



OHIO STATE REPRESENTATIVE **CECIL THOMAS**

2025 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Dear Neighbors,

Last year tested our community, but it also proved our strength. From the statewide action on Senate Bill 1, to the protests at the University of Cincinnati, to the march on Lincoln Heights where residents united to protect their community, and most recently the TriHealth and UnitedHealthcare negotiations, one thing has been clear: when challenges arise, we do not back down.

Progress is never easy. Real change demands persistence, courage, and collective action. Through advocacy, protest, and legislative work, we moved forward together to protect our values and demand better for both our city and our state. Your engagement and support made this possible.

As we step into the new year, I remain fully committed to representing you with focus and determination. This issue includes a brief recap of the work we've accomplished over the past year, but more importantly, it marks the beginning of a new chapter, not the end. I'm ready to build on this momentum and continue fighting for policies that strengthen our communities and expand opportunity for all.

The road ahead will require continued involvement, accountability, and resolve. I ask that you stay engaged, stay informed, and stay vocal. Together, we will keep moving forward to ensure a brighter future for the next generation of District 25. I'm honored to do this work alongside you.

Sincerely,

Cecil Thomas
State Representative
Ohio House District 25

HIGHLIGHT

**2025
LEGISLATIVE
RECAP**

**GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
CAUCUS**

**LETTER TO
TRIHEALTH AND
UNITED
HEALTH CARE**

**MONEY FOR THE
COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY
INVOLVMENT
RECAP**

RESOURCES



2025 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS INTRODUCED 14 BILLS:



**TWO PASSED
THE HOUSE
UNANIMOUSLY**

House Bill (HB) 3, the “School Bus Safety Act,” is a bipartisan bill that passed unanimously on the House floor on June 11, 2025. We are hopeful that the second hearing for the bill will take place sometime in 2026.



House Bill (HB) 359, “The Joshua Alert,” passed the House unanimously on November 12, 2025. A bipartisan bill, it is a top priority for Rep. Thomas, who will push for its passage in the new year.

House Bill 247, “Avery’s Law,” was signed into law by the governor on December 19, 2025.

Originally introduced as House Bill 240, the bill was sponsored by Representatives Thomas and Lawson-Rowe. During the committee process, it was combined with Representative K. Miller’s bill.



**AND TWO WERE
SIGNED INTO
LAW BY THE
GOVERNOR.**

House Bill 4, Designating Ohio Stillbirth Prevention Day, was a bipartisan bill that passed unanimously through both the Ohio House and Senate. It was signed into law by the governor on May 28, 2025, and officially went into effect on August 27, 2025.



ADDITIONAL BILL HIGHLIGHTS:

House Bill 46, the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, is a red flag law introduced by Rep. Thomas and is awaiting its first hearing. He firmly believes that bills like this are essential for making Ohio safer.

House Bill 110 increases penalties for repeat voyeurism, also known as “peeping Tom” activity. This bipartisan bill is currently awaiting its first hearing in the Ohio House of Representatives.

House Bill 452 designates October 1st as 761st Tank Battalion Day to honor the first all-Black battalion in WWII. Rep. Thomas and Rep. Lawson are planning a Black History Month event to further highlight the bill’s significance.

House Bill 337 requires federal firearm dealers to include trigger locks with firearm sales and offer additional gun locks or locking devices to purchasers. The bill is still awaiting its first hearing.

LETTER TO TriHealth and UnitedHealthcare

The Democratic Cincinnati delegation of Ohio State Representatives and Senators sent a letter to TriHealth and UnitedHealthcare expressing concerns that UHC might force TriHealth out of network, leaving thousands without affordable healthcare after December 31.

The letter called for continuity of care. Rep. Thomas is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached, ensuring that TriHealth hospitals, outpatient centers, and physicians remain in-network for UnitedHealthcare's employer-sponsored,

Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid plans. This agreement guarantees uninterrupted care for UnitedHealthcare Commercial, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid patients, allowing them to schedule appointments as usual.



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION CAUCUS

Representative Thomas is the Co-Chair of the Ohio Gun Violence Prevention Caucus. Over the past year, the caucus has met several times to build relationships with organizations like Students

Demand Action and OnCall4Kids. The goal is to create a strong legislative framework to address gun violence in Ohio. Rep. Thomas hopes to see this come to fruition in 2026.

THE ATTACK ON MIGRANTS IN OHIO:

As Ranking Member of the Ohio House Public Safety Committee, Rep. Thomas has witnessed many harmful immigration bills come through the committee, particularly House Bill 1, the Enact Ohio Property

Protection Act. This bill would essentially make Ohio unwelcoming to immigrants, regardless of their legal status. Rep. Thomas partnered with the Asian American Coalition to protest the bill on June 24, 2025,

and plans to continue fighting against this and similar harmful legislation in 2025. Ohio should remain a safe and welcoming place for the thousands of immigrants who call it home.



BILLS THAT RAISE RED FLAGS:

Senate Bill 172 requires state and local public offices and officials to allow the arrest or detention of migrants suspected of being unlawfully present in the U.S. This could lead to racial profiling and discrimination.

Senate Bill 303 would allow 18-21 year-olds to purchase handguns in Ohio. Given that this age group is already the most negatively impacted by firearms, providing more access to weapons is a step in the wrong direction.

House Bill 410 blocks federal funding for nonprofits providing family planning, reproductive health, and medical care to low-income, underserved individuals. Since federal funds already don't support abortion clinics, this bill adds unnecessary barriers.

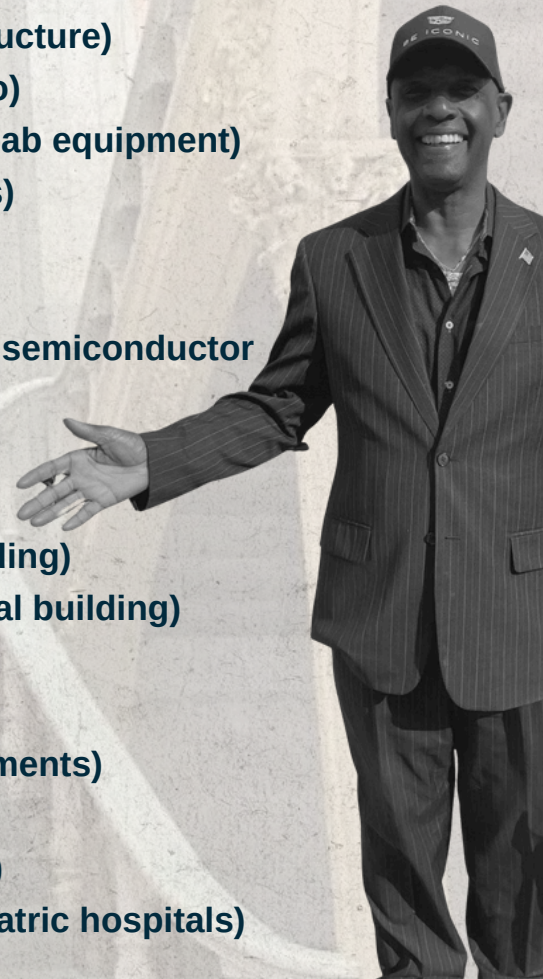
Senate Bill 293 cuts the four-day grace period for mail-in ballots, risking voter disenfranchisement due to mail delays. The bill is already law—stay informed as elections near.

MONEY FOR THE COMMUNITY

\$2,880,053,000

WAS BROUGHT BACK TO DISTRICT 25 IN 2025.

- \$325K (Cincinnati State for medical lab equipment)
- \$662K (University of Cincinnati for Ohio Cyber Range infrastructure)
- \$116K (ODOT for Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio)
- \$1.5M (Cincinnati State for window replacement and medical lab equipment)
- \$649K (University of Cincinnati for Rieveschl Hall renovations)
- \$250K (University of Cincinnati for campus safety upgrades)
- \$2.87B (OBM for Brent Spence Bridge Corridor project)
- \$385K (University of Cincinnati for RAPIDS grants and semiconductor projects)
- \$360K (OMHAS for forensic psychiatric fellowship)
- \$151K (OMHAS for furniture replacements)
- \$440K (University of Cincinnati to purchase a residential building)
- \$440K (University of Cincinnati to purchase another residential building)
- \$10.5M (CincyTech for entrepreneurial services grants)
- \$86K (OMHAS for technology renovations)
- \$1.1M (University of Cincinnati for exterior envelope improvements)
- \$20K (OMHAS for bedroom furniture upgrades)
- \$3M (Cincinnati State for HVAC replacement and IT upgrades)
- \$1.9M (DMH for replacing communications systems in psychiatric hospitals)



GETTING AHEAD: WHAT IS THE CAPITAL BUDGET?

The Ohio Capital Budget provides funding for the construction, renovation, and equipment of state facilities, as well as grants for local businesses and cities to support their projects. The focus is typically on projects that are ready to move forward, with the understanding that additional funding sources will be involved as well. This process will begin at the state level in 2026, though the rules are still being finalized. In the meantime, I encourage you to think about any potential projects in the district that might qualify. Once the application process is officially underway, my office will make sure to keep you updated. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.



2025 COMMUNITY RECAP

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS ATTENDED:

284 MEETINGS **25 GRAND OPENINGS AND RIBBON CUTTING** **5 PROTESTS/RALLIES** **100+ COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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HIS OFFICE RESPONDED TO:





**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR. I LOOK
FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR WORK
TOGETHER IN 2026.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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](#)

WARMING CENTERS:

- Bond Hill Recreation Center (1501 Elizabeth Place, Bond Hill)
- Bush Recreation Center (2640 Kemper Lane, Walnut Hills)
- College Hill Library (1400 W. North Bend Road)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)



FACEBOOK:

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