



A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. WILLIS E BLACKSHEAR JR.**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 38

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 @Willisb\_jr

 @Willis E Blackshear Jr.



**From the desk of Rep. Blackshear**

Dear Neighbor,

Happy first full month of summer! This July, we celebrate Independence Day, a holiday we spend with loved ones. This nation was founded upon the ideals of freedom, dignity, and opportunity, values that we should all embrace and celebrate. While we should all celebrate with cookouts and pool parties, we should also remember the sacrifices and struggles in our continuing journey towards equality.

Last month, House Democrats passed House Bill 2, the state’s biennial state capital budget. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects. More information on what projects received funding is located on the next page!

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for Black and brown Ohioans. There are often barriers and stigmas that accompany minority mental health, and we must work to dismantle these and make healthcare more accessible for all. Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.

If there is anything my office can do please reach out to us by email at [Rep38@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep38@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-1607. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Willis E. Blackshear Jr.

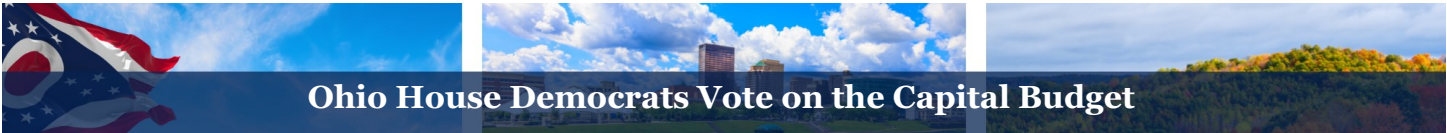


Happy Fourth of July! Today, we celebrate our strengths and recommit ourselves to fighting for liberty, equality, and justice for all Americans. May we honor every sacrifice of those who fought for our independence, ensuring that we all have the freedom, dignity, and opportunity to thrive.



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Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.



## Ohio House Democrats Vote on the Capital Budget

Last month, House Democrats passed House Bill (HB) 2, the state's biennial state capital budget. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects.

In addition to the \$3.51B in traditional capital funds and a \$1.98B appropriation for ongoing projects, HB 2 includes an additional \$700M in state funds that will be directly invested into transformative community projects designed to generate further development & economic opportunity across the state. These state funds were able to be set aside due to the influx of federal relief dollars that helped to supplement the state's balance sheet during the most recent state operating budget.

Rep. Blackshear helped secure \$34 million for Montgomery County, \$28 million through the One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund, and \$6 million through the traditional biennial capital budget. Below is a complete breakdown.



Traditional Capital Budget	
Project Name	Amount
West Carrollton River District and Whitewater Park	\$1,000,000
Dayton Art Institute Roof Replacement	\$600,000
St. Vincent de Paul Child and Family Advocacy Center	\$600,000
Greater Dayton School Project	\$600,000
Dayton Live	\$500,000
Healthy Family Market/ Dayton Children's Westside Pediatric Center	\$500,000
Sinclair College Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Aircraft Acquisition Initiative	\$500,000
Aerospace, Medicine and Human Performance National Center of Excellence - Wright State University	\$400,000
Island MetroPark	\$400,000
City of Dayton Parks Renovation	\$300,000
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery-First Floor Transformation	\$250,000
Wright State University Archives Facilities Upgrades	\$250,000
Montgomery County Agricultural Society Fair-ground Upgrades	\$100,000

### Highlights from the One Time Strategic Community Investments Fund

Miami Chapel Inspire Zone Youth Workforce Development Center– funded for \$3 million

Dayton Aviation Heritage Site– funded for \$2 million

Healthy Family Market / Dayton Children's Pediatric Center– funded for \$1.5 million

Ronald McDonald House of Dayton– funded for \$1 million

Homefull Housing, Food and Jobs Center– funded for \$750,000

K-12 Gallery and TEJAS Acquisition Project– funded for \$750,000

East End Whole Family Services Hub Facility Expansion and Renovation in Dayton– funded for \$500,000

Boys & Girls Club of Dayton– funded for \$154,851