

A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. TERRENCE UPCHURCH**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 20



(614) 466-7954 | [rep20@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep20@ohiohouse.gov)

 @OHHouseDems  
 @ohiohousedems



**From the desk of Rep. Upchurch**

Dear Neighbor,

Happy August!

House Democrats are fighting to lower your property taxes. A handful of Republicans and special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community— making you pay more locally so the state can pay less.

It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities.


Have you checked your voter registration? Voting is one of the most sacred fundamental freedoms we have. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Make sure your voice is heard and check your voter registration here: <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

If there is anything my office can do please reach out to us by email at [Rep20@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep20@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-7954. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

State Representative Terrence Upchurch

**Register to Vote!**  
Make your voice heard



Are you a recent graduate? Need to register to vote? Follow the QR code below to make your voice heard in the next upcoming election!



A banner with a dark blue background. On the left is the Ohio state flag. In the center is a city skyline under a blue sky with white clouds. On the right is a landscape with green trees and a blue sky. The text "Ohio House Democrats Fight to Lower Property Taxes for Ohioans" is written in white across the middle.

## Ohio House Democrats Fight to Lower Property Taxes for Ohioans

As we all know, the rising cost of property taxes is a critical economic issue for Ohioans. Homeowners are searching for answers and are rightfully frustrated feeling the squeeze of higher property tax bills.

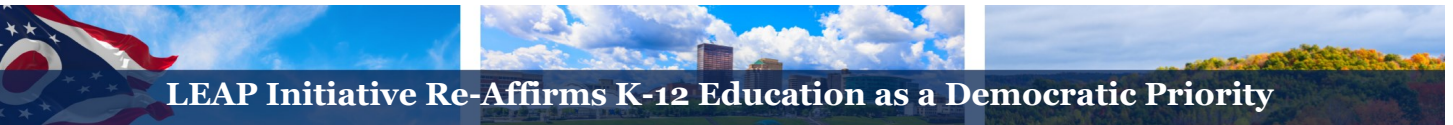
A handful of Republicans and special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community— making you pay more locally so the state can pay less.

No one wants to pay more than their fair share in taxes. That's why tax-shifting is unfair. It funds giveaways for the wealthiest few, and cuts to local communities, shifting taxes away from the state onto local homeowners.

It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities.

House Democrats have introduced several bills to help lower your property taxes:

- **HB 60 (Troy)** - Increases the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain surviving spouses
- **HB 263 (Isaacsohn/Hall)** - Freezes property taxes for qualified homeowners
- **HB 274 (Dell'Aquila/Matthews)** - For individuals who qualify and have owned their homes for more than 20 years, this bill increases the exemption from \$26,200 to \$50,000. **Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform** - This committee, proposed by Rep. Troy, with the intent of examining and identifying solutions to address some of the concerns with Ohio's property tax laws.
- **HB 645 (Isaacsohn)** - Legislation authorizing a property tax circuit breaker benefit for eligible homeowners and renters whose property taxes, or portion of rent attributable to property taxes, exceeds 5% of their income.

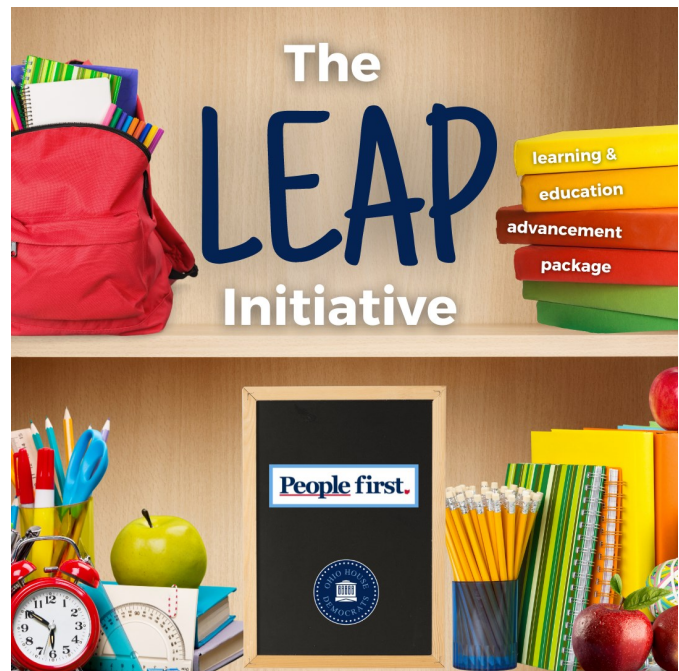
A banner with a dark blue background. On the left is the Ohio state flag. In the center is a city skyline under a blue sky with white clouds. On the right is a landscape with green trees and a blue sky. The text "LEAP Initiative Re-Affirms K-12 Education as a Democratic Priority" is written in white across the middle.

## LEAP Initiative Re-Affirms K-12 Education as a Democratic Priority

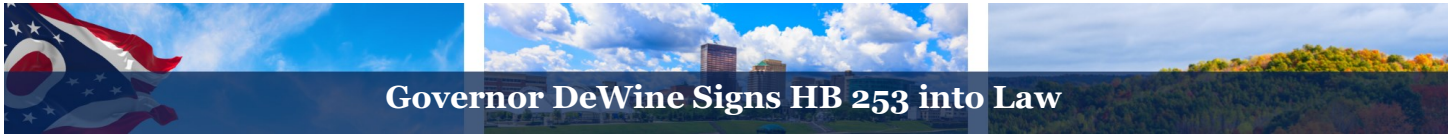
In June, Ohio House Democrats introduced the Learning & Education Advancement Package (LEAP) Initiative, legislation to reaffirm K-12 education as a Democratic priority, setting goals and standards for our education system going into the new school year for for-profit charter school oversight, private school vouchers accountability, investing in early childhood education, and supporting public schools, educators, and students.

Some of the K-12 education House bills being highlighted include charter school oversight, private school voucher accountability, public school support and funding, student support, and teacher support.

As part of its People First agenda, House Democrats are committed to creating a state that works for and supports all Ohio children's education, regardless of race, gender, income, and zip code.

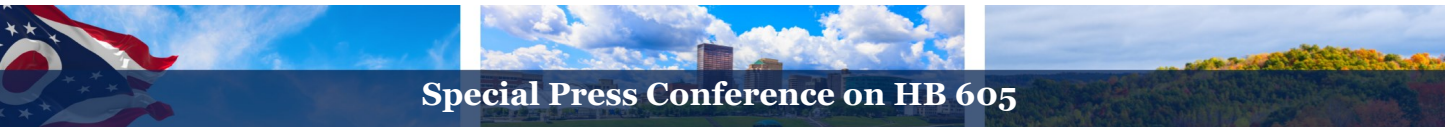






## Governor DeWine Signs HB 253 into Law

Governor DeWine signed House Bill 253~ Designating the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Corridor into law on Monday, July 22nd at the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument. Representative Upchurch was joined by his joint sponsor, Representative Holmes and several buffalo soldiers. “It is important that we amplify our ancestors that went out of their way to establish change for our culture; I am so honored to be able to recognize a man as esteemed as General Charles Young.” - Representative Upchurch. This is the second bill in the past two months that has been signed into law by the Governor from State Representative Terrence Upchurch!



## Special Press Conference on HB 605

Representative Upchurch hosted a press conference about the importance of House Bill 605, alongside Joint Sponsor Representative Creech and NFL Players Association Public Policy and Staff Counsel Andrew Morris. HB 605 will require all professional sporting stadiums to have natural grass fields rather than turf. Too often professional athletes suffer from non-contact lower extremity injuries due to the turf they are playing on and players overwhelming would rather play on natural grass fields. This bill will help to promote workplace safety and is awaiting its first hearing in the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee. You can watch the full [press conference](#) here. You can also read the Columbus Dispatch's article [here](#).







**In District Happenings!**

# new day in hough

## WARD 7 FESTIVAL

**Community Resources**

- Food Trucks
- Vendors
- Children's Play Area with recessCLE

**ENTERTAINMENT BY:**

- Show Wagon
- Russell Thompson & Free Agent
- Unif Experience
- Hubb's Groove
- DJ's

**SATURDAY**  
**August 3**  
12 pm - 6 pm

**Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center**  
8611 Hough Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44106

**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**Stephanie Howse-Jones**

Contact the Office of Councilwoman Stephanie Howse-Jones 216-664-2908 [www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-7](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-7)

## Ward 5's Annual

# BAG TO SCHOOL

### RESOURCE FAIR

**REGISTER TODAY**

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024 12PM - 5PM**

**SCAN ME**

**ACTIVITIES:**

- PARADE
- FREE HAIR CUTS
- SIMPLE BRAIDED HAIR STYLES (MUST COME WASHED AND BLOW DRIED)
- COMMUNITY RESOURCE VENDORS
- FOOD
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- GAMES AND MORE!

Friendly Inn Settlement, Inc.  
2386 Unwin Road Cleveland, OH 44104

## Construction Operations Short-Term Certificate

**Ready to kick start your career in construction operations?**

In two semesters, you'll gain the skills necessary to start a career in construction operations, including construction inspection, utility inspection, AutoCAD, surveying and project management.

**Classes include:**

- Construction Engineering Orientation
- Construction Print Reading
- Construction Safety
- College Composition I
- Architectural CAD I
- College English prerequisite
- Electives

**Electives include:**

- Green Building & Sustainability I
- Construction Materials Testing
- Highway Inspection
- Fundamentals of Geographic Information Science
- General Industry Safety
- Computer Applications

Students will receive their OSHA 30 card upon completion.

**Scholarships are available for Cleveland residents.**

For more information, scan here:

24-0088

## FREE PRODUCE GIVEAWAY

### BRING YOUR OWN BAG

**When:**

Friday, April 12, 2024
Friday, May 10, 2024
Friday, June 14, 2024
Friday, July 12, 2024
Friday, August 9, 2024
Friday, September 13, 2024

**Where:**

North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center  
1834 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

**Time:**

**11:00 am (while supplies last)**  
Please bring your Ohio I.D.  
*Courtesy of the Cleveland Foodbank*