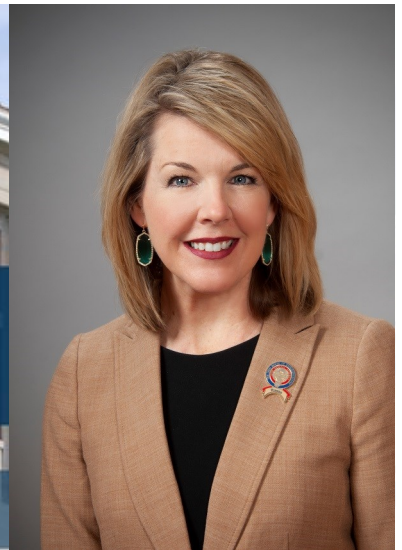




A legislative update from
STATE REP. ALLISON RUSSO
HOUSE DISTRICT 07



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From the desk of Rep. Russo

Dear Neighbor,

Happy August!

One year ago on August 8th, Ohioans defeated Issue 1, enshrining democratic principles in Ohio's elections and providing a monumental step on the way to codifying reproductive rights in Ohio's Constitution. Issue 1—which would have impeded citizen-led ballot initiatives by increasing the number of required signatures for ballot petitions in each of Ohio's 88 counties, removing the 10-day grace period for petitioners gathering these signatures, and increasing the threshold to pass a ballot measure amending the state's Constitution to 60 percent—was pushed to an August election despite the high costs and low voter turnout associated with these special elections. It is these same negative outcomes that led the General Assembly to vote against these special elections in [House Bill 458](#). In spite of the passage of this Republican-led bill, Republican lawmakers and conservative thinktanks set an unpopular election in motion under the guise of protecting Ohioans from the influence of rich donors.

This sense of distrust for Ohio's voters is typical from Ohio's Republican supermajority that has enacted some of the [most restrictive voting laws in the nation](#). Despite this, Ohioans rejected this Republican-led initiative to weaken citizen-led ballot initiatives and insulate political power within the state's [unconstitutionally gerrymandered legislature](#). Since then, Ohioans have embedded abortion rights in the state's Constitution and legalized adult-use marijuana by substantial election margins. These citizen-led initiatives represent the core of democratic ideals—that Ohioans, not elites, determine the direction of our communities and state. Ohioans have proved time and time again that we are determined, mobilized, and paying attention to these attempts to suppress the will of the voter.

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

Sincerely,

C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 7

10 SEPTEMBER 2024
DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 PM

LEGISLATIVE
TOWNHALL
& *Resource Fair*

FRIENDS THEATER
UPPER ARLINGTON LIBRARY,
TREMONT ROAD

Join me for a legislative townhall on September 10th at 5 PM! Don't miss this chance to discuss legislative priorities in the state and district, learn about the district projects funded by House Bill 2, and connect with the resources available in our communities. Parking is available at the Upper Arlington Library's Tremont Road Branch and doors to the Friends Theater open at 4:30 PM.

Register to Vote!

Make your voice heard

Have you checked your voter registration? The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Check your voter registration at [voteohio.gov](#). Register to vote by scanning the QR code and share with family and friends.



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 Statehouse 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 funding 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:

[Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform](#)

This committee, proposed by Rep. Troy, was formed to examine and identify solutions to Ohio's property tax laws.

[Increase & Expand the Homestead Exemption](#) — **HB 60**

Increases the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain surviving spouses.

[Property Tax Freeze](#) — **HB 263**

Freezes property taxes for qualified homeowners.

[Enhanced Homestead Exemption](#) — **HB 274**

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.

[Tax Credit or Rebate](#) — **HB 645**

Authorizes 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.



In the District

July welcomed the first full month of Summer and provided an opportunity to celebrate and explore the important work of Central Ohio organizations working to strengthen our communities. Some notable stops in the district included:

- Celebrating the centennial anniversary of Jones Middle School—the first permanent school in Upper Arlington—with students and teachers.
- Meeting with staff at the Franklin County Karnes Corrections Center to discuss the evolving needs of inmates and their families, and the support offered by the new Rapid Resource Center.
- Learning about the strides in technology and workforce development made by the Ohio State University's EcoCAR Team to explore sustainable vehicle solutions and develop the next generation of automotive engineers.
- Visiting a Summer Meals Site championed by the Children's Hunger Alliance to provide healthy meals to kids year-round.
- Commemorating the grand opening of the Central Midwest Carpenters' new business and training office.
- Touring Franklin County's only public landfill, Rep. Russo discussed SWACO's mission of reducing reliance on landfills.



August News from Rep. Russo

For all news from Rep. Russo's office, please visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/c-allison-russo/news>