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From the desk of Rep. Isaacsohn



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and well. As folks gather together for the holiday season, the legislature is winding down from a very busy couple of months.

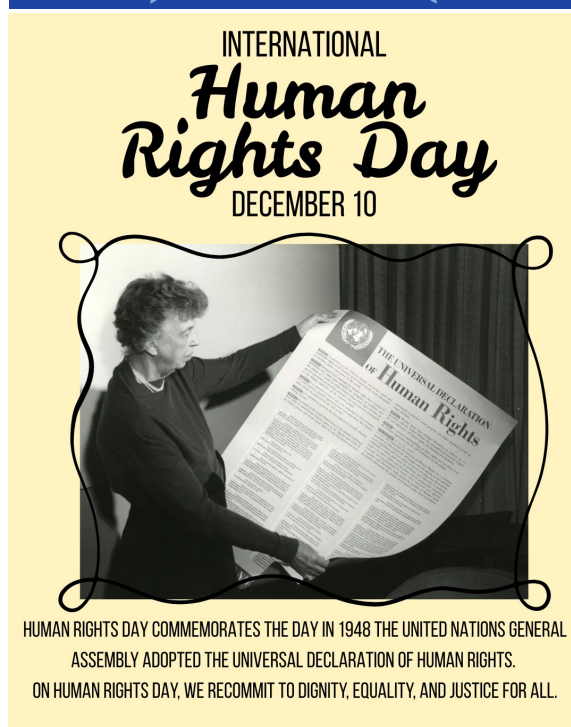
On Wednesday October 1st, a government shutdown began that ended only after many lost their SNAP benefits in November. 1.4 million Ohioans, 97,000 of whom reside in Hamilton County, depend on SNAP benefits to be fed and nourished. While the state directed some funding toward assistance and government has since reopened, it is still imperative that everyone in this state has access to food, and we are still feeling the effects of an unconventional federal government here at the state level.

In October we also saw a contentious mid-decade redistricting process unfold in the state, resulting in new congressional maps to be used in the upcoming election. Recently, in November, we faced many challenging votes on marijuana and property tax policy in the legislature.

Read on in this newsletter to learn more about what the legislature has been up to this season. As always, it is an honor to represent you through all of this. I am wishing you and your loved ones a warm and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dani Isaacsohn
State Representative, District 24
Ohio House Minority Leader





Legislative Update: Marijuana and Hemp in Ohio

The end of this year also brought the passage of [Senate Bill 56](#), legislation that significantly reforms the voter-initiated statute to legalize recreational marijuana.

SB 56 has been amended to include changes to both marijuana and hemp regulation, and was passed by the Ohio House in its final form in the early hours of November 20, 2025, after reconciling the difference between House and Senate versions. This bill went through many critical iterations and no testimony was permitted on the version signed into law by the governor.

I did not support the final version of this bill for several reasons including SB 56's failure to create a pathway for craft brewers to make THC beverages with Ohio cultivated marijuana and bars any sale of drinkable cannabinoid products, the addition of recriminalization provisions, stripping anti-discrimination provisions for cannabis use, and further cur-tailing expungement efforts.

What you need to know as consumers:

- Possession is legal only if product is obtained and in amounts from an Ohio dispensary or legal Ohio home grow.
- Transfer (even without payment) of amounts in excess of possession amounts or from a prohibited source is still trafficking.
- Transportation must be in a sealed original container or trunk and paraphernalia must be in the trunk of a vehicle.
- Home grow is capped at 12 plants per household.
- No smoking/vaping in public areas or childcare homes.
- Protection against adverse action for legal adult-use cannabis are repealed related to: licensing boards, child custody and care, medical care access, civil or criminal statute, sobriety tests without independent reasonable suspicion, rejection as a tenant (unless required by federal law), or public benefit program.

While there were positive aspects of the bill, like making sure kids were safe from intoxicating hemp and that host communities got the money voters allocated for them, I do not believe that should be at the cost of respecting adults who choose to use legal recreational cannabis.



Leader Isaacsohn engaging with witnesses during the committee process for SB 56.

Legislative Update: Win for Community Energy

A piece of positive, bipartisan legislation passed the Ohio House last month, creating a community energy pilot program to build community energy projects across the state of Ohio. The Bill, [House Bill 303](#), now heads to the Ohio Senate.

Community energy projects, that includes small-scale solar gardens and rooftop solar, bring power generation to the local level and save consumers money in transmission costs. Under a community energy program, Ohioans would have a choice in their energy source regardless of any physical and financial barriers, allowing renters and people of all income levels to subscribe and save.



Legislative Update: Property Taxes

The House Democrats know that property taxes in Ohio are way too high. Finding relief for individuals impacted by increasing property taxes while not losing funding for key institutions such as our public schools is a tricky balance – but the state must act in order to create real relief.

As we work to provide tax relief to hardworking Ohioans, we are also doing our best to protect Ohio schools and provide funding safety nets. These taxes are essential to ensuring schools that can afford to pay teachers to teach, fire departments that can keep firefighters on staff, and public libraries that can afford to keep the lights on. You shouldn't have to choose between a sky-high property tax bill and quality public schools, and the House Democrats and I will do everything in our power to make sure that millions of Ohioans will not have to make that difficult choice., understanding real relief is state-funded.

Relief comes in many forms, such as [House Bill 103](#), as proposed by Representatives Daniel Troy and Thomas Hall. This bill expands homestead exemption requirements and eligibility, and in other words, extends a helping hand to the communities that are most impacted by rising property taxes. This bill fits the three criteria for bringing about real relief to Ohio communities. It targets individuals who need it the most, it provides need-based functions, and is state-funded.

Another bi-partisan bill that aids property tax relief for Ohioans is [House Bill 143](#), sponsored by Representatives Sean Brennen and Adam Mathews. This bill partners HB 103 with expanding homestead exemption eligibility to certain long-time homeowners.

Both pieces of legislation support local taxing units through the State General Revenue Fund, ensuring that individual citizens do not have to suffer from an increase in costs from the extension of property tax relief for individuals who need it the most. As we continue to fight for a sustainable and healthy decrease in property taxes for Ohioans, these pieces of legislation help get this issue off of the ground and begin to help the ones who need it the most, at a time when the Majority has chosen to focus on cuts that harm schools and give tax breaks to the wealthiest Ohioans.

While there are innovative, bipartisan solutions, we recently voted on two property tax bills that were complicated. Many of you contacted my office urging me to vote against Republican measures that will lead to less funding to our schools and local governments. While I was opposed to the majority of those bills, I recently voted yes on one, [House Bill 129](#), which has been sent to the governor. This bill puts provisions in place for property tax levies to ensure that school districts can still receive necessary funding while granting relief to homeowners who are overburdened by property taxes. This bill is only the first step of many to getting real relief for Ohioans everywhere.

As the House continues to advance property tax bills, we recognize that the fight for relief is just getting started.



Leader Isaacsohn speaks on the House floor about legislation scheduled for a vote.



Ohio Redistricting Update

On October 31st, the Ohio Redistricting Commission, the fallback body of 5 legislators (3 Majority, 2 Minority), approved a map that will be set in place for the next five years. While many find the conclusion of the commission to be disappointing, I am here to hopefully provide some relief and explanation of this new map. I supported this map because I believe that every seat, and therefore every vote, in the U.S. House of Representatives matters. This map is the best path to preserving competitive races in as many districts as possible and having the ability to send our current five Democratic U.S. Representatives back to Congress. At a time when SNAP benefits have been put at risk for millions of Americans, We cannot allow any district in Ohio to be ceded to Republican lawmakers that will not help the people who need it.

Given the status of our state's leadership, this competitive map was the Democrat's best path to still saving our current 10-5 congressional split. Preserving competition is important, because without it, there are no mechanisms for continuing our fight to fairly represent Ohioans. A map that still has the ability to contain swing districts is integral to having leaders remain fighting for your rights as best as we possibly can while not in leadership.



Leader Isaacsohn engages with a witness during a redistricting committee hearing.



Leader Isaacsohn presents the Democratic redistricting proposal to the committee.

Ohio House Democrats calculate that Representative Kaptur would have won her redrawn district by six points in the 2022 cycle; Former President Joe Biden and former Senator Sherrod Brown both won in Representative Landsman's redrawn district. The city of Cincinnati will remain entirely in Greg Landsman's district as well. I have full confidence in the abilities of Congressman Landsman and Congresswoman Kaptur to be re-elected.

There is no victory or celebration in this decision, but it allows us to continue to fight for what Ohioans truly deserve. I hear your frustration, I share in it, and I did not take this decision lightly. The fight for fair and equal representation is far from over. In the coming months, it is crucial to remain engaged in voting for your elected officials, demanding fair maps that represent the diversity of views of our state, and fighting for a process that puts people first. I have not given up the fight for the future of Ohio, and neither should you. You can also read the [opinion piece I authored in the Cincinnati Enquirer](#) about this topic. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Winter Resources

As winter weather approaches, I know that many will find it difficult to stay warm. There are resources available for utility assistance and winter weather safety. I have also listed avenues for everyone who needs aid with their utilities or other home-related bills, and food assistance.

Cincinnati Area food assistance:

- [List of Food Banks in Cincinnati](#)
- [Freestore Foodbank](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Cincinnati Public Library Resources Guide](#)
- The University of Cincinnati has the [Bearcat Emergency Fund](#) for students who can apply for \$500 in emergency financial assistance. The University is encouraging enrolled students who rely on SNAP benefits to apply as a possible source of aid during this time.

Utility payment assistance:

- [Percentage of Income Payment Plans \(PIPP\)](#): This is a state-subsidized program for those with an annual income of 175% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG) to qualify to pay a reduced portion of utility bills.
- [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#): This is a federally funded one-time benefit, also for those with an annual income of 175% FPG.
- [HEAP Winter Crisis Program](#): a type of HEAP specifically through the winter months.
- [Ohio Utility Assistance Program](#): Customers of AEP, Columbia Gas, Duke Energy, and Enbridge Gas with an annual income of 175% FPG meeting other requirements can qualify for up to \$300 per utility in assistance.
- [HeatShare](#)—For Columbia Gas customers. This program is administered by the Salvation Army for customers up to 300% FPG.

Warming Centers:

- During extreme cold, people are welcomed to warm up during the operating hours of [Cincinnati Recreation Commission](#) facilities, and at [Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library](#) locations. See their websites for hours and details.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance regarding utilities, rent, or food security, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. My team and I are here to help in any way we can. Stay safe and take care of one another.

Housing Grant Opportunity—Live!

The affordable housing accelerator program, championed by Rep Adam Mathews and me, and passed by the Ohio General Assembly in the state's biennium budget bill earlier this year, is now live! The program is called the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) Program and is managed through the Department of Development.

In the budget, \$25 million in grant funding was allocated to help communities expand housing opportunities close to where jobs are growing. Local governments located within 20 miles of a major project will be able to apply for funding to expand housing-related infrastructure, strengthen public safety and community services, or provide capital to support new housing development.

Eligible entities may also apply in collaboration with a housing developer, port authority, council of government, regional planning commission, or with one or more other local governments. [You can visit the grant home page for more information.](#)



Out & About!

(below) Leader Isaacsohn and members of the Ohio Jewish Caucus host a town hall in Cincinnati.

(right) Leader Isaacsohn and members of the SWO delegation presenting the Cincinnati Zoo with a celebratory resolution on the House floor recognizing the zoo's 150th anniversary.



(below) Leader Isaacsohn speaks at a Statehouse advocacy day for ALICE families.



(bottom left) Leader Isaacsohn speaks about legislation on House Floor.

(bottom right) Leader Isaacsohn and Speaker Huffman at a joint interview on the State of Ohio.



Continued

(below) Leader Isaacsohn stocks shelves at the Mid-Ohio Food Collective during the government shutdown while in Columbus for session.

(right) Leader Isaacsohn, Senator Blessing, and Senator Smith participate in a legislative panel at the Ohio School Board Association annual conference.



(middle) Leader Isaacsohn speaks with University of Cincinnati students in October.

(right) Leader Isaacsohn and Rep Adam Mathews jointly interview on Brick-by-Brick. The reps discussed their bi-partisan housing legislation efforts.

