

— The Fall Issue, 2025 —

# Statehouse Update

Representative Cecil Thomas



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## From Rep. Thomas' Desk

Dear Neighbors,

As always, it is a great honor to represent and serve the people of the 25th district in the Ohio House of Representatives. In this newsletter, I'll keep you posted on what's happening at the statehouse, share my work with you, and highlight some of the best Cincinnati events, programs, and resources.

I hope each one of you has a wonderful autumn and has the chance to explore all our city has to offer. In the meantime, feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns. I'm always here to help!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecil Thomas".

Cecil Thomas  
State Representative

## Rep. Thomas' Wins:



The Joshua Alert, sponsored by Rep. Thomas and Rep. Gross, has recently passed through committee. Rep. Thomas is hopeful that the bill will be enacted by the one-year anniversary of Joshua's passing this November.

Rep. Thomas and Rep. Gross are seen together in the picture, standing with Jonisa Cook, the mother of Joshua Al-Lateef Jr. With her testimony, the representatives have been working to ensure this bill protects other families with vulnerable children from harm.

Rep. Thomas announced that the Ohio Controlling Board has approved state funding of \$249,993.23 toward strengthening campus security at the University of Cincinnati. This funding from the Campus Safety Grant Program will allow for specialized security barriers to be purchased from Meridian Rapid Defense Group. Students on the UC Campus will be provided enhanced safety through emergency preparedness and the securement of high-traffic areas.



# Rep. Thomas' Introduced Bills

- H. B. No. 3: Enact the School Bus Safety Act
- H. B. No. 4: Designate Ohio Stillbirth Prevention Day
- H. B. No. 45: Prohibit certain firearms transfers without a background check
- H. B. No. 46: Enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act
- H. B. No. 110: Increase the penalty for repeat voyeurism
- H. B. No. 240: Enact Avery's Law
- H. B. No. 241: Regards dog quarantine, disposition hearing after dog attack
- H. B. No. 242: Authorize tax credit for dog spaying, neutering, or training
- H. B. No. 243: Designate Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez Ohio Community Service Act
- H. B. No. 337 - Require firearm sale by federal dealer to include trigger lock
- H. B. No. 350: Prohibit certain conduct that accelerates firearms' rate of fire
- H. B. No. 359: Regards emergency Joshua Alert system for certain missing kids
- H. B. No. 452: Designate 761st Tank Battalion Day

## Bill Spotlights

### H.B. 359 Joshua Alert Update

The Joshua Alert bill creates a statewide alert system for missing children, specifically designed to help locate children with autism or other developmental disabilities, similar to Amber Alerts. Sponsored by Rep. Thomas and Rep. Gross, the bill aims to provide critical support and protection for vulnerable children like Joshua Al-Lateef Jr. and their families in times of crisis.

### H.B. 452 Designate Tank Battalion Day

This introduced bill, sponsored by Rep. Thomas (D) and Rep. Lawson-Rowe (D), aims to designate October 21st as "761st Tank Battalion Day." The day will honor the 761st Tank Battalion, a unit largely composed of African American soldiers who served in the United States Army during World War II.

# In the Community:

## Recognizing a Meaningful Community Member

Rep. Thomas presented Sayde Irene Bunyan-Deans a State citation in honor of her 100th birthday. The Rep. had the opportunity to recognize her meaningful experiences growing up in Cincinnati. He also listened to her wonderful stories about teaching in Cincinnati Public Schools. Sayde Irene Bunyan-Deans serves as a representation of teachers in the Cincinnati community who have a lasting impact on our children, her contribution is celebrated.



## Celebrating Cincinnati's BAPS Chapter

The Rep. enjoyed his time at the celebration of BAPS Cincinnati Mandir's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Rep. Thomas India's Independence Day. Rep. Thomas was grateful to have had the opportunity to embrace this vast, diverse culture within Cincinnati. He also had the pleasure of giving a brief statement on behalf of the State Legislature. At the event, Rep. Thomas adored interacting with the youth and being actively involved with the BAPS community.

## Attending the No Kings Protest

Rep. Thomas joined the Cincinnati community at the No Kings Rally at Smale Riverfront Park. The Rep. spoke with many constituents, capturing countless protest signs that expressed their opposition to the current state of the United States. Rep. Thomas was able to stand with his constituents and fight for democracy and for the future of his community's future.



# Town Halls

## Gun Violence Awareness



Rep. Thomas joined fellow Hamilton County Democrats for a gun violence awareness town hall, where they discussed ways to combat gun violence, potential legislative changes, and the devastating impact it has on children.

***“We are in a crisis, folks. Not just in the State of Ohio but the country.” -Rep. Thomas***

During the event, community members shared personal stories of gun violence in hopes of fostering change and encouraging gun owners to adopt safer practices. They also talked about strategies to prevent children from accessing firearms. Rep. Thomas emphasized the need for stronger pressure on legislators to pass laws aimed at reducing gun violence.

## Redistricting & Property Taxes

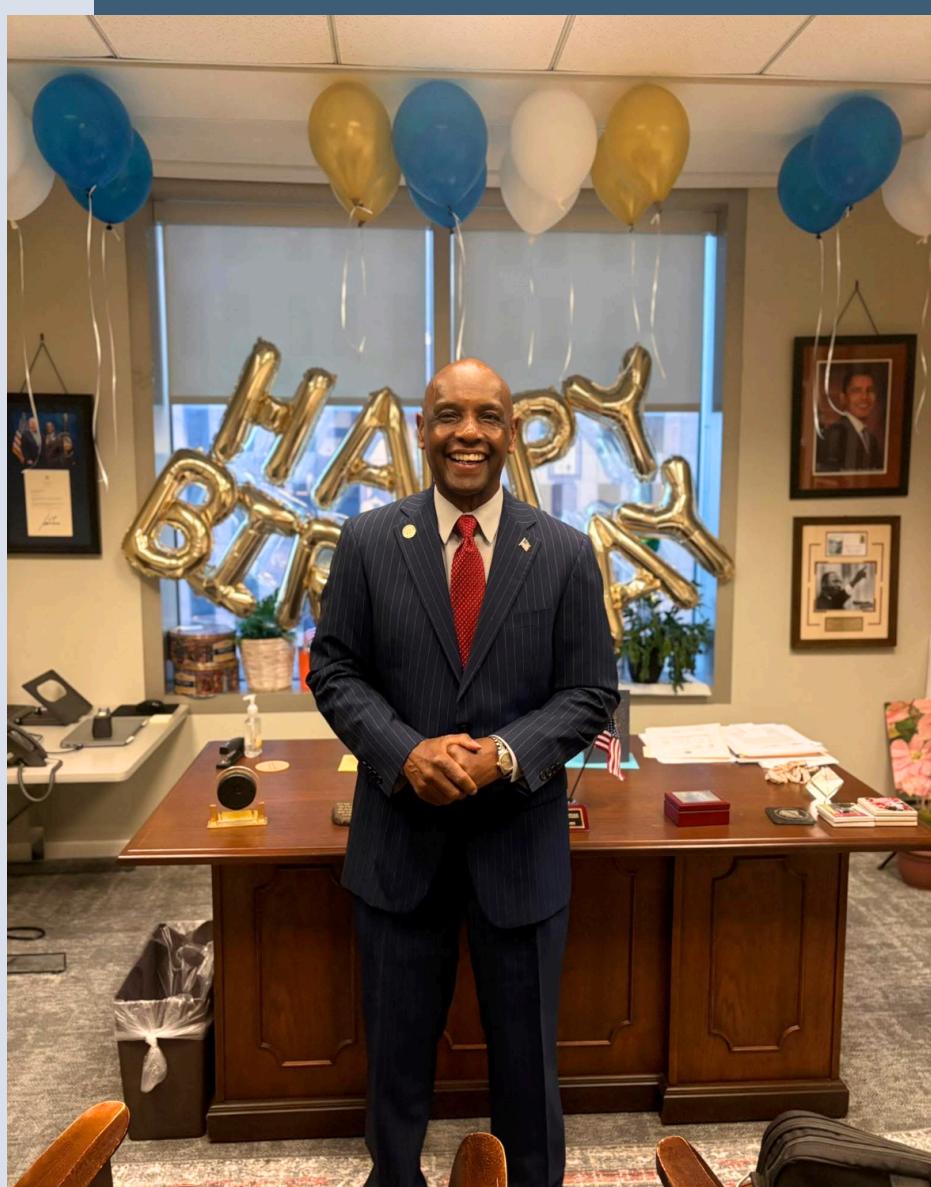


Rep. Thomas hosted a town hall with Representative Rachel Baker, Minority Leader Dani Issacsohn, and Representative Karen Brownlee.

He weighed in on discussions about the community's concerns, including property taxes, the new state operating budget, and the redistricting. It was also a great opportunity for Rep. Thomas to share an update about the legislative work he had been doing and get opinions from constituents.



# **Rep. Thomas celebrated his birthday at the office this month!**



The Rep. appreciates the love from the Cincinnati community, and recognizes the importance of your input and support.

Thank you for reading Rep. Thomas' Newsletter! Please reference the following page for additional resources!

**Sign up here for Representative Cecil Thomas' Newsletter:**

<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/cecil-thomas/newsletter-sign-up>

# Upcoming Events in Cincinnati

Sign up for this volunteer event!  
Bender Mountain Habitat  
Restoration  
November 22, 2025



The Ice Rink at Summit Park will  
be open  
November 15 to January 4th, go  
while you can!



Erykah Badu will be performing at  
The Andrew J Brady Music Center  
November 22, 2025



Attend the Sing Sing Film  
Screening by The Voice of  
Black Cincinnati at Woodward  
Theater  
November 10, 2025



Head to Taft Theater and  
attend Black Violin: Full Circle  
Tour  
November 16, 2025



The City Flea will be hosting  
their Fall Vintage Market in  
Ziegler Park  
November 1, 2025



# Resources

## Legal issues:

- [Legal Access Clinic at the University of Cincinnati](#)
- [Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#)
- [Expungement Program \(Urban League\)](#)
- [Ohio Innocence Project \(UC\)](#)
- [Immigration - Know Your Rights](#)

## Employment:

- [Urban League](#)
- [Cincinnati Works](#)
- [Hamilton County JFS](#)
- [513 Relief](#)
- [Workforce Development - U.S. District Court](#)

## Housing:

- [City of Cincinnati Housing Resources](#)
- [Cincinnati Metro. Housing Authority](#)
- [Bethany House](#)
- [Talbert House](#)
- [513 Relief](#)

## Kids/Teens/Parents:

- [Youth Summit \(Urban League\)](#)
- [Cincinnati Preschool Promise](#)
- [Cincinnati Children's Museum - Events](#)
- [Cincinnati's Fall Fun Guide](#)

**Contact Representative Cecil Thomas' Office:**  
We look forward to hearing from you!  
**(614) 466-1645 Rep25@ohiohouse.gov**