

Legislative update from **Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio**

District 4
House Minority Whip



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays! December is full of celebrations and valued time spent with family and friends. As we gather to reflect on the year and look ahead to what's to come, I wish you a warm and safe season of joy.

I'm proud of the work we've done together here at the Statehouse this year. House Democrats continued to push back against anti-democratic legislation, restrictions on reproductive healthcare, and efforts to defund our public schools, while also advancing policies that lower your property taxes, protect the will of the voters, and strengthen our communities.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am committed to working for you and your family every day in the halls of the Statehouse and throughout our community. This was a busy year working for you and the people of House District 4. I'm proud of the work my staff and I did in 2025. Here are some of the numbers.

At least:
2101 emails replied to
111 Committee Hearings attended
11 Town Halls participated in/hosted
27 helped through casework
6 office hours
346 phone calls from constituents
26 letters back to constituents

I am proud to be your state representative. If there is anything my office can do, or if you have any questions, comments or concerns please reach out to us by email at Rep04@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at (614) 466-4847.

I hope you have a healthy, happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
House District 4

Are you or your business or organization celebrating a milestone event? Do you know of a remarkable achievement by a member of our community? Please contact my office to let us know so that we may acknowledge and celebrate with you.

District 4 Office Hours

Have a question, concern, or just want an opportunity to speak with your state representative? You are invited to join me for my next District 4 Office Hours:

Saturday, December 20

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

Java Central Café and Roaster Westerville

20 S. State St, Suite B, Westerville, OH 43081

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea

5780 N. Hamilton Road, Unit I, Columbus, OH, 43230

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.

SB 293 places New, Unnecessary Hurdles to Voting

Senate Bill 293, if signed into law by the Governor, will place new burdens on voters by adding unnecessary hurdles to the voting process and shortening the time available for Ohioans to make their voices heard.

The bill, which moved with lightning speed through the General Assembly and was heavily amended only the day before passage, would throw out absentee ballots because the mail is late. Current law allows for a grace period for mailed absentee ballots to arrive after election day. The bill eliminates this grace period and says all ballots must arrive by 7:30pm on election day. This creates additional, unnecessary barriers to people who simply want to legally exercise their right to vote and may not be able to physically make it to their polling location. In 2024, nearly 1 million Ohioans voted by absentee mail-in ballot or absentee drop box and thousands would have not counted under this law.

It also creates vague and problematic procedures that could cancel registrations when other agencies' databases reflect different information or records, whether or not those records are factually correct. Without clean procedures in place, Ohioans could easily be disenfranchised when one of the multiple databases that contain their information have inaccurate or out-of-date information.

You may check your voter registration by visiting <https://electionlink.franklincountyohio.gov/portals/ElectionLink/VoterSearch.aspx>

Update on Senate Bill 56

Senate Bill 56 rolls back several parts of the voter-approved adult-use cannabis law (Issue 2) and adds new criminal penalties. The bill makes possession legal only if the product comes from an Ohio dispensary or a legal home grow, anything else can still lead to charges ranging from a minor misdemeanor to a felony. It also expands non-smoking areas, adds new criminal penalties, and removes many of the protections Issue 2 guaranteed, such as safeguards against losing a professional license, housing, or access to public benefits for legal cannabis use.

Hemp beverages will be permitted, like beer and wine, only through the end of 2026 and all other intoxicating hemp will be folded into the marijuana regulatory system despite new caps on dispensaries. The THC drinks are a popular alcohol alternative in bars and restaurants and a major part of Ohio's craft brewing industry.

Though the bill does release host community funds for local governments previously held hostage by the state and improves the expungement process for minor misdemeanor marijuana offenses, many criminal justice organizations, cannabis advocates, and every Democrat in the final House vote raised concerns. Our argument is simple: instead of implementing the system voters approved, SB 56 creates new barriers, new crimes, and fewer protections-moving Ohio further away from the fair, regulated, and accessible cannabis market that Ohioans expected when they passed Issue 2.

The holiday season is a great time to make sure that you are up to date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find more about recommended immunizations and to find a provider near you.

Recent Events

Standing in solidarity with the Somali Community ~ Central Ohio Building Trades ~ Otterbein Holiday Party ~ Touring the new Gahanna Lincoln High School ~ Holiday Party hosted by Gov. DeWine



December 2025 Dates of Note

December 1 - Rosa Parks Day
December 1 – World Aids Day
December 5 - National AFL-CIO Day
December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 12 – International Universal Health Coverage Day
December 14 (nightfall) - December 22 - Hanukkah
December 21 – Winter Solstice
December 25 – Christmas
December 26 - January 1 – Kwanzaa
December 31 - New Year's Eve
Universal Human Rights Month



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<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/beryl-brown-piccolantonio>