

TRACY RICHARDSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



DEAR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS,

Summer is here and things have been heating up in the 86th House District! As the Ohio General Assembly enters recess for the summer, I am looking forward to spending more time in district and continuing to connect with all of you. From supporting our agricultural community at the county fairs to exploring local businesses in downtown Marion and Marysville, there is so much to do!

Below, I have provided updates on my work in the legislature and our community. If you have any questions, need assistance with state agencies, or would like to schedule an appointment during my monthly in-district hours, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at rep86@ohiohouse.gov.

In these “good ole summer days” I hope you find time to enjoy your family, friends and the festivities that this season brings.

CAPITAL BUDGET: INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

After working closely with community leaders from the district for the past several months, I am pleased to announce that the Capital Budget has passed and was signed by the Governor! The Ohio General Assembly recently voted out House Bill 2, which allocated the One-Time Strategic Community Investment Funds and capital funds for community projects. Both sources of funding were established in the state's main operating budget passed in 2023 and included excess funding from the previous fiscal year. House Bill 2 also reappropriates funding that was not yet spent on community projects approved by previous general assemblies.

In total, the **86th House District will be receiving \$26,367,564** to support local projects in Union and Marion Counties. Below, are the projects that received funding:

- \$24 million to the Transportation Research Center for upgrades to their Impact Lab, helping secure TRC as the proving ground for automotive innovation;
- \$500,000 to support the design phase of a multi-purpose performing arts center at Marion Harding High School;
- \$450,000 to renovate the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Chapel in Marion, so that it may open to the public again;
- \$300,000 to restore the George W. King Mansion in Marion. The mansion is located on the National Register of Historic Places and provides an attraction to the city;
- \$277,170 to enhance programmatic space to foster engagement and access at the Boys and Girls Club Oak Street Clubhouse;
- \$218,000 to establish six new pickleball courts in the Village of Richwood;
- \$185,000 to continue the restoration of the Women's History Resource Center at the Marion County Federation of Women's Club;
- \$162,545 to create a walking trail around the Lee Manville Memorial Park Baseball Field Complex and build a new playground at the park;
- \$150,000 to upgrade and repair the fairground restrooms that are outdated and in disrepair. The Union County Fairgrounds is hosting 2 national events in 2024 and hopes that the funds will enable them to host more events in the future;
- \$75,000 to replace and enlarge the current access, driveways, and parking lots for access to the historic Stengel-True Museum in Marion;
- \$49,849 to establish an ADA friendly walking path around the Richwood Independent Fairgrounds.



MY LEGISLATION



Senate Bill 214/House Bill 385, The Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act - Senate Bill 214, the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act, has finally passed after years of work! This is a policy I began working on in the last General Assembly and I'm grateful to have had it signed by the Governor on July 24th. SB 214 was the companion and exact bill to my legislation, House Bill 385. The Senate and I introduced the mirror language in both chambers of the General Assembly to ensure quick passage. The legislation, which moved through committee with unanimous support, provides hope and opportunity to victims and survivors of human trafficking. It does so by expanding the ability of human trafficking victims to expunge their criminal record of misdemeanors, fifth degree, and fourth degree felonies committed while they were victims of humans trafficking.

House Bill 250, Revise the Military Enlistment Diploma Seal/Cell Phone Use Policy - On May 15th, Governor DeWine signed my legislation, House Bill 250, into law. My legislation will honor high school graduates entering a university ROTC program or a military service academy with a Military Seal on their high school diploma. It will also require school districts to create a policy that reduces cell phone related distractions in classroom settings.

House Bill 254, Property Tax Update - Rising property taxes are an issue across the state, and I am working to find a meaningful solution to keeping vulnerable Ohioans in their homes. To help reform our current law, I am one of five State Representatives who have been appointed to the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform. My goal on the committee will be to voice the concerns I've heard and to thoroughly consider all possible solutions. In addition to my role on the Joint Committee, I have also introduced legislation focused on keeping veterans in their homes. H.B. 254 provides an 100% property tax exemption to veterans with 100% disability ratings. Additionally, this legislation seeks to expand eligibility for an exemption to veterans with disability ratings of 50% or greater. The legislation has had 3 hearings in the House Ways and Means Committee. I look forward to continuing my advocacy for veterans and other vulnerable Ohioans as the Joint Committee finalizes our recommendations.

MY LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution 18, SAVE Act – In May, I introduced a resolution to urge Congress to swiftly support and pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. Introduced in both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the SAVE Act will protect and preserve the right of American citizens to vote by:

- Requiring states to obtain proof of citizenship – in person – when registering an individual to vote.
- Requiring states to remove non-citizens from existing voter rolls.

I am pleased to report that the U.S. House passed the SAVE Act this month. It is critical that the U.S. Senate do the same to uphold the sacred right and responsibility of American citizens to vote. Across the country, this right is being infringed upon by allowing non-citizens to vote in our elections and influence the results. This not only threatens the rights of our constituents, but the integrity and security of our beloved nation.

RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION

House Bill 24, Require Health Coverage of Biomarker Testing:

House Bill 24 increases and standardizes access to lifesaving biomarker testing. This legislation will save lives and decrease health costs by ensuring patients receive the right treatment at the right time. Biomarker testing is used to identify specific treatments for a variety of diseases, including but not limited to cancer, Alzheimer's, and arthritis. This is important legislation that will positively impact the lives of many in our district and it recently passed out of the Ohio House of Representatives.

House Bill 183, Requires Single-Sex Bathroom Access in Schools:

House Bill 183 recently passed out of the Ohio House of Representatives via an amendment to Senate Bill 104. The legislation will require public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers (ESCs), and institutions of higher education to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use of students of either the male biological sex or the female biological sex. Protecting the children and youth of Ohio continues to be a priority and this bill ensures their privacy and safety.

House Bill 397, Increase Awareness of Cognitive Impairment:

Passed out of the Ohio House of Representatives on June 26th, House Bill 397 will ensure Ohioans are aware of the early warning signs of dementia. It will require the Ohio Department of Health and organizations in this space to incorporate Alzheimer's and dementia awareness into their public health outreach to communities and health care providers. Information will include early warning signs, reducing risk factors and risk of decline, importance of timely diagnosis, evidence-based assessment tools, and the importance of annual wellness visits.

House Concurrent Resolution 11, Condemn People's Republic of China for Global Drug Trade Role:

The United States is facing a fentanyl crisis, and Ohio communities have felt the impact. According to the Ohio Department of Health, 80% of unintentional overdoses in Ohio are caused by fentanyl. My colleagues and I took a strong stance by unanimously passing HCR 11 which condemns the Peoples Republic of China for its role in this crisis as they continue to subsidize the manufacturing and export of fentanyl materials.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Upcoming Events

Union County Fair, July 21-27

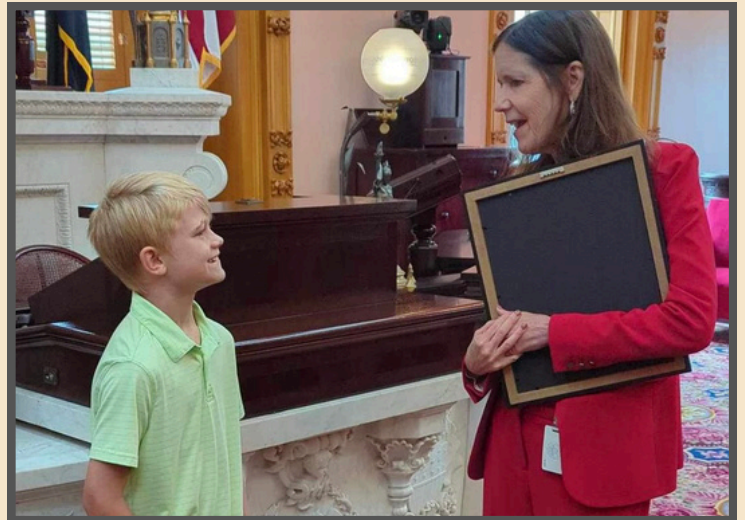
<https://www.unioncountyoh.com/events/>

Dublin Irish Festival, August 2-4

<https://dublinirishfestival.org/>

Richwood Independent Fair, August 28 - September 2

<https://richwoodfair.com/>



In The News

<https://www.unioncountydailydigital.com/articles/state-instructs-ohio-schools-to-implement-cell-phone-policies/>

<https://www.marionstar.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2024/06/11/marion-honor-flight-home-and-more-on-saturday/74036159007/>

PROUDLY SERVING YOU



As I continue my work in the state legislature, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you need assistance with a state issue or would like to share your thoughts with me. I also encourage you to follow my social media for updates on what's happening in Columbus and our community.



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