



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 August!

House Democrats are fighting to lower your property taxes. A handful of Republicans and special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community— making you pay more locally so the state can pay less.

It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities.

Have you checked your voter registration? Voting is one of the most sacred fundamental freedoms we have. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Make sure your voice is heard and check your voter registration here: <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

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.



August 4th is the five-year anniversary of the Dayton shooting that killed nine and injured 17 Ohioans. Everyone, no matter what they look like or where they come from, deserves to be safe in their community. House Democrats will always mourn the loss of our fellow Ohioans and continue to call for commonsense gun measures that will #DoSomething to keep our communities safe.

**OHIO  
OVERDOSE  
AWARENESS  
DAY**

**AUGUST 31**



In 2022, almost 5,000 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses. #OverdoseAwarenessDay is a time to reflect on the national overdose epidemic that has a personal impact on Ohio communities. This is a serious crisis that will require years of hard work. Learn what you can do in your community to fight this epidemic at: [OHagainstOD.ohio.gov](http://OHagainstOD.ohio.gov)



## Ohio House Democrats Fight to Lower Property Taxes for Ohioans

As we all know, the rising cost of property taxes is a critical economic issue for Ohioans. Homeowners are searching for answers and are rightfully frustrated feeling the squeeze of higher property tax bills.

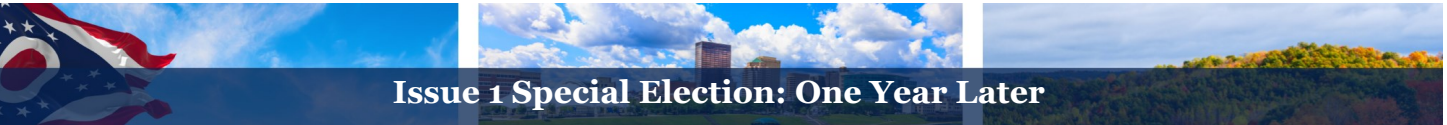
A handful of Republicans and special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community— making you pay more locally so the state can pay less.

No one wants to pay more than their fair share in taxes. That's why tax-shifting is unfair. It funds giveaways for the wealthiest few, and cuts to local communities, shifting taxes away from the state onto local homeowners.

It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities.

House Democrats have introduced several bills to help lower your property taxes:

- **HB 60 (Troy)** - Increases the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain surviving spouses
- **HB 263 (Isaacsohn/Hall)** - Freezes property taxes for qualified homeowners
- **HB 274 (Dell'Aquila/Matthews)** - For individuals who qualify and have owned their homes for more than 20 years, this bill increases the exemption from \$26,200 to \$50,000. **Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform** - This committee, proposed by Rep. Troy, with the intent of examining and identifying solutions to address some of the concerns with Ohio's property tax laws.
- **HB 645 (Isaacsohn)** - Legislation authorizing a property tax circuit breaker benefit for eligible homeowners and renters whose property taxes, or portion of rent attributable to property taxes, exceeds 5% of their income.



## Issue 1 Special Election: One Year Later

One year ago on August 8th, Ohio defeated Issue 1, a monumental step on the way to codifying reproductive rights in Ohio's constitution.

Wherever you come from and whatever your background, as Americans, we know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care. Partisan politicians have no place interfering in someone else's healthcare decisions.

The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Make sure your voice continues to be heard and check your voter registration here: <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

**Issue 1:**  
**One Year Later**

ONE PERSON. ONE VOTE.

