

A legislative update from
STATE REP. MONIQUE SMITH
 HOUSE DISTRICT 16

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From the desk of Rep. Smith



Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests are now available to be mailed to all households.

These rapid tests can be ordered at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

These are limited to 4 individual tests per household and will ship beginning in late January.



The HEAP Winter Crisis Program helps eligible Ohioans pay their heating bills. Ohioans may be eligible if they:

- Are at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines
- Are threatened with disconnection
- Have been disconnected from utility service
- Established new services
- Are at or below 25% fuel

Ohioans can apply for HEAP services by **March 31, 2022** at energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Dear Neighbor,

With the recent rises in COVID-19 cases, getting vaccinated and boosted is the best way to protect you, your loved ones, and your community. The CDC recommends that everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the COVID-19 virus. Children are now eligible to receive the vaccine, and boosters are now available for anyone 16+ who has already received the vaccine. The CDC also recommends wearing a mask with more layers, and that fits snugly over your nose and mouth. As new information on the virus, eligibility and protocols comes out frequently, it is important to stay up to date. To learn more, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit gettheshot.ohio.coronavirus.gov.

Do your part and get vaccinated today. Together, we can beat this coronavirus, save lives, put people back to work, and get Ohio moving in the right direction again.

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

Sincerely,

Representative Monique Smith

Celebrating School Board Member Recognition Month

This January was School Board Member Recognition Month. Thank you to all of our hard working school board members for their dedication to educating our children!

I would like to congratulate and welcome our district's newly elected school board members including:

- Dr. Andrey Stojic of Bay Village
- Amy Huntley of Bay Village
- Dorin Jackson of Fairview Park
- Gina Lehmann of North Olmsted
- Lauren Negrey of Rocky River
- Jessica Wilson of Rocky River
- Peter Corrigan of Rocky River

I would also like to congratulate those reelected to school board including:

- Dr. Scott Schulz of Bay Village
- Joslyn Dalton of Fairview Park
- Thomas Herbster of North Olmsted
- John Finucane of Westlake
- Barbara Leszynski of Westlake



Out and About

Representative Monique Smith met with a wide range of state and local organizations & leaders including:

- Westlake Chief of Police
- Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus
- CARE Local 1975
- Mayor Paul Koomar of Bay Village
- Girl Scouts of North East Ohio
- Ohio Jewish Communities
- Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Latest Ohio anti-abortion law threatens the health and safety of patients

Last month, Gov. DeWine signed into law SB 157, the latest Republican anti-abortion bill. SB 157 puts the patients in danger by interfering with the ability for doctors and patients to make appropriate, life-saving medical decisions if faced with a medical crisis during pregnancy.



SB 157 will also restrict abortion access in Ohio by prohibiting the physicians who are employed by or teach at a medical school that is affiliated with a state university or college, state hospital or other public institution from being eligible for variances from written transfer agreements that are required for abortion clinics. During opponent testimony on the bill, those against SB 157 explained this provision is directly targeted to close abortion clinics in Southwest Ohio.

I believe that this bill is completely unnecessary and promotes lies and misinformation about people who have abortions and the doctors who care for them. It is the latest Republican attempt to restrict abortion access, and is part of a broader, country-wide attack on abortion right. These life-saving decisions should be left to be decided between patient and doctor.

If Republicans really want to keep Ohioans healthy and safe, they should be focusing on reducing maternal mortality, increasing access to healthcare and contraceptives, and paid family leave.

NEWLY ELECTED AND REELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS

Congratulations to our newly elected and reelected officials who took office this month. Thank you for serving your community, and we look forward to a successful year. Here is a list of all newly elected and reelected local officials in your communities from this past election cycle.

<p>BAY VILLAGE Mayor- Paul Koomar Council-at-large- Sarah Maier Ward 1 Council- David Tadych Ward 2 Council- Lydia DeGeorge Ward 3 Council- Mike Greco Ward 4 Council- Peter Winzig</p>	<p>NORTH OLMS TED Mayor- Nicole Daily Jones Council President- Lou Brossar Ward 1 Council- Christopher Scarl Ward 2 Council- Chris Glassburn Ward 3 Council- Mary Gilchrist Ward 4 Council- Mary Ellen Hemann</p>
<p>WESTLAKE Mayor- Dennis Clough Council President- David Greenspan Ward 1 Council- Duane Van Dyke Ward 2 Council- Nick Nunnari Ward 3 Council- Dennis Sullivan Ward 4 Council- Michael O'Donnell Ward 5 Council- Amy Havelka Ward 6 Council- Mark Getsay Clerk of Council- Denise Rosenbaum Law Director- Michael Maloney</p>	<p>ROCKY RIVER Mayor- Pamela Bobst Council-at-large- David Furry Council-at-large- Christina Morris Council-at-large- Brian Sindelar Ward 1 Council- Thomas Hunt Ward 2 Council- James Moran Ward 3 Council- Jeanne Gallagher Ward 4 Council- John Shepherd Law Director- Michael O'Shea</p>

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