



The Spring Newsletter with
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DONTAVIUS L. JARRELLS

House District 01

(614) 466-5343 | rep01@ohiohouse.gov

 @iamDontavius

 @iamDontavius

Look at What's Inside

Legislative Updates
Town Hall Highlights
Community Resources
Awareness Month Spotlights
Important Dates & Holidays

Dear Neighbor,

As we close out June, I'm reflecting on the last three months of powerful community engagement, meaningful legislative action, and a renewed focus on health, safety, and justice in Ohio. From celebrating our shared history in April to raising awareness about gun violence and public health in June, this season has been a time of growth, advocacy, and resilience.

In April, I held the All Of Us Legislative Town Hall with Congresswoman Joyce Beatty. We covered the state budget, which was passed out of the House, as well as Ohio's current political climate, ensuring constituents were informed and empowered to take part in the legislative process.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on key legislation I've introduced, including efforts to promote disability inclusion, expand access to health care, and increase support for foster youth across Ohio. I'm also proud to share new tools to help schools comply with updated AED safety requirements, as well as an electronic calendar and community events marking Gun Violence Awareness Month.


Finally, you'll find highlights from my ongoing work with local leaders and the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus to build a safer, healthier, and more equitable Ohio.

Our work is far from over, but we are doing this together. If you ever need assistance, have concerns, or want to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

You can contact me by email at Rep01@OhioHouse.Gov or by phone at (614) 466-5343.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

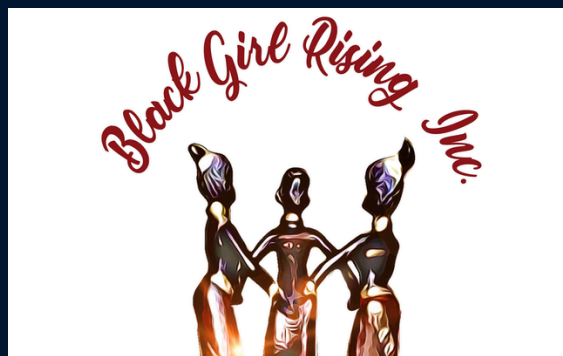
Sincerely,



Dontavius L. Jarrells

State Representative
Ohio House District 01

Business Highlight



Black Girl Rising Inc. is a powerful voice and advocate for the wellness, leadership, and creative expression of Black Girls. Through community-based programming, storytelling, workshops, and youth-led initiatives, the organization provides safe and supportive spaces for Black girls to speak their truths, explore identity, and build confidence.

Their signature programs focus on mental health awareness, education equity, and leadership development – amplifying voices that are often underrepresented and misunderstood. With deep roots in the community, Black Girl Rising partners with schools, nonprofits, and cultural institutions to shift narratives and champion the brilliance of Black girls everywhere.

Want to learn more or get involved?
Visit <https://blackgirlrising.org/>
or reach out via email at
blackgirlrisinginc@gmail.com

Do you know a business
making a difference? Let us
know—we'd love to feature it in
a future newsletter!

Bills Highlight

This session, I've introduced bills that uplift communities, expand opportunity, and protect Ohioans:

- **House Bill 25 – Foster-to-College Scholarship Act**
 - Covers tuition and fees for former foster youth pursuing higher education or career training.
- **House Bill 33 – Save Men's Lives Act**
 - Expands access to prostate cancer screenings to improve early detection and health outcomes.
- **House Bill 225 – Phase Out Sub-Minimum Wage**
 - This bill phases out sub-minimum wage. Ensuring fair pay for individuals with physical or mental disabilities.
- **House Bill 57– Naloxone in Schools**
 - Requires any public or nonpublic school that elects to keep a supply of an overdose reversal drug (naloxone) for an emergency situation.

I will continue advocating for policies that create a stronger, healthier, and more just Ohio.



Townhall Recap

In April, I had the honor of co-hosting a **Legislative Town Hall** with **Congresswoman Joyce Beatty**. We had an important conversation about the newly passed state operating budget and what it means for our communities. While the budget expands access to child care through a \$100 million boost to the Choice Voucher Program, it also poses serious concerns:

- Eliminates the Public Library Fund's long-standing revenue mechanism, threatening long-term funding for public libraries.
- Undermines the Fair School Funding Formula, leaving schools underfunded and placing restrictions on how much funding low-income schools can save.
- Ostracizes the LGBTQIA+ community and pushes a harmful political narrative. It forces libraries to hide books about LGBTQIA+ people and blocks funding for shelters that affirm transgender youth.
- Cuts \$170M (nearly 45% of funding) from H2Ohio, which is a successful program to clean up our waterways, address algal blooms and protect our drinking water.
- Allocates \$600 million in state-backed bonds for a Cleveland Browns stadium project, despite urgent community needs.

These decisions show the real consequences of misplaced priorities. Budgets are moral documents, and I'll continue fighting for one that puts Ohio families first.



Press Conference Recap

OLBC PRESS CONFERENCE

At the April 29th press conference, I joined my colleagues in the **Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC)** to speak out against **House Bill 96**—the Ohio House’s proposed \$60 billion operating budget. As it stands, this budget fails to meet the basic needs of Ohioans, especially our most vulnerable communities.

The proposal:

- Slashes funding for public schools while pouring billions into private school vouchers
- Walks back the Governor’s plan to expand childcare access for working families
- Puts healthcare coverage at risk for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans
- Guts funding for libraries, minority-owned businesses, and youth experiencing homelessness

This budget isn’t just numbers on a page—it’s a reflection of our values. And right now, it’s falling short.

During the press conference, I shared my personal connection to one of the most dangerous and unjust cuts: “This budget cuts funding from lead prevention, from about \$8-million to about \$250,000 over the next biennium. I want you to understand what this means, not just from a policy space, but from a human toll. I was poisoned as a child. And I grew up in Cleveland, in a neighborhood where paint peeled from the walls, where pipes corroded quietly, and where families were expected to raise their children in homes that made them sick. I know what it feels like to carry something in your body that chips away at your focus, your confidence, your potential. I know what it feels like to sit in a classroom knowing that something is off, but not knowing what it is. Lead doesn’t just damage the brain, it damages opportunity for people...this kind of exposure is still happening across our state.”

I’ll continue to push for changes in the Senate’s version of the budget—because Ohioans deserve a government that invests in people, not politics.

TRUMP 100 DAYS PRESS CONFERENCE



At the close of April, I joined my colleagues in the **Ohio House Democratic Caucus** to address the profound impacts of President Donald Trump’s first 100 days in office. Far from delivering on promises of prosperity, these initial days have ushered in policies detrimental to Ohio’s workers, businesses, and essential public services.

As I stated during the press conference:

“Though this week marks 100 days into the Trump presidency, it hasn’t been 100 days of leadership or hope. Instead, we’ve witnessed 100 days of pain, callous cuts, and bureaucratic red tape aimed at erasing the dignity of working people. What happens in Washington doesn’t stay in Washington. It finds its way into our hospitals, our classrooms, and onto our kitchen tables. Ohioans deserve better—they deserve dignity, opportunity, and care. They deserve a government that puts people first.”

Key concerns highlighted include:

- Erosion of Workers’ Rights: Policies that undermine labor protections and fair wages.
- Threats to Small Businesses: Economic strategies favoring large corporations at the expense of local enterprises.
- Cuts to Vital Programs: Reductions in funding for education, healthcare, and services supporting the elderly and veterans.

These developments underscore the urgent need for policies that prioritize the well-being of all Ohioans.

Juneteenth



REP. DONTAVIUS L. JARRELLS

DISTRICT 1 (D) - COLUMBUS, OH

[Ohio Channel Juneteenth Link](#)

Last week, I joined my colleagues in the **Ohio Legislative Black Caucus** to reflect on that legacy and renew our commitment to action. Juneteenth is not only a celebration—it's a mirror. It shows us how far we've come and how much work still lies ahead. We are fighting to pass legislation that dismantles the systems still shackling our communities:

- **House Bill 306 – The Hate Crime Act**
 - To strengthen protections and penalties for bias-motivated crimes;
- **The End Slavery in Ohio Act**
 - To remove archaic constitutional language and affirm that slavery has no place in our laws—not now, not ever.

On **June 19, 1865**, freedom finally reached the last enslaved people in **Galveston, Texas**—over two years after the *Emancipation Proclamation*. That day, now known as **Juneteenth**, marked more than the end of slavery; it was a powerful meeting of hope and resistance, a turning point that began the long, unfinished journey toward justice in America.



Juneteenth reminds us that true liberation is not just symbolic. It's legislative. It's economic. It's educational. It's environmental. And it must be accessible to every Ohioan—no matter their race, zip code, or background. We are the generation that can finish the work. Let's get to it. **Happy Juneteenth!**

NEW: CERP Implementation Awareness Guide

This month, we celebrated **CPR & AED Awareness Week**, and it's the perfect time to share the CERP Implementation Awareness Guide. This guide helps schools meet the new AED compliance regulations and includes:

- Links to AED and funding resources
- Contact list of organizations supporting venue-specific emergency planning
- Action plan templates tailored for schools



Gun Violence Awareness Month

Thanks to strong partnerships, we are hosting events throughout June to honor **Gun Violence Awareness Month** and support survivors. An electronic calendar is now available to help you stay informed.

RESOURCES FOR CPR AND GUN VIOLENCE

Columbus Division of Fire – CPR & First Aid Classes

Phone: (614) 645-6360

Website: <https://www.columbus.gov/Services/Public-Safety/Fire/Programs-and-Training/First-Aid-CPR-and-AED-Trainingcolumbus.gov>

The **Columbus Division of Fire** offers various CPR and first aid courses, including Heartsaver CPR/AED, Heartsaver First Aid, and BLS for Healthcare Providers. Classes are held at the Columbus Fire Training Academy, **3639 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH 43207**. For more information or to register, visit the [Columbus Division of Fire CPR Training page](#).

Everytown for Gun Safety

Phone: (646) 324-8250

Website: <https://www.everytown.org/everytown.org>

Everytown for Gun Safety is a national movement that advocates for stronger gun laws and provides resources for individuals and communities affected by gun violence.

Stress, Trauma & Resilience (STAR) Program

Phone: (614) 293-8000

Website: <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/psychiatry/our-services/stress-trauma-resilience>

The **STAR Program** at The Ohio State University provides supportive services for adult survivors of crime-related violence.

JUNE HOLIDAYS & AWARENESS DATES

June 5 – World Environment Day

Let's protect Ohio's natural beauty for future generations.

June 6 – D-Day + Eid al-Adha

We honor fallen WWII heroes and wish peace to those celebrating Eid.

June 8 – National Children's Day

Let's work to ensure every child has a bright and secure future.

June 12 – Women's Veterans Day

Thank you to the brave women serving in our Armed Forces.

June 15 – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day & Father's Day

Let's protect and celebrate our elders and fathers.

June 19 – Juneteenth

We commemorate the end of slavery and reaffirm our commitment to equity.

June 20 – Summer Solstice & World Refugee Day

We welcome the summer season and stand with refugees around the world.

June 24 – Roe v. Wade Anniversary

House Democrats continue to fight for reproductive healthcare access.

MONTHLY & WEEKLY RECOGNITIONS

Pride Month – Celebrate and protect LGBTQ+ rights.

Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month – Support for patients and caregivers.

Gun Violence Awareness Month – Join our fight for safer communities.

Men's Health Month – Encourage men to prioritize wellness.

June 12–18: Nursing Assistants Week – Gratitude for these healthcare heroes.



More Resources

LGBTQ+



Stonewall Columbus

Phone: (614) 299-7764

Website: <https://stonewallcolumbus.org>

Stonewall Columbus is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the LGBTQ+ community in Central Ohio. They offer a variety of programs and services, including advocacy, counseling, support groups, and community events.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center (KYC)

Phone: (614) 294-5437

Website: <https://kycoho.org>

Kaleidoscope Youth Center provides safe and empowering environments for LGBTQ youth through advocacy, education, and support. Programs include QPOC Group, Genderscope, and The Gender Affirmation Project.

Housing

CMHA - Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

Location: 880 E. 11th Ave.

Phone: (833) 378-2220

Website: <https://www.cmhanet.com/>



Coalition for the Homeless

Location: 501 E Broad St

Phone: (614) 228-1342

Website: <https://www.columbushomeless.org/>

Coalition on Homeless & Housing

Location: 175 S 3rd St #580

Phone: (614) 280-1984

Website: <https://cohhio.org/>

Cooling Centers

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Phone: (614) 645-3337

Website: <https://www.columbus.gov/recreationandparks>

The **Columbus Recreation and Parks Department** operates cooling centers during extreme heat events. For information on current cooling centers, you can contact them directly or check their website for updates during heat advisories.



Franklin County Office on Aging

Phone: (614) 525-5230

Website:

<https://www.franklincountyohio.gov/agingfranklincount>
yohio.gov

The **Franklin County Office on Aging** provides services for older adults, including information on cooling centers during heat advisories.

Food

Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Phone: (614) 277-3663

Website: <https://mofc.org>



The **Mid-Ohio Food Collective** is the largest food bank in Ohio, distributing food through a network of more than 600 partner agencies. They offer various programs, including food pantries, free food markets, and senior hunger initiatives.

Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS)

Phone: (614) 233-2000

Website: <https://jfs.franklincountyohio.gov>

Franklin County JFS provides food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other resources.

Cooling Centers contd.

Columbus Recreation and Parks is operating **FIVE** community centers as cooling centers beginning **Tuesday, June 24th** until the heat **subsides**. These Locations will be open to the community from **8AM to 9PM**.

Additionally, **outdoor pools** will be open from **1-8PM** with free admission through the advisory. Spraygrounds at **Barnett, Blackburn, Linden,** and **Scioto Southland** will operate **12-8PM**, free of charge.

Dodge Community Center

📍 667 Sullivant Avenue

Driving Park Community Center

📍 1100 Rhoads Avenue

Glenwood Community Center

📍 1888 Fairmont Avenue

Linden Community Center

📍 1350 Briarwood Avenue

Marion Franklin Community Center

📍 2801 Lockbourne Road



Upcoming Events

Hilltop Bean Dinner

Date: Saturday, June 29, 2025

Time: 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Location: Westgate Park, 455 S. Westgate Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204



Summer Jam West

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Location: Westgate Park, 455 S. Westgate Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204

ComFest – The Community Festival

Date: June 27–29, 2025

Location: Goodale Park, 120 W. Goodale Street, Columbus, OH 43215

CAPA Summer Movie Series – From Book to Film

Date: June 21 – August 11, 2025

Locations: Ohio Theatre, 39 E. State Street, Columbus, OH 43215
Gateway Film Center, 1550 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43201

Ohio State Fair

Date: July 23 – August 3, 2025

Time: Gates open at 9:00 AM daily
Location: Ohio Expo Center & State Fairgrounds, 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211

