

A Legislative update from
STATE REP. ELGIN ROGERS JR.
HOUSE DISTRICT 42

(614) 466-1401 | rep42@ohiohouse.gov



Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to February 2026! As we continue into the new year, this month provides important opportunities to reflect, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community.

February is Black History Month, and this year is significant as we recognize the 100th anniversary of this national observance, first established in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. For a century, Black History Month has honored the achievements, resilience, and lasting contributions of African Americans to our state and nation. As we commemorate this milestone, we are reminded that celebrating Black history also means continuing the work of expanding opportunity and building a more just future.

Earlier this month, we proudly hosted our annual Unity in Our Community event, titled Difference Makers: A Black History Month Celebration. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it a success. It was inspiring to see neighbors, faith leaders, and local organizations come together in fellowship and meaningful conversation. Events like this remind us that our shared commitment to respect and collaboration is what truly strengthens our district.

February also includes Presidents' Day and American Heart Month, both reminders of the importance of leadership, service, and prioritizing our well-being.

As always, my office is here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas. It is an honor to represent you and work alongside you in building a stronger, more united community.

Sincerely,

Elgin Rogers Jr.
State Representative
Ohio House District 42





Celebrating Black History Month 100 Years of Legacy and Progress

February 2026 marks a historic milestone: the 100th anniversary of Black History Month. What began in 1926 as “Negro History Week” has grown into a nationwide celebration of the achievements, resilience, and enduring contributions of African Americans. For a full century, this observance has ensured that Black history is recognized as an essential part of American history.

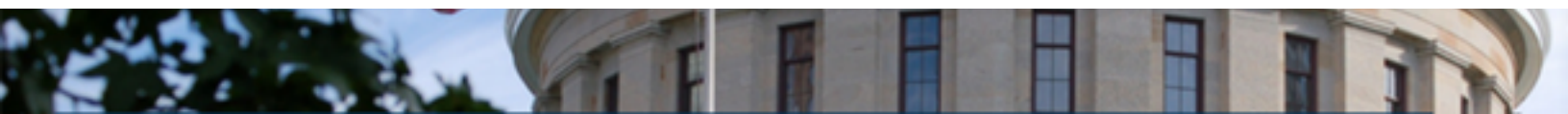
This important movement was founded by Carter G. Woodson, a historian, author, and educator often referred to as the “Father of Black History.” Dr. Woodson believed that a people’s history should not be overlooked, distorted, or excluded from the broader American narrative. In 1926, through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History), he launched Negro History Week during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. His vision was clear: to ensure that the achievements and experiences of African Americans were studied, honored, and preserved.

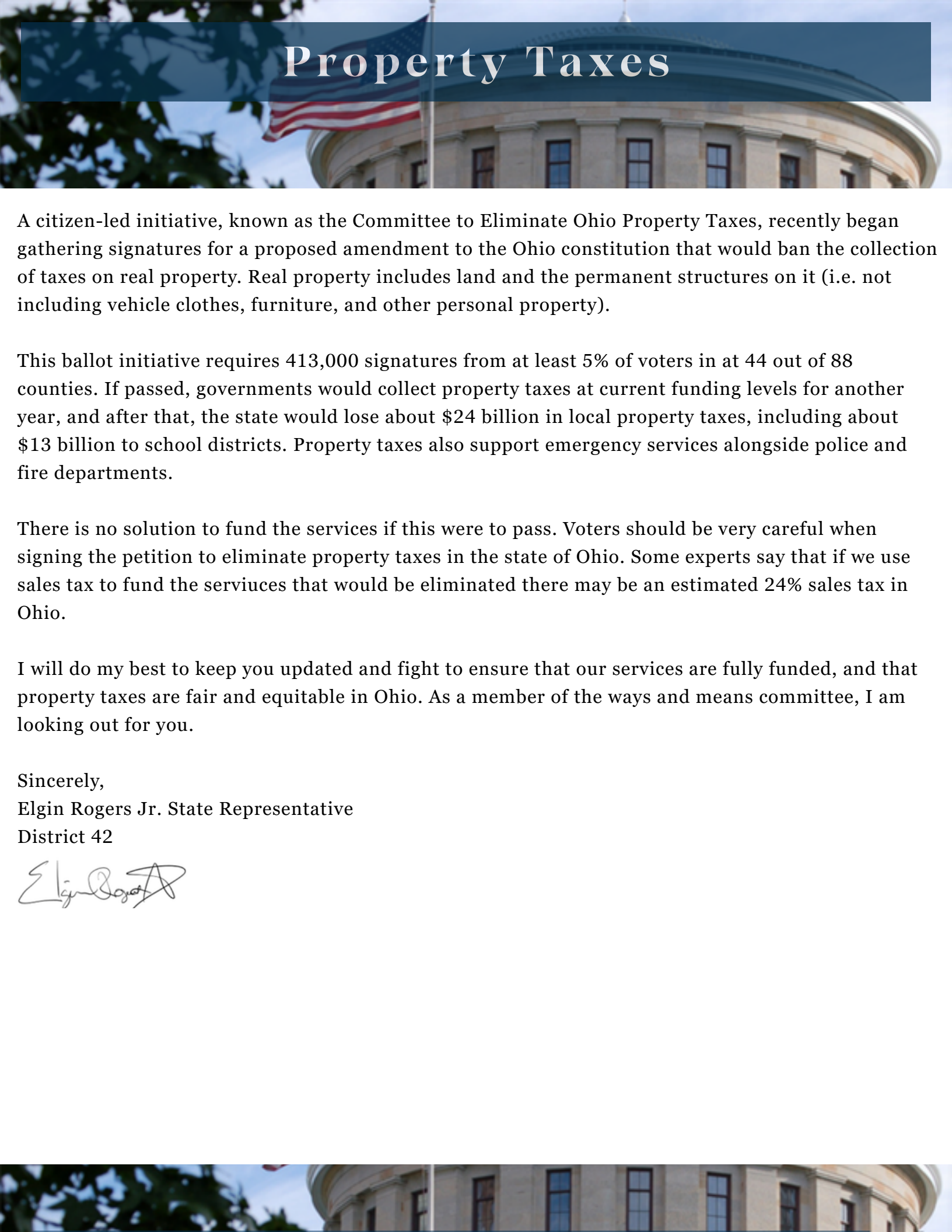
Over the past 100 years, Black History Month has highlighted the leadership of civil rights pioneers, the innovation of Black entrepreneurs and scientists, the brilliance of artists and writers, and the everyday contributions of community leaders whose work often goes unrecognized. From classrooms to courtrooms, from small businesses to public service, Black Americans have shaped every sector of our society.

Here in Ohio, Black history is deeply woven into the story of our state. Generations of leaders, educators, faith communities, veterans, and families have strengthened our neighborhoods, advanced opportunity, and championed justice. As we celebrate this centennial anniversary, we honor both the nationally recognized figures and the local trailblazers whose impact continues to be felt.

This 100th anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on the past, it is also a call to action. Dr. Woodson’s work reminds us that education, awareness, and civic engagement remain powerful tools for progress. By uplifting Black voices, supporting Black-owned businesses, investing in equitable policies, and engaging in meaningful dialogue, we carry forward the legacy he began a century ago.

As we observe Black History Month in this historic year, let us celebrate the triumphs, acknowledge the struggles, and recommit ourselves to building a future grounded in opportunity, unity, and justice for all.





Property Taxes

A citizen-led initiative, known as the Committee to Eliminate Ohio Property Taxes, recently began gathering signatures for a proposed amendment to the Ohio constitution that would ban the collection of taxes on real property. Real property includes land and the permanent structures on it (i.e. not including vehicle clothes, furniture, and other personal property).

This ballot initiative requires 413,000 signatures from at least 5% of voters in at 44 out of 88 counties. If passed, governments would collect property taxes at current funding levels for another year, and after that, the state would lose about \$24 billion in local property taxes, including about \$13 billion to school districts. Property taxes also support emergency services alongside police and fire departments.

There is no solution to fund the services if this were to pass. Voters should be very careful when signing the petition to eliminate property taxes in the state of Ohio. Some experts say that if we use sales tax to fund the services that would be eliminated there may be an estimated 24% sales tax in Ohio.

I will do my best to keep you updated and fight to ensure that our services are fully funded, and that property taxes are fair and equitable in Ohio. As a member of the ways and means committee, I am looking out for you.

Sincerely,
Elgin Rogers Jr. State Representative
District 42



Around the District

