



Dear Neighbor,

Happy March! It's been a busy couple of months with lots of budget hearings in most of my committees, so this newsletter is a two-month update!

We recently passed the bipartisan Ohio Transportation Budget, House Bill 54. The budget's appropriation of \$11.5B is a significant investment into the future of Ohio jobs, helping to connect the workforce to the worksite and improving roads, bridges, and transit systems across Ohio.

I am proud to be advocating for you in my ongoing work on Ohio's main operating budget for the fiscal years 2026-27, House Bill 96. Ohio has the resources we need to improve the lives of our citizens and communities. My priority is ensuring that our budget makes it easier to receive a quality education, start and grow a family, age with dignity, and earn a living that can sustain a high quality of life.

Despite the distraction of culture wars like limiting individual freedoms, attacks on our LGBTQ+ neighbors, restricting higher education institutions, and banning DEI, I remain focused on putting the people first. I am committed to working to improve the lives of all Ohioans by fighting for affordable healthcare, increased wages, and lowered property taxes.

March is Women's History Month! We celebrate and honor the women who fought—and continue to fight—for equality. From Susan B. Anthony to Harriet Tubman, American history is full of inspiring women who fought to create a more equitable America. Today, we continue to fight for Women's rights by protecting reproductive freedoms and closing the gender wage gap.

Finally, House districts changed between the 135th and 136th General Assemblies. If you would like to confirm your current district, you may do so by visiting <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/district-map>.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio  
State Representative

### **District 4 Office Hours**

Please join me for my next District 4 Office Hours

#### **March Office Hour**

Thursday, March 27

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Gahanna Library, Meeting Room 2

310 Granville St, Gahanna, OH 43230

#### **April Office Hour**

Saturday, April 19

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Westerville Library, Pink Study Room

126 S State St, Westerville, OH 43081

Please contact my office if you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting, or if you would like to meet at a different time or location that is more convenient for you.

### **Senate Bill 1 Update**

On March 19, the House Passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1](#), the Higher Education Destruction Act. In my role of Ranking Member on the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, I have been actively working to halt this harmful bill.

It is unconscionable that such a sweeping overhaul of Higher Education has been written with NO input from the three constituent groups who matter the most on this topic - students, parents and educators. It's undemocratic that something this important to the future of our state will have NO input from millions of Ohioans. NO input from the areas of Ohio with major economic engines who stand to be immediately impacted by the negative consequences of this bill. It's disrespectful that the voices of thousands who have come to this People's House to testify in opposition to SB 1 have been discounted.

At a basic level, this legislation is not the answer to a concern. It is reckless in the sweeping impact it will have by attacking working people, muzzling free speech, trampling student rights, BIG government overreach and destroying our economy.

In trying to solve problems that do not exist, SB 1 creates new issues that will increase costs, stifle growth, and prevent Ohio's young adults from reaching their full potential.

Since SB 1 was amended in the Ohio House, it will go back to the Ohio Senate again before it is able to proceed to Governor DeWine for his consideration.

## Legislative Update

There are several budget bills that are making their way through the legislature, including the Main Operating Budget, the Workers' Compensation Budget, and the Transportation Budget. If you would like additional detail, you may continue reading and visit <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/budget> for detailed analysis. Please also feel welcome to contact my office with any questions and comments.

### Transportation Budget – House Bill 54

The Transportation Budget (House Bill 54) appropriates \$11.5B, investing into the future of Ohio jobs, connecting the workforce to the worksite, and the bill will improve roads, bridges, and transit systems across Ohio. **Some provisions included in House Bill (HB) 54:**

- Provides \$8B in statewide highway construction and maintenance projects over the Biennium
- Makes progress toward meeting the state's significant public transportation needs by appropriating nearly \$200M for public transit, including \$30M to continue the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program
- Authorizes the continued distribution of gas tax revenue to cities, counties, and townships across Ohio to support local road maintenance
- Appropriates \$18M for Transportation Improvement Districts to invest in local infrastructure across the state
- Protects construction workers on the highway by establishing the Road Safety Pilot Program to assess speed compliance in construction zones, but prohibits using traffic law photo devices for any purpose, including a citation, summons, or ticket
- Adopts the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact, which creates the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission and earmarks \$25K in each fiscal year to pay for the costs associated with joining the compact
- Continues funding commitments to the Brent Spence Bridge

## Recent Events



*Recognizing the New Albany Boys Soccer team for their 2024 State Championship*



*Welcoming Plain Township and Jefferson Township Fire Chiefs to the Ohio Statehouse*



*Ribbon Cutting at Three Creeks in Gahanna*



*Joshua Bell and the Violins of Hope*



*Ribbon Cutting at Brick House Blue at Innovate New Albany*



*Meeting with Ohio PTA Parents*



*Attending the naturalization ceremony for one of our House Staff*



*Iftar at the Statehouse hosted by Rep. Munira*



*Elected officials Shabbat at OSU Hillel*



*Shadow day with Cleveland State University Levin College*



*Town Hall with the Jewish Caucus*

## February 2025 Dates of Note

### **Black History Month**

Black History Month is a time to celebrate and recognize the rich contributions, achievements, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. It serves as a crucial reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the Black community, highlighting the impact on culture, science, politics, and every facet of society. It encourages dialogue and a collective reflection on the ongoing journey toward racial equality.

I am dedicated to fighting for equality and justice. It is my mission to ensure that Ohioans of all races, ethnicities, sexualities, gender expressions, religions, classes, and backgrounds are treated with respect and given the tools needed to succeed. I am committed to creating a state that can better provide for all of its residents. That is why I am advocating for criminal justice reform, access to healthcare, support for small businesses, and affordable housing. I am fighting to improve the cost of living so that Ohio is a welcoming, safe, and prosperous state for everyone.

### **American Heart Month**

As the leading cause of death in the United States, heart diseases impact millions of lives each year. This designated month is an opportunity to educate the public about risk factors, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection of heart-related issues.

### **World Hijab Day - February 1**

February 1st marks World Hijab Day, which serves as an opportunity to foster understanding, promote reflection, and celebrate the differentiated experiences of women who choose to wear the hijab.

### **East Palestine Train Derailment - February 3**

It has been two years since the catastrophic Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. I am continuously committed in pursuing lasting reforms that improve railway safety and instill public confidence in the state's commitment to preventing future railway catastrophes.

### **NAACP Day - February 12**

February 12 marks the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded exactly 100 years after Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the NAACP advocates for civil rights and justice for all. I will always fight for equality for all.

### **National Donor Day - February 14**

National Donor Day is on February 14 and focuses on the great significance that organ, eye, tissue, and blood donors have on others. You have the power to save a life today by donating.

### **Valentine's Day - February 14**

Happy Valentine's Day! This is a special day dedicated to recognizing our love for others. It is a time for people to express their feelings of love, friendship, and appreciation for one another.

### **Susan B. Anthony Day - February 15**

Susan B. Anthony Day recognizes the life and career of the pioneer on her birthday, February 15. Anthony was a champion of women's suffrage and left a lasting legacy on the United States. She is an instrumental figure in Americans' fight for equal rights. Anthony, and the women's suffrage movement, played an integral part in ensuring that the United States provides justice and liberty for all.

### **Presidents' Day - February 17**

This federal holiday recognizes both Abraham Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays. It also brings to light the importance of understanding this country's history and the democratic values we have fostered or need to improve. I am committed to creating an Ohio that works for all of us.

### **National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants - February 20**

February 20 is the National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants. I support our Muslim, Arab, and South Asian friends, many of whom have found a home in Ohio. We must make Ohio a welcoming state where immigrants can live in peace, security, and prosperity.

## **March 2025 Dates of Note**

### **Women's History Month**

During Women's History Month, let's honor the countless contributions, achievements, and resilience of women throughout history. From trailblazers who shattered glass ceilings to everyday heroes making a difference, we celebrate your strength, courage, and unwavering spirit. Here's to lifting each other up and continuing to write history together.

### **Ohio Agriculture Week- March 10-14**

The second full week of March was Ohio Agriculture Week. I appreciate and support Ohio's agricultural workers who keep our state fed and healthy. Ensuring our state can grow nutritious, affordable and sustainable food will allow us to remain competitive in the future.

### **Ohio's 222nd Anniversary- March 1**

March First marked Ohio's 222nd anniversary! Join my office in celebrating our great state by fighting for legislation to make Ohio a better place for everyone, no matter who you are. Here's to another 222 fantastic years.

### **International Women's Day- March 8**

Happy International Women's Day! Today, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women worldwide. Let's continue to empower, support, and uplift each other as we strive for equality and justice. Here's to breaking barriers and creating a more inclusive Ohio for all!

### **Daylight Savings Day-March 9**

Springing forward on Daylight Savings Day! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead and enjoy that extra hour of daylight!

### **Harriet Tubman Day- March 10**

March 10th is Harriet Tubman Day, a celebration of the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman. After Tubman escaped from slavery, she bravely returned to Maryland to lead enslaved people to freedom. Over the course of about 13 trips, she was able to free around 70 people from enslavement. She is an American hero whose bravery should be honored and remembered.

### **National Equal Pay Day- March 12**

March 12 is Equal Pay Day, a symbolic date representing how long a woman would have to work into 2025 to equal what a man was paid in 2024. All Ohioans should receive equal pay for equal work, which is why I am committed to creating a state that welcomes and supports everyone.

**Holi- March 14**

Happy Holi! Let the colors of joy, love, and unity fill our hearts and homes. Wishing you all a day filled with laughter, sweets, and unforgettable memories.

**St. Patrick's Day- March 17**

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Spring Equinox-March 20**

Hello, Spring! Today marks the Spring Equinox, where day and night share equal time before days grow longer. Here's to longer days, blooming flowers, and the promise of new beginnings!

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination- March 21**

Today, on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, let's reaffirm our commitment to justice, equality, and unity. I stand against racism in all its forms and strive to create a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, no matter who you are.

**Vietnam Veterans Day- March 29**

On March 29, we honor the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War. We must ensure that our Vietnam War veterans, and all veterans, are cared for and supported here in Ohio.

**Eid al-Fitr - March 30 (evening)**

Wishing you and your family a joyous Eid, filled with love, laughter, and blessings. Eid Mubarak!

**Trans Day of Visibility- March 31**

Today and every day, we celebrate the beauty, strength, and resilience of the transgender community. On Trans Day of Visibility, let's uplift trans voices, affirm identities, and work towards a world where everyone can live authentically and without fear.