

A legislative update from
STATE REP. ANITA SOMANI
 HOUSE DISTRICT 11

@AnitaSomaniMD (614) 466-5358
 @RepAnitaSomaniMD rep11@ohiohouse.gov
 @OHHouseDems



From the desk of Rep. Somani

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer! As we head into the dog days of summer, it's time to check your voter registration so you can early vote, vote by mail or vote on November 5th. There are two steps you must take to make sure that your election day goes as smoothly as possible. First, you must check that you are registered to vote. It is important to check your registration status because more than 150,000 people were purged from voter rolls in the last few months. This year, Election Day is November 5th, which means that to be able to vote in November, you must be registered by October 7th. You can both register to vote and check your voter registration status on the Ohio Secretary of State's [website](#).

Second, you need to decide how you would like to vote. If you want to vote by absentee ballot, you must request an absentee ballot at least 7 days before November 5th. Start making these plans early so that you aren't scrambling on Election Day! Remember the mail can be slow so make sure you mail it as early as possible.

In other Statehouse news, 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. Further information about what this means for Dublin and Hilliard is below.

As always, I love hearing from my constituents, so please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have!

Sincerely,

Anita Somani
Anita Somani M.D.
 State Representative
 Ohio House District 11



Looking for something to do this weekend? Head over to the Ohio State Fair before it ends on August 4th. With everything from a free petting zoo, to fair rides, to a fried Oreos food truck, the fair is a great way to spend a day outside. With the best that Ohio has to offer, the state fair is always entertaining. For more information and access to tickets, click [here](#).



More locally, the Dublin Irish Festival kicks off on Thursday, August 1st with a 5k at 7pm. The festival will run through August 4th. This is a great time to celebrate Dublin's Irish heritage, and it is held in Coffman Park. To buy tickets and get more information, go to the Dublin Irish Festival [website](#).

Bill Spotlight: Capital Budget

This year's Capital Budget will invest in a wide variety of projects across the state that will greatly improve the quality of life for Ohioans. It 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.

Dublin Highlights:

- \$1.2 million for a new development along the Scioto River in Historic Dublin. This project would include a brand new co-working space as well as room for new shops and restaurants. Additionally, more pedestrian paths would be added to the area to increase walkability.
- Almost \$500,000 for flood mitigation in the pedestrian tunnel on Brand Road. This will make walking in Dublin a more pleasant experience.

Hilliard Highlights:

- \$8 million for the expansion of the Heritage Trail to connect with the Olentangy Trail. This connection will increase connectivity to Columbus by creating a continuous bike and walking trail.
- \$800,000 to renovate and restore Hilliard's First Responders Park. Creating useable and beautiful green spaces is important for creating a connected community.

Greater Columbus Highlights:

- Over \$18 million dollars to build a dedicated music hall for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra
- Over \$7 million for improvements to John Glenn International Airport.
- \$500,000 for the renovation of two historic greenhouses at the Franklin Park Conservatory
- \$250,000 for new telehealth stations and pharmacies for PrimaryOne Health to increase access in the region.
- \$232,000 for renovations to the Whetstone Park of Roses.

Back to School Bills

As we near the end of summer, now is the time for parents to begin thinking about the back-to-school season. In honor of this, here are a few bills that are part of a large bill package aimed at improving our public school system. Addressing issues ranging from teacher pay to fairer school funding, these bills, collectively called the **LEAP Initiative**, will ensure a bright future for Ohio's children.

- **HB 561, HB 581, HB 591, HB 567, and HB 575** all work to increase accountability for charter schools and ensure that state tax dollars are going toward funding public, not private schools.
- **HB 9, HB 411, HB 563, and HB 574** all increase support for our educators by increasing base wages for teachers, allowing student teachers to be paid, and creating a scholarship program to incentivize kids from underserved districts to become teachers in the districts they grew up in.
- **HB 595** would establish a universal preschool program in Ohio to give all children the best possible start to their education

 LEAP INITIATIVE	
HB 561 (BRENNAN, SIMS)	ENDING FOR-PROFIT OPERATORS @ CHARTER SCHOOLS
HB 581 (BROWN PICCOLANTONIO, ISAACSOHN)	CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT ACT
HB 591 (BRENNAN, BAKER)	CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSOR & OPERATOR RATING ACT
HB 567 (ROBINSON, BRENNAN)	EDCHOICE FAIR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT
HB 575 (ISAACSOHN, ROBINSON)	PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY ACT
HB 10 (SWEENEY, CALLENDER)	FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING AFFIRMATION ACT
HB 387 (MCNALLY, BRENT)	ELIMINATE ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS
HB 582 (ROBINSON, BROWN PICCOLANTONIO)	SCHOOL BUS IMPROVEMENT ACT
HB 595 (ROBINSON)	UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL ACT
HB 348 (ISAACSOHN, SEITZ)	CREATES GRADUATION INCENTIVE PILOT PROGRAM
HB 408 (BREWER, MOHAMED)	UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SCHOOL FREE MEALS
HB 9 (LIGHBODY, MANNING)	CREATES GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM
HB 411 (J. MILLER)	INCREASE TEACHER MINIMUM BASE SALARY
HB 563 (BRENNAN)	FUTURE EDUCATORS SUPPORT ACT
HB 574 (ROBINSON, BRENT)	TEACHER & SCHOOL STAFF PAID FAMILY LEAVE USING EXISTING SICK LEAVE

Out and About



I was honored to celebrate the opening of the new Central Midwest Carpenters union hall in Hilliard alongside Leader Russo. Unions are so important for creating a strong middle class through fighting for fair wages and fair treatment.



I celebrated one year of EA Dance, a dance studio in Hilliard, being open alongside the Hilliard Chamber of Commerce.



I attended the BAPS Charity Walk for cancer. I even got to cut the ribbon to kick off the event!



This year I served on the Host Committee for the Council of State Governments convention in Columbus. This is a yearly convention that facilitates professional development for state legislators and stakeholders across the Midwest. It was amazing to meet and learn from my fellow Midwestern policymakers!



Director Baldrige from the Ohio Department of Agriculture and I took a stroll through the Franklin County Fair!