors to witness the once-in-a-lifetime event.

As an aside, the attached photo was taken by my friend, Judy Evridge, from her driveway during the eclipse. I hope it was a memorable time for you all!



Photo Credit, Judy Evridge ©2024



EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY

5PM - 7PM

OLD-YOUNG BROOKLYN—The Young Professional Monthly Social Hour is the 3rd Wednesday of each month; May's social will be held at the Splatter Loft! [Click here](#) for more details or to register.

Starting on April 22nd, Cleveland Metro-parks has been giving out free northern red oak saplings at all 5 of their nature centers.

[Click here](#) for more information.





Around the District (continued)

DISTRICT 15—I am pleased to announce that District 15 has received substantial funding through the Ohio EPA and their Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants. Of the \$2.69 million disbursed throughout Northeast Ohio, below are grants our communities received:

- City of Brooklyn—\$200,000 to assist with Curbside Recycling
- Village of Brooklyn Heights—\$65,000 to assist with Curbside Recycling
- Village of Brooklyn Heights—\$10,000 for a Water Bottle Refilling Station



I am encouraged that the state of Ohio has continued to push for increased education and outreach regarding keeping our communities clean and pollution-free. To learn more about these grants, go to www.recycleohio.gov.

OLD BROOKLYN—To alert Old Brooklyn residents, MetroHealth announced earlier this month that they will soon be closing their Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation facility at the Old Brooklyn Medical Campus.

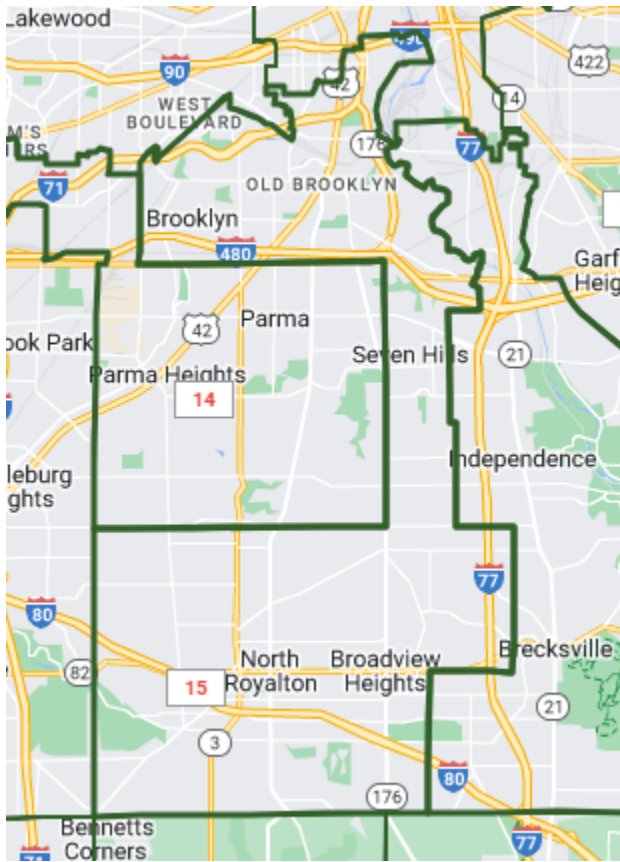
While there were certainly numerous initial concerns, I have been informed that this closure is primarily due to a lack of utilization of their services. Additionally, there have been no layoffs as a result of the closure, as staff will be reassigned to new locations to meet rising demand in other healthcare areas.

[Click here](#) to read MetroHealth's press release.

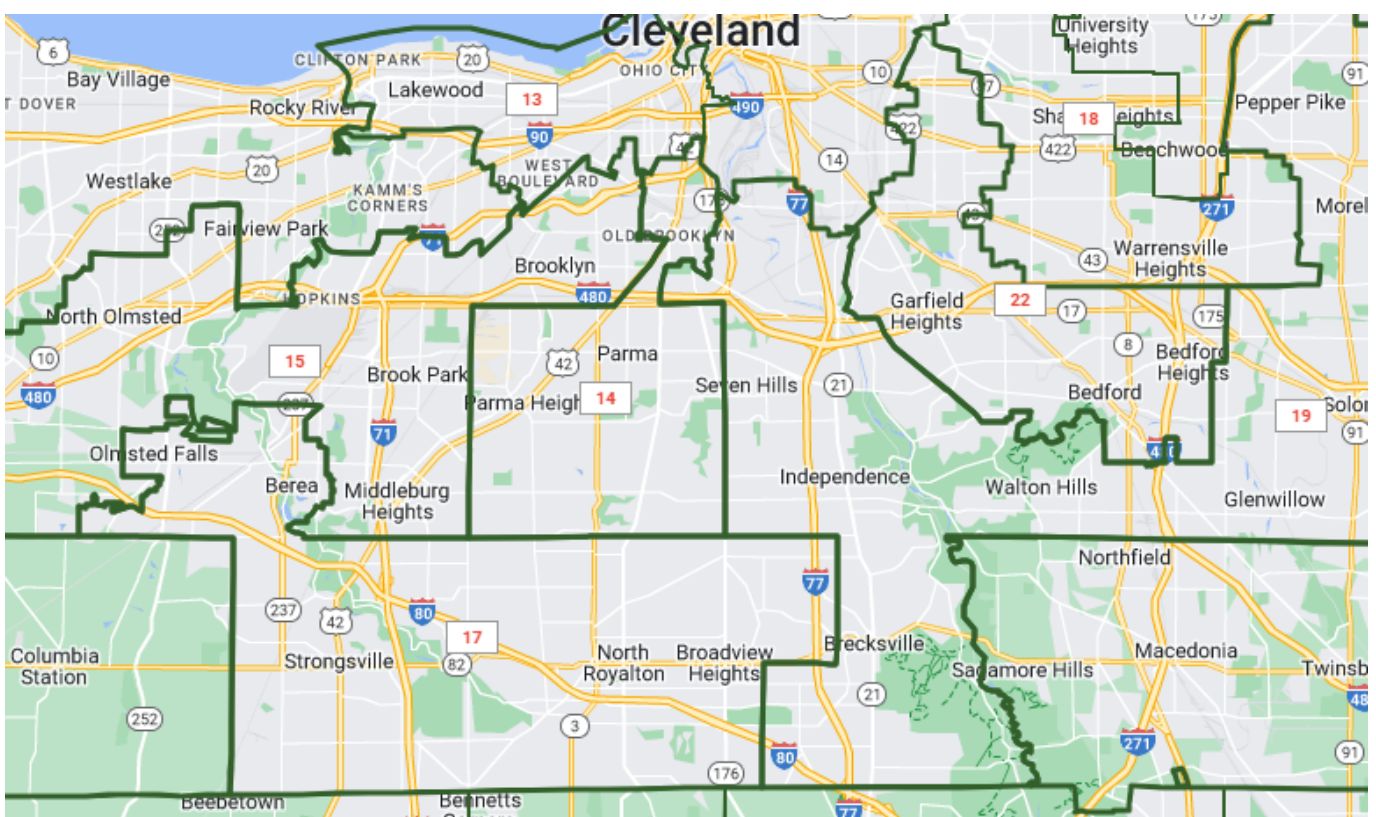


Around the District (continued)

NEW DISTRICT 15 Map—For those who have contacted our office for information, here is the new Ohio House District 15 Map from the [Ohio Secretary of State website](#):



Current House District Maps—2023—2024



New House District Maps—2025



Legislative Updates

State of the State:

As previously mentioned, Governor DeWine shared his annual State of the State Address, outlining the successes of his administration and laying the groundwork for what policy priorities he wishes to accomplish next.

While much of the address was centered on the healthcare and education of Ohioans, [click here](#) to see a full list of key points during the speech. Additionally, [click here](#) to watch the address.

While the DeWine administration has certainly taken steps to improve the lives of Ohioans, much more needs to be done to tackle the urgent issues that many of our state's residents face. It is my hope that this sentiment is felt through the legislature as well, and I look forward to working with my fellow State Representatives to ensure that the latter half of this General Assembly is even more productive.

GRF YTD:

For those unaware, the Ohio General Assembly uses the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) as the main vessel for budgetary and legislative funding. Much of the funding comes through Ohio's sales and income tax, which is then in turn used to assist in funding local community resources. While the fund deals with a massive pool of funds, the importance of ensuring that our state's tax revenue remains stable is crucial for the operation for all aspects of our state's operation.

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) recently published their April 2024 Budget Office Newsletter ([click here](#)) that highlights the stark shortfall that we have seen in GRF tax revenue. While only slightly alarming in itself, it is important that we are ensuring our state remains able to fund and maintain the services that our community and others across the state rely upon.

State Income Tax Repeal:



Over a quarter century ago, the Ohio Supreme Court, in [DeRolph v. State of Ohio](#), declared unconstitutional Ohio's system of public school funding, substantially through real property taxation. In doing so, the court cited the state's failure to provide a "thorough and efficient system of common schools."

In the current General Assembly, a system of school voucher funding has been created that transfers a billion dollars, plus, annually in public tax dollars for private school education. How is this reduction in public school funding made up for? How about the state's GRF fund? Now, the House Ways and Means committee is considering several proposals to reduce universally acknowledged property tax pressures through homestead exemption modification and other measures; and is also now considering [recent legislation introduced](#) to eliminate the state's income tax over a period of years.

But the constitutional issue remains unresolved. No one enjoys paying taxes, but most of us recognize the need to maintain a structured, civilized, society. The majority now has an opportunity to resolve the school funding constitutional issue concurrently with adjusting or eliminating the state income tax. While this bill has only had one hearing in my Ways and Means Committee, I sincerely hope you will all pay close attention to the bills and legislation that not only do not serve the majority of Ohioans, but have the potential to worsen financial (and in this case, educational) concerns.