


A legislative update from
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Dear Neighbor,

On Monday, August 22, 2022, I attended the Ohio Ballot Board as a member of the board. The Ohio Ballot Board decides which issues are placed on the ballot for elections. It is made up of representatives from the House and Senate along with the Secretary of State. The Ballot Board cannot argue the merits of the issue that goes on the ballot but the board makes sure that the question asked to the voters is only one issue and is clear.

Two Issues were brought to the Board:

The House Joint Resolution 4 (HJR4), Issue 1, was proposed by the General Assembly to modify the criteria used to modify bail. The amendment was certified by the Ohio Ballot Board as Issue 1 with a 3 to 2 vote. This constitutional change would make it mandatory for courts to take into account "public safety" when determining bail amounts. It would also revoke the Supreme Court of Ohio's jurisdiction to establish guidelines, rules and procedures for the amount and conditions of bail. Issue 1 will require judges in courts to consider public safety when setting monetary bail. Under current law, public safety is considered by the judges when determining the conditions of release for an accused person. This change will keep people in jail who cannot afford the bail amount and let others out who can. Those in jail who cannot pay cash bail run the possibility of losing their jobs, homes, and possibly custody of their children. Issue 1 supports a wealth-based criminal justice system. Our legal system ought to work under the fundamental tenet that a person is innocent until proven guilty and that their life shouldn't be destroyed prior to any trial simply because they are disadvantaged.

The House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1), Issue 2, was a proposed amendment as well. It will require that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age, has been a legal resident and registered voter for at least 30 days can vote in any state or local election held in the state. The amendment prohibits local governments from allowing persons to vote in local elections if they are not qualified to vote in state elections. The proposed amendment threatens to take away 17-year-olds right to vote in primary elections and bans voter registration in the 30 days before an election. Issue 2 endangers the freedom of every citizen to vote. No matter where in Ohio we are from, the majority of us can agree that for government to function for all of us, it needs to include every citizen. Issue 2 threatens that.

Sincerely,

Paula Hicks-Hudson



It is with great joy that I share with you that "Craft Master," building located on 328 N, Westwood Avenue, Toledo, Lucas County, has been approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board as qualified for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service. This means that the building received significant nominations and written comments which will now be sent to Washington D.C. for federal evaluation.

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NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS

SEPTEMBER

September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month!

“Sickle cell disorders are a group of illnesses which affect your red blood cells. Sickle cell is a genetic condition, which means it is passed on from your parents and you are born with it; you cannot catch it from other people. Sickle cell disorders cause your normally round and flexible blood cells to become stiff and sickle shaped, stopping the blood cells, and the oxygen they carry, from being able to move freely around the body and causing pain.

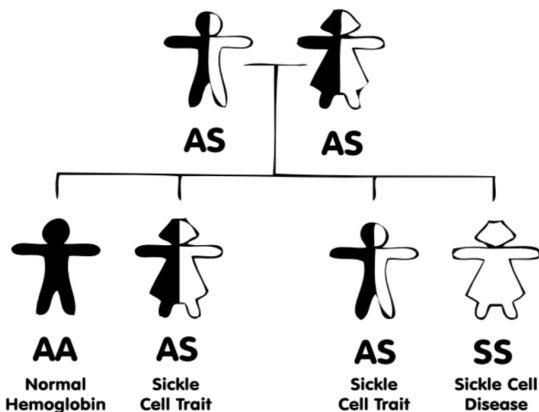
Symptoms of Sickle Cell

- Chronic (long term) anemia – when there are not enough red blood cells or Hb in your body.
- Unpredictable Pain (crisis) – When the blood vessels get blocked, it can cause pain and swelling in the area, also known as a crisis.
- You may get tired easily or experience fatigue – constant tiredness, feeling weak or lacking in energy because of the anemia.
- Jaundice – yellowing of the whites of the eyes and skin.

The Sickle Cell Trait

Sickle cell trait is inherited when only one of your parents has passed on the sickle gene, and will never develop into sickle cell disorder. Even if you do not have symptoms from sickle cell trait, it is a good idea to have a blood test to see if you have sickle cell trait. If you have the trait, the majority of red cells in the blood are normal round shaped cells. Some sickle shaped cells may be present under certain conditions. The trait is not an illness, but if you are planning to have children, then certain factors have to be considered. If your partner does not have sickle cell trait, then any children you have will not have sickle cell disorder, but they could have the trait (50% chance). If you and your partner both have the trait, there is a 25% chance that any child conceived may have sickle cell disorder and 50% chance they will have the trait.”

Visit <https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/sicklecellawarenessmonth/> for more information .



- AS** - Trait (Carrier)
- AA** - Usual (no sickle cell)
- SS** - Unusual (Sickle cell)

Blood Donations

Blood Donations are very important in helping those who suffer from Sickle Cell, particularly African American patients. Unfortunately many of the blood donors are not African American. It is crucial that the blood received by patients is the most compatible, this means that African Americans suffering from sickle cell can highly benefit from blood donations from people from the same race or ethnicity as them. Your blood donation can help save one life, consider donating!

Democrats introduce State Official Integrity Act to fight corruption

Democrats recently introduced the State Official Integrity Act. This legislation would ensure your elected officials are accountable to the people and prohibit any statewide officeholder from holding private employment, performing private work, or serving in any private position for which they receive compensation. This applies to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor of state, treasurer of state, secretary of state, and any justice on the Ohio Supreme Court.

This bill is part of our continued fight against corruption in Ohio. As elected officials, we work for you, and there should be no doubt we are serving you with integrity and not advantaging ourselves at your expense.

In the Ohio House, we are fighting back against corruption and have introduced several other bills this General Assembly that would fight corruption and restore integrity to state government including:

- **Ohio Anti-Corruption Act:** Requires dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending;
- **Public Corruption Repayment Act:** Requires legislators to reimburse the state for compensation received between the time they were indicted for a felony involving public corruption and their conviction;
- **Ohio False Claims Act:** Empowers individuals to report and hold companies committing fraud accountable;
- **Debarment of State Vendors Act:** Requires a ban of vendors who are caught committing fraud in their dealings with the State of Ohio;
- **House Bill (HB) 10:** Fully repeals HB 6, including refunds

to customers.

Time and time again, Republicans continue to contribute to attack our democracy and use their elected positions for their own gain. The State Official Integrity Act will ensure our state officials work

1890



National Scholars Program

“The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program will provide full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, and room and board each year, for up to 4 years, to selected students pursuing a bachelor's degree at Land-grant universities, including Central State. Students from Ohio, may choose to apply to other approved Land-grant universities outside of the state, and be eligible for the employment opportunities in Ohio, upon their return during breaks, and after graduation. I would appreciate your help in sharing this information with students who may be interested in pursuing this opportunity.

If you know of interested students, please encourage them to visit USDA's 1890 Scholar website: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars> to review the 2022 application materials.”



Elections are approaching quickly, I would like to remind you to plan your vote!

Voter Registration deadlines

- In Person: 30 days before Election Day, extended to the next business day if this falls on a Sunday or holiday.
- By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day, extended to the next business day if this falls on a Sunday or holiday.
- Online: 30 days before Election Day, but extended to next business day if a Sunday or holiday.

Early Voting

- Starts 29 days before Election Day (in-person absentee voting), but will be altered if this date or the voter registration deadline falls on a Sunday or holiday.
- Ends at 2 pm on the day before Election Day (in-person absentee voting).

Absentee Ballot

- Any registered Ohio voter may apply for an absentee ballot and vote absentee. Postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received no later than 10 days after Election Day, or

Visit <https://www.vote.org/> for more information