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From the desk of Rep. Isaacsohn



Dear Neighbor,

The beginning of 2026 has been busy in the legislature. We have passed some bills that move our state in a positive direction, and some that the Democratic Caucus staunchly opposed. One hot topic of discussion among constituents and in the statehouse, is the issue of data center development in Ohio. Data centers are being built all across the state.

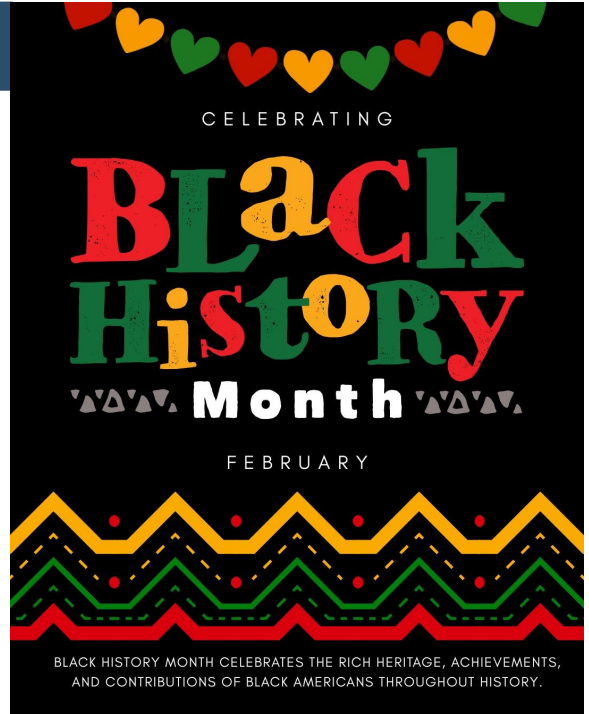
I understand the concerns surrounding data centers, including their potential environmental impacts and effects on the rural communities across Ohio. These concerns are a reason for House Bill 646 ([HB 646](#)), a piece of bipartisan legislation that works for the people by creating the data center study commission.

While data centers are relatively new and there is much to learn about their impacts, this legislation would combat that by researching the effects on the environment, businesses and people of Ohio. It aims to address the knowledge gap by studying their effects thoroughly and quickly. The bill will require that the commission appoints a variety of members from different specialized areas to help understand the effects overall. The bill will also require members from the minority and majority party sit on the commission, ensuring it is a bipartisan effort.

I am in support of [HB 646](#) and voted in favor of it when it came before the House floor on 3/18/2026. I will continue my work with colleagues and legislators to ensure Ohio consumers are protected while also supporting responsible development across the state of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Dani Isaacsohn
State Representative, District 24
Ohio House Minority Leader



Immigration Legislation

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES, CIVIL RIGHTS, & PUBLIC SAFETY

House Democrats are introducing bills and resolutions to strengthen accountability, safeguard privacy, & protect our communities



Community & Police Protection Act (Brownlee, Thomas)

- No face coverings for law enforcement on duty (limited exceptions)
- Officers must clearly display badge & ID



Limits on Collecting & Sharing Data (Russo)

- State entities cannot collect, share, or disclose personal data/personal information; data & information used only for purpose it was disclosed
- Certain exceptions as comports with law and narrowly defined in bill



Preventing Profit from Sensitive Data (Cockley, Rader)

- Bars selling or sharing of Sensitive Data in most instances.
- Data may be shared under law for limited and defined "Permitted Uses"



Protecting Sensitive Locations (Mohamed, Synenberg)

- Prohibits immigration enforcement in a place of worship, courthouses, hospitals, schools, during public religious ceremonies, or at organizations assisting children, pregnant women, victims of crime or abuse, or individuals with mental or physical disabilities



Investigation of Law Enforcement (Sigrist, Piccolantonio)

- Ensure local law enforcement can investigate crimes in their district
- Ensure OAG & ODPS can access evidence/materials and conduct investigations



Minimum Standards for Immigration Detention (Bryant Bailey, Sims)

- Ensure detainees have adequate meals, medical/health care, and basic living needs - ensure reasonable wage for all detainees labor
- Ensure access to religious materials & access to legal representative



Nat. Guard Deployment Requires Gov. Approval (White, Somani)

- Governor can decline the deployment of out-of-state National Guard in Ohio



Oversight of Detention Facilities (Humphrey)

- Resolution re-affirming Lawmakers can enter or conduct oversight visits of any jail, prison, and detention facility at any time



In February, the Ohio House Democratic Caucus held a press conference discussing a legislative package of eight bills and resolutions aimed at protecting Ohio families, safeguarding due process, and ensuring accountability related to recent federal immigration enforcement activity impacting communities across the state.

Ohioans need elected officials who work to make their lives more affordable, ensuring they will have access to healthcare when they are sick, food when they are hungry, and heat when it gets cold. We have to enforce our laws without resorting to lawlessness from ICE officers. We need order restored to our communities. Americans deserve to live free from the fear of government violence."

The package includes legislation to ensure oversight, accountability and good governance, as well as policies that are still being thoughtfully developed. Two notable bills are:

[HB 691: Community and Police Protection Act](#) and [HB 771: Require governor approval for National Guard deployments.](#)

House Democrats continue to put forward legislation that supports community safety, upholds civil rights, and provides clarity and stability for local residents, schools, and law enforcement partners. Watch the press conference [here](#).



Leader Isaacsohn and members of the Ohio House caucus gather to discuss bills to safeguard communities from I.C.E. enforcement.



Second Urban-Appalachian Education Summit

Early this month, Leader Isaacsohn hosted the second ever Urban-Appalachian Education Summit at the University of Cincinnati. The summit brought together students, teachers, principals, superintendents, and administrators from across the state to discuss the challenges urban and Appalachian schools face and to brainstorm potential efforts to work together to advocate for public education.

Leader Isaacsohn believes that legislators should be working in concert to advocate for the shared challenges urban and Appalachian districts face. By bringing together experts and advocates from across the state, the intent of the summit was to build greater trust and partnership between our urban and Appalachian communities that can translate into actionable efforts to support the schools and students most in need across the state.

Nearly 50 students, teachers, principals, and administrators from all corners of the state attended the summit, and over a dozen school districts were represented, serving nearly 100,000 students across the state. This year's summit also featured a keynote address from former Congressman Zack Space.



Leader Isaacsohn welcoming public school students, teachers, and administrators to the University of Cincinnati for the summit.

Urban and Appalachian school districts may appear very different on the surface, but in reality they share many of the same challenges and aspirations. Both serve communities that are working to ensure every child has access to opportunity, regardless of zip code. Educators in Cleveland or Cincinnati are grappling with many of the same issues as those in communities across Appalachian Ohio—student mental health, workforce preparation, teacher recruitment and retention, and ensuring schools have the resources they need to help students succeed.

That shared mission makes collaboration between urban and Appalachian districts not only valuable, but essential to the future of public education. When leaders, teachers, and students from these communities come together, they can learn from one another's experiences, share innovative solutions, and advocate for policies that work for schools across the state.



Breakout group discusses issues important to public education in both urban and Appalachian areas of the state.



2026 Statehouse Seder

At the end of March, the Ohio Jewish Caucus held its fourth Passover Seder at the Statehouse. The Seder is a festive meal held as part of the Jewish holiday of Passover, celebrating the Exodus from Egypt. The caucus has grown to six members representing diverse Ohio communities, and this celebration has brought folks from across the state together in our capital building for an evening of remembrance, reflection, and celebration of our past. Leader Isaacsohn is proud of how this event has grown to be a celebration with so many in the Ohio Jewish community, and understands the importance of being able to gather together in this way. Happy Passover; May you have a meaningful season!



Members of the Ohio Jewish Caucus leading the Statehouse Seder.

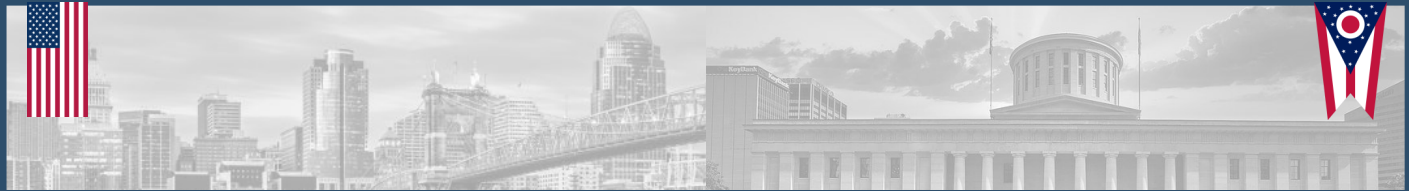


Guests from across the state participate in the 15 steps of the Seder together in the Statehouse Atrium.

Jewish Caucus Cleveland Town Hall

This month, members of the Ohio Jewish Caucus hosted a town hall event in Cleveland. This was the next event in a series of visits to cities across the state, where community members were welcome to share their thoughts, ask questions, and hear updates from the Jewish members in the Ohio Legislature. Nearly 100 community members, local elected officials, and Jewish community leaders were in attendance. As antisemitism and hate spread across our country, it is important that Jewish members of the Ohio Legislature continue to come together for thoughtful and candid conversation about the issues facing our communities.





Biennial Capital Budget

The capital budget, introduced as the capital appropriations bill in the Ohio Legislature, is the way the state funds its brick-and-mortar needs, ranging from the construction of K-12 public schools and renovations of public higher education facilities to public works programs and mental health treatment centers, to state offices, parks, and prisons. capital budget serves two distinct functions: first, it supports statewide capital projects that run through the Administration's process; the second is the smaller portion of local community projects that make up roughly 5% of the overall bill and allow for members' direct input.

The capital budget traditionally includes approx. \$150-200M for the local community projects across the state. Community projects may be the smallest part of the capital budget, but they are one of the most tangible ways for members to deliver for their districts. Over the past several months, Leader Isaacsohn has been meeting with community members and organizations about their proposed projects, and working with the other members of the Southwest Ohio House and Senate delegations in the legislature to recommend projects for funding. The budget will be finalized and approved before July 1st, and will be a focus of the legislature for the next few months.

Affordability Legislation

The Ohio House Democratic Caucus recently held a press conference to introduce the “An Ohio We Can Afford” legislative package, a coordinated effort to lower everyday costs for families across the state. Joined by members of the caucus, Leader Isaacsohn emphasized the urgent need for policies that directly address rising expenses in the following categories: healthcare, housing, childcare, energy, and consumer goods. At a time when many Ohioans are struggling to keep up with basic costs, this package reflects a renewed focus on making the state more affordable and responsive to the needs of its residents.

The package includes a series of proposals aimed at delivering tangible relief, including lowering healthcare premiums through a state reinsurance program, expanding access to affordable housing, and creating a refundable childcare tax credit for working parents.



Additional measures work to eliminate hidden fees in everyday purchases and provide direct energy cost relief through a proposed dividend. House democrats continue to advance policies that prioritize economic stability, transparency, and opportunity, ensuring Ohio remains a place where individuals and families can afford to build their futures. Watch the press conference [here](#).

State of the State Address

On March 10th, Governor DeWine gave his final State of the State Address before leaving office. Leader Isaacsohn was joined by guests for the occasion: Following the State of the State, Democrats delivered a rebuttal that emphasized the decades of choices the politicians in power have made that undercut everyday Ohioans. Leader Isaacsohn reaffirmed their commitment to working towards a future for this state that includes a good quality of life for working and middle class folks – not just businesses and the top earners in the state.



The Ohio House and Senate Democratic members sit for Governor DeWine's last State of the State address.

This means funding public schools, making childcare affordable, and making the cost of housing and healthcare more affordable – policy choices the Republicans in Ohio have not made for two decades. Everyday Ohioans have been falling further behind, forced to figure out how to get by with less, while politicians in charge have prioritized the wealthiest few. Ohioans deserve leaders who will start making different choices and put the people of this state first.

Upcoming Primary Election

Are you a registered voter in Ohio?

Get registered or check your registration status before April 6th to vote in the May 5th primary election.

Visit www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/



On **May 5th, 2026**, Ohio will have a primary election ahead of the general election in November. Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility that empowers you to have a say in the direction of your community. Every election is impactful! Make your plan to vote on or before May 5th today!

- **Monday, April 6:** Last day to register to vote
- **Tuesday, April 7:** Early voting begins
- **Tuesday, April 28:** Last day to request a mail-in ballot
- **Tuesday, May 5:** Last day for Board of Elections to receive mail-in ballots

Visit VOTEOHIO.GOV for:

- Checking registration status or ID requirements
- Becoming a poll worker
- Finding a sample ballot or polling location
- Tracking an absentee ballot



Out and About



(Top right) Leader Isaacsohn and Rep Ray (R-Wadsworth) provide sponsor testimony on their bill, HB 314, dealing with harassing public records requests.

(Top left) The leader addresses Moms Demand Action advocates during their statehouse day.

(Right) The leader and his guests who joined for the State of the State address.

(Lower right) Leader Isaacsohn speaks to a group of Western Hills students in the House chamber.

(Lower left) Leader Isaacsohn speaks with Statehouse reporters after committee.

