

# 2024 NEWSLETTER



## State Rep. Adam Mathews

### Ohio House District 56



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*From the desk of Rep. Adam Mathews*  
*Proudly serving southwest and central Warren County*

Dear Neighbor,

On January 3rd 2023, I swore the oath of office to represent the people of the 56th Ohio House District in Warren County. Since then, I have been hard at work to bring our conservative Warren County values to Columbus. I am reaching out to provide an update on the great progress we have made for our district and Ohio over the past year.

Over the past year and a half of serving as your State Representative, I have been hard at work on policies including eliminating our state income taxes, ensuring financial transparency in colleges and universities, defending our children in the classroom and on the playing field, simplifying Ohio's increasingly complex legal system, and addressing the state's housing crisis. This newsletter outlines the progress made on each of these and more.

Whether I am home in the district or serving in the Statehouse, my office and I are here to serve you. Please feel free to reach out anytime if we can answer any questions or assist with any state matter.

Many blessings,

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# CONSERVATIVE WINS FOR WARREN COUNTY

*Over the past year and a half, I have had seven new bills I introduced signed into law, both individually and as a part of larger omnibus bills. Here is an overview of the four most recent ones.*

## LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

### **Legal Framework Simplifications - House Bill 179**

- This bill will simplify Ohio's legal system by clarifying against which parties and in what time frame certain lawsuits must be filed, thereby protecting both businesses and practitioners from unreasonable liability and Ohioans from unnecessary lawsuits.
- *The bill passed the House and Senate unanimously before being signed into law.*

### **The Higher Education Return on Investment Act - House Bill 27**

- This bill will require all public higher education institutions in Ohio to provide incoming students with a one-page disclosure form outlining the total cost of attendance, scholarships and requirements to maintain them, projected student loan payments upon graduation, and expected salary based on major or college.
- *Originally introduced as House Bill 27, the bill passed both the House and Senate before being sent to the Governor once amended into Senate Bill 94.*

### **Consecutive Numbering of State Ballot Issues - House Bill 271**

- This bill declares that statewide issues appearing on ballots must be numbered consecutively based on the previous election, reducing confusion for voters.
- *Originally introduced as House Bill 271, the bill passed both the House and Senate before being sent to the Governor once amended into Senate Bill 98.*

### **Arming Fire Investigators - House Bill 313**

- Responding to threats to local fire investigators, this bill creates permissive language for municipalities and fire departments to allow their fire investigators to carry a firearm while on duty.
- *Originally introduced as House Bill 313, the bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee unanimously before also being amended into Senate Bill 98.*

# CONSERVATIVE WINS FOR WARREN COUNTY

## LEGISLATION PASSED THE HOUSE

### **Creating Automatic Process for Village Dissolution Vote - House Bill 331**

- This bill will create an automatic process for calling vote on village dissolution based on a regular audit of village services and elected position. The bill aims to promote efficient and accountable use of tax dollars, ensure villages provide necessary services to their residents, and give voters a new tool to take charge of their local governance.
- *House Bill 331 passed the House and awaits considerations in the Senate.*

### **Expanding Local Concealed Carry Access - House Bill 272**

- This bill grants local governments permissive authority to allow concealed carry in multipurpose city or village halls. Clarifying existing law, this bill will allow our smaller municipalities the same rights as our larger ones with respect to local control of concealed carry.
- *House Bill 272 passed the House and awaits consideration in the Senate.*

## LEGISLATION PASSED HOUSE COMMITTEES

### **Safeguarding Ohioans' Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) - House Bill 367**

- This bill extends NIL protections to all Ohioans regardless of their fame or commercial status, and it also creates new definitions and restrictions on producing malicious deepfakes to ensure responsible use of artificial intelligence.
- *House Bill 367 passed the House Government Oversight Committee unanimously and awaits a vote on the House floor.*

### **Property Tax Corrections - House Bill 344**

- To begin addressing the challenge of rising property taxes, this bill promotes transparency at the ballot box by preventing unanticipated property tax increases often associated with replacement tax levies.
- This bill also safeguards taxpayers by closing loopholes in state law used to unfairly bring certain property tax challenges.
- *House Bill 344 passed the House Ways and Means Committee and awaits a vote on the House floor.*

### **Allow Labor Law Notices to be Posted Online - House Bill 273**

- This bill allows certain labor law notices such as the minimum wage law to be posted online instead of physically in the workplace, thereby allowing employers greater flexibility in delivering this information to their employees.
- *House Bill 273 passed the House Commerce and Labor Committee and awaits a vote on the House floor.*



# CONSERVATIVE WINS FOR WARREN COUNTY

## OTHER MAJOR LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

### **Eliminate Ohio Income Tax - House Bill 386**

- House Bill 386 proposes a six-year phase-out of the state income tax and commercial activity tax, which will put Ohio on a path to regain its place as the economic engine of the Midwest and ensure Ohio remains a destination for businesses to grow and thrive.

### **Update Ohio's NIL Law for Student Athletes - House Bill 660**

- This legislation will allow universities to directly participate in the process of paying student athletes, thereby bridging the gap between the NIL Collective and our state institutions and ensuring Ohio athletics remain competitive nationwide.

### **Expand Homestead Exemption for Long-Term Homeowners - House Bill 274**

- To continue addressing the costs of rising property taxes, House Bill 274 will protect long-term homeowners by doubling the existing homestead exemption, a property tax credit, for those who have lived in their homes for twenty years or more.

### **Incentivize Increased Housing Supply - House Bill 499**

- To empower the American Dream, grow our state, and ensure that Ohio families have access to affordable home ownership, we need to increase our state's housing supply. House Bill 499 creates a revolutionary grant program to support housing development available to local governments that choose to adopt certain pro-housing policies.

### **Prevent Misuse of Public Nuisance Lawsuits - House Bill 555**

- This bill protects both businesses and consumers by ensuring that public nuisance lawsuits, meant to abate local disturbances, are not missued to unfairly target certain businesses or industries. This will restore Ohio's legal environment regarding public nuisance to its original purpose and prevent misuse of such lawsuits.

### **Limit Exception for Obscenity in Schools - House Bill 556**

- This bill limits the existing exemption for disseminating obscene materials in schools, currently overly broad, to only those who truly need it. Children do not need to be exposed to obscenity in their math class, and this bill will prevent that while simultaneously ensuring that schools can continue teaching their curriculums without unnecessary interruption.

### **Swimming Safety Education**

- Drowning is the leading cause of death for infants, and this bill aims to protect our children by requiring Ohio schools to provide parents with information both on water safety and the availability of swim lessons in their local communities.



# CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

*Every two years, the General Assembly is tasked with passing a new state capital budget for the following biennium. This is one of the largest and most consequential bills we vote on, and I have spent the last year fighting to secure the funding necessary to keep the Cincinnati Open in Mason and fund other crucial projects throughout the county.*

## **OVER \$30 MILLION IN TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING FOR WARREN COUNTY**

### **\$27.5M To Keep The Cincinnati Open Tennis Tournament**

- We successfully retained the Cincinnati Open in Mason and set the stage for the tournament to continue to grow and thrive here. The capital budget included the remainder of our commitment of state funding to keep the tournament in our community for a further generation.

**I also secured millions in additional one-time funding and capital investments for projects throughout Warren County, including:**

- \$75,000 for the LaGore Memorial Dog Park at Caesar Creek
- \$200,000 for the Warren County Ion Exchange Project
- \$200,000 for the Waynesville and Maineville Girl Scout Camp improvements
- \$9,969 for the VFW Mason Post 9622 roof repairs
- \$1,00,000 for new treatment units, patient rooms, clinician offices, an educational conference center, patient & family consultation rooms, group spaces and common areas to provide greater capacity at the Linder Center
- \$465,000 for a new multi-use trail to complete the M2M connection linking Butler County to the Little Miami Scenic Trail along the Kings Mills area
- \$454,000 for the modernization of the Harmon Museum and Armstrong Center
- \$300,000 to upgrade and bring into ADA compliance the Springboro North Park
- \$200,000 for the repaving of the South Lebanon-to-Morrow connector
- \$100,000 for the Lebanon Cincinnati Avenue Multi-Use trail



# PHOTOS FROM THE STATEHOUSE



**Introducing HB 499 alongside  
Rep. Isaacsohn.**

**At the location of one of the new  
baby boxes able to operate  
through language I helped pass in  
the state budget last year.**



**Honoring Cincinnati Bengals  
player Ted Karras with Rep. Seitz  
and Rep. Abrams.**

**Honoring the Sons of the  
American Revolution on the  
House floor.**





# PHOTOS FROM THE STATEHOUSE



**Introducing HB 344 alongside  
Rep. Hall.**

**Speaking at a town hall in Mason  
to detail the income tax phase-  
down proposal.**



**Press release to introduce the bill  
to finally eliminate Ohio's income  
tax.**

**Speaking on the House floor.**





# OFFICE RESOURCES

## *Resources My Office Can Provide*

Work with state agencies like the Department of Job and Family Services to resolve issues or concerns.

Connect constituents and businesses with state resources.

Assist with preparing testimony for bills in committee to facilitate participation in policy debates.

Provide recognition for awards, retirements, and school achievements.

Arrange tours of the Statehouse.

Answer any questions about state government, statewide issues, or bills under consideration.

*Throughout the remainder of the year, I will be out and about around the district meeting with constituents and local businesses. If you would like to set up a time to meet and chat, please do not hesitate to reach out at the contact information on the first page.*

*It is a blessing to serve you in the Ohio House. If I can ever assist in answering any questions or resolving any state issues, please let me know.*

*To stay up-to-date on the latest news from the Statehouse, please follow the link below:*



**Adam Mathews**  
*R-Lebanon*

