

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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September Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Fall! It has been a productive beginning to the season for my office, from attending community events and meeting with constituents to introducing two new bills and voting on high stakes legislation.

As the weather begins to cool down, it is important to take note of energy assistance programs that are available to keep your heat on and your electric bill low. All utility assistance programs offered through the state of Ohio can be found here <https://www.occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance>. Please contact my office with any questions regarding these programs.

We are almost a month away from election day and early voting begins on October 6th. Now is the time to check your voter registration and make sure your information is up to date for this upcoming election. The deadline to register to vote for the November election is October 5th. To check your registration status, update your address, or register to vote visit <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/register-to-vote>. Check in on your friends and family and make sure they are ready for this November. Your vote matters!

I am proud to be your state representative. I want to hear from you! My office is happy and ready to help you with any state related issue or just to listen to your thoughts about state government. Always remember, I work for you. I hope you'll reach out. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer
State Representative
Ohio House District 22



This month I introduced two bills.

House Bill 1017 - Designates September as STXBP1 Awareness Month.

STXBP1 disorders are caused by changes in the STXBP1 gene, causing epilepsy and developmental delays. There are more than 30 million people living with currently-incurable, rare and ultra rare disorders in the United States. 3.3 to 3.8 children per 100,000 births are impacted by this genetic change, with the disorder often underdiagnosed.

Families impacted by STXBP1 often face an uphill battle. Receiving a diagnosis can take multiple years due to many factors including a lack of genomic testing and knowledge gaps among medical professionals. Designating September as ‘STXBP1 Awareness Month’ in Ohio is just one way to advance knowledge sharing, research, and patient access and wellbeing.

House Bill 1018 - Designates September 25th as Dolly Parton Imagination Library Reading Day. Recognizes, Parton’s contributions to childhood literacy and encouraging parents, guardians, caregivers, family members, and other adults to read with children to foster a lifelong love of reading.

The recognition is intentionally scheduled after Fathers' Walk Day on September 17, and during Ohio’s Parent’s Week, linking separate initiatives around a common goal: encouraging families, especially fathers and father figures, to become more actively involved in their children's education. **Read with them. Walk with them. Grow with them.** Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library in honor of her father, Robert Lee Parton, who could neither read nor write. This history offers a powerful link between literacy and fatherhood. Dolly Parton and her father's story reminds us of the influence fathers can have on their children.

The date also offers a memorable way to recognize Dolly Parton. 9/25, a playful nod to her iconic song and film “9 to 5.”

On September 30th, an “emergency session” was called to pass a 90-day gas tax holiday. I voted “no” because Ohioans need relief, but the Republican proposal is not the best use of \$725 million in state funds while families continue to struggle with the cost of health care, childcare, groceries, housing, utilities and other basic expenses. My no vote is a refusal to be complicit in using Ohioans as political pawns. This legislation offers no meaningful relief, saving Ohioans only \$3.00 per week at the gas pump. We need to pass comprehensive affordability legislation that will make a real difference in Ohioans’ lives.

Ohioans absolutely need relief from high gas prices, but a temporary gas tax holiday does not address the broader affordability crisis facing Ohio families. For a family already struggling to pay for health care, childcare, groceries, housing and utility bills, \$750 million could provide more targeted assistance that reaches Ohioans across their household budgets.

Ohio House Democrats offered an alternative plan that would have provided immediate gas tax relief while making the state's resources go further for Ohio families. That proposal would have used the \$1 billion previously allocated for the Cleveland Browns stadium, and would have included a \$150 residential energy rebate, stronger enforcement to make sure gas tax savings reach consumers, and expanded homestead property tax relief. The Republican legislation also provides weak enforcement compared to the Democratic alternative. While it requires the gas tax savings to be passed on to consumers and requires itemized receipts when requested, it does not give individual consumers a direct mechanism to seek recourse if they feel this protection has been violated.

The question is not whether Ohioans deserve gas tax relief. They do. The question is whether \$750 million in state resources should be spent on a temporary benefit that does not even fully address one part of the cost-of-living crisis. The main culprit for today’s high prices is the continuation of the failed war in the middle east. Gas prices will be back up again if the war does not conclude soon.

Ohio House Democrats have introduced legislation addressing health care, childcare, housing, utilities, property taxes and other costs that are squeezing Ohio families. We remain willing to work with anyone to deliver meaningful relief, but Ohioans deserve a plan that does more than provide barely any temporary relief of one factor impacting a household budget.

Fathers Walk Week

Fathers Walk Week 2026 was a success! Thank you to all school staff, parents, grandparents, siblings, role models, and students that made these celebrations possible. I visited four schools on Fathers Walk Day; Garfield Heights Middle School, Boulevard Elementary, Maple Leaf Elementary, and Woodland Daycare, to welcome students and their families.

