

Dear Neighbor,

Fair districts will be on the ballot this November. This latest Issue 1 proposes that an appointed committee made up of Ohio citizens, instead of elected officials, be in charge of drawing district maps. This would take out political motivation of representatives to create districts.

When Ohio was redrawing its district maps in 2022, five legislative maps and two congressional maps were debated and ultimately ruled unconstitutional due to gerrymandering by the Ohio Supreme Court. Our current maps are still considered unconstitutional. Gerrymandering suppresses the voices of the average voter and discourages people from voting. This is not fair to Ohioans, who deserve to elect legislators that reflect their true interests, rather than a partisan minority.

Fair representation is a cornerstone of a functioning democracy. As such, we owe it to every Ohioan to draw fair and equal maps that do not privilege the interests of one party over another. Your vote is your voice, which means that it is critical that you check your registration and make a plan to vote this November. Below are a few helpful graphics and links to help you keep track of important dates:

Important Dates to Know

- September 17th:** National Voter Registration Day! Make sure everyone in your life is registered to vote.
- September 20th:** Military and overseas absentee voting begins.
- October 7th:** Deadline to register to vote! You must update your registration if you have changed your address or name.

Important Dates to Know

- October 8th:** Early In-Person Voting begins!
- October 8th:** Absentee Ballot Voting Begins!
- November 4th:** Absentee Ballot Postmark Deadline. For absentee votes to be valid, they must be postmarked by this date.
- November 5th:** Election Day! Polls are open from 6:30am-7:30pm

Helpful Voting Links

- Register to Vote [here](#)
- Check your Voter Registration Status [here](#)
- Request an absentee ballot [here](#)
- Overseas Voting [Information](#)
- Early In-Person Voting [Calendar](#)

If you have further any thoughts or concerns, I always love hearing from my constituents, so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,

Anita Somani

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

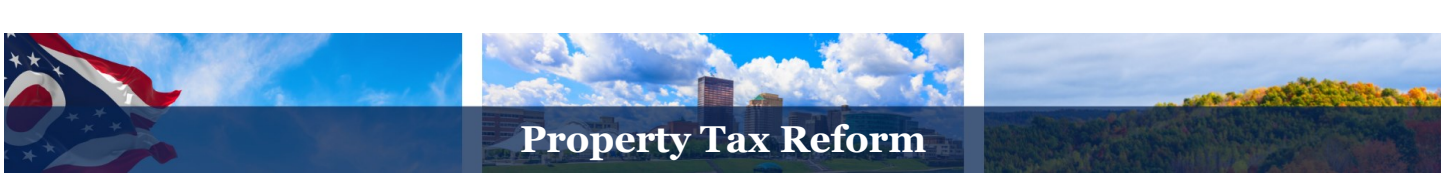


In the upcoming month, Rep. Liston and I will be hosting a town hall in Worthington. Rep. Liston currently represents the Worthington area, and since our districts are neighbors, we thought it would be a great idea to do this town hall together.

During this town hall, we will provide a legislative update on what has been going on at the Statehouse during the first half of the year, including details about funding from the Capital Budget. This is also a great time to come and ask us questions, and voice any thoughts that you have on legislation. The specific date and time for this town hall is listed below:

Worthington Town Hall (Northwest Library) – September 10th @ 6PM

For further details be sure to follow me on Twitter, @AnitaSomaniMD, and Facebook, @Anita Somani, MD, where I'll be posting regular updates.



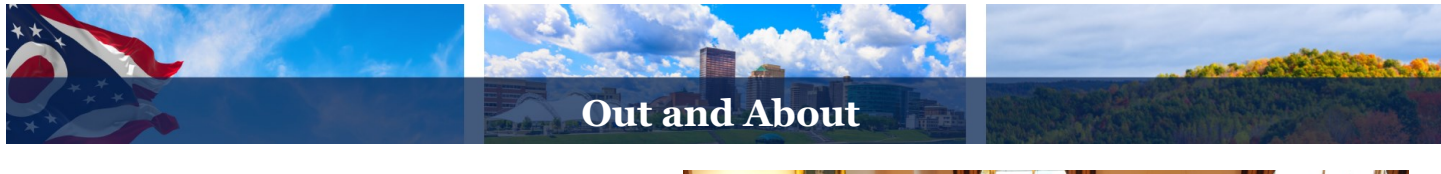
In 2023, Franklin County reassessed property values to update the amount that residents pay in property taxes. Unfortunately, over the past several years, the property tax burden on Ohioans has steadily increased. This is due to Republicans slashing income taxes for the wealthy, which then lowers the amount of state funding that local communities can receive. This puts communities in the tough spot of being forced to raise property taxes in order to make up the difference.

However, these constant property tax increases have become unsustainable. In order to combat this issue, House Democrats have proposed several bills, including:

- **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.

Several of these bills are in the House Ways and Means Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Roemer. If you would like for these to move forward in committee, you can contact his office at rep31@ohiohouse.gov to voice your support.



I received a State Legislative Award from Mental Health American at their awards breakfast this month!



I had a roundtable discussion with the 2024-2025 Osteopathic Health Policy Fellows class. It was wonderful to speak with such talented and involved fellow physicians.



It was a privilege to speak at the India Independence Day Festival. India has one of the largest democracies of the world.



It was an honor to speak to the interns in the Power Up Your Potential Program. They had the chance to use their STEM skills in the real world this summer!



The DNC was one of the most memorable experiences and one of the best organized events I have ever attended!