



*A legislative update from*  
**State Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio**  
**House District 4**

(614) 466-4847 | [rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep04@ohiohouse.gov)

 [@BerylForOhio](https://www.facebook.com/BerylForOhio)  [@BerylBrownPic](https://twitter.com/BerylBrownPic)

Dear Neighbor,

Happy first full month of summer! This July, we celebrate Independence Day. This nation was founded upon the ideals of freedom, dignity, and opportunity, values that we should all embrace and celebrate. The Fourth of July serves as a reminder of why this country, and state, is such a special place. While we should all spend time with loved ones and celebrate with cookouts and pool parties, we should also remember the sacrifices and struggles in our continuing journey towards equality.

At the end of June, we passed House Bill 2, the state's biennial state capital budget. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects.

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for Black and brown Ohioans. There are often barriers and stigmas that accompany minority mental health, and we must work to dismantle these and make healthcare more accessible for all. Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.

If there is anything my office can do, please reach out to us by email at [rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep04@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-4847. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Beryl Brown Piccolantonio  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 4

*To unsubscribe please email [rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep04@ohiohouse.gov)*

## Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly District 4 Open Office Hours.

### Office Hours

Thursday, August 1

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2  
200 Market St, New Albany, OH 43054

Reserve your spot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4AACA82FA4FCC25-49556172-june>

Please note that I am no longer holding Office Hours on Tuesday, July 30.

Please contact my office if you would prefer to schedule a meeting at a time or location that is more convenient for you.

## Check your Voter Registration

Are you a recent graduate? Have you recently moved? Need to register to vote? Check or update your voter registration at [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov) to make your voice heard in the next upcoming election!

## Capital Budget

[House Bill \(HB\) 2](#), the state's biennial state capital budget, was passed and signed into law at the end of June. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects.

In addition to the \$3.51B in traditional capital funds and a \$1.98B appropriation for ongoing projects, HB 2 includes an additional \$700M in state funds that will be directly invested into transformative community projects designed to generate further development & economic opportunity across the state. These state funds were able to be set aside due to the influx of federal relief dollars that helped to supplement the state's balance sheet during the most recent state operating budget.

House District 4 will receive \$2.71 million in transformative funding for the following projects:

Adaptive Sports Connection: \$1.6M

LifeTown Kindness Center: \$1M

Westerville Area Resource Ministry: \$61K

Franklin County will receive \$83M from the One Time Strategic Fund, \$17M for traditional Capital Projects, and \$96M for Higher Education. Funded projects will invest in Health and Human Services, Education, the Arts, Recreation and more!

## Reproductive Rights Press Conference



In June, I joined colleagues to host a Reproductive Rights Press Conference to discuss ongoing attacks against Ohioans reproductive rights. We re-emphasized our ongoing efforts in protecting Ohioans fundamental freedoms.

Wherever you come from and whatever your background, as Americans, we know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care.

We are working to protect women's freedom to access the healthcare they need, including abortion, and have introduced several bills, including:

- [HB 343 \(Somani, Liston\)](#) - Enact the Reproductive Care Act
- [HB 502 \(Somani, Brown Piccolantonio\)](#) - Protect assisted reproduction care
- [HB 565 \(Somani, Grim\)](#) - Regard funding through the Ohio pregnancy and parenting program

## Recent Events



*New Albany Community Juneteenth Celebration*



*Westerville Pride*





*New Albany Wellbeing Pride*



*WeRISE for Greater Westerville Juneteenth Celebration*



*National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM Summer Program at Licking Heights West Elementary School*



*AMGEN Biotech Experience at Columbus State*



*Opening of Discovery Storage in Gahanna*



*Human Rights Campaign Equality Awards*

## **July 2024 Dates of Note**

### **National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for Black and brown Ohioans. There are often barriers and stigmas that accompany minority mental health, and we must work to dismantle these and make healthcare more accessible for all. Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.

### **Corn Month**

It's Corn Month! Ohio produces the 7th most corn in the United States. I appreciate our hardworking farmers who bring us this golden goodness year after year. Thank you for tending to our land, nurturing our crops, and ensuring our tables are full. Your dedication is invaluable to our communities. Let's celebrate this staple of Ohio agriculture and continue supporting our local farmers.

### **Parks and Recreation Month**

More than 200M people across the United States live within a 10-minute walk of at least one park or trail. During Park and Recreation Month, we celebrate the many ways park and recreation professionals across the country foster a sense of belonging in their community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connections.

### **National Postal Workers Day (July 1)**

From birthday cards to ballots, our postal workers play a vital role in our lives. There are over 500K postal workers in the United States who work diligently every day to deliver our mail. On July 1<sup>st</sup> we take a moment and appreciate our postal workers and their commitment to ensure that we receive quality, timely service.



### **Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act (July 2)**

On July 2, 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin in the United States. With support of activists, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the Civil Rights Act was a crucial step forward in America's continued journey towards equality and justice for all.

### **Independence Day (July 4)**

Happy Fourth of July! On Independence Day we celebrate our strengths and recommit ourselves to fighting for liberty, equality, and justice for all Americans. May we honor every sacrifice of those who fought for our independence, ensuring that we all have the freedom, dignity, and opportunity to thrive.

### **Islamic New Year (July 7)**

Wishing all who celebrate a happy New Year!

### **Malala Day (July 12)**

Malala Day honors Malala Yousafzai, an activist who fights for education for girls who are historically marginalized when it comes to schooling. Targeted for standing up for educational opportunities for women, Malala Day pays tribute to her work, while emphasizing the vital importance of receiving quality education around the world. I am committed to Malala's work and vision, advocating for quality, affordable public education.

### **Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention (July 19)**

On July 19, 1848, the first American women's rights convention took place in Seneca Falls, New York. An estimated 300 attendees took part in the effort to obtain equal rights and suffrage for women. Now, there are more than 5.9M women in Ohio who have the opportunity to vote on issues that they care about.

### **National Hire a Veteran Day (July 25)**

Today, more than 600K veterans live in Ohio. July 25 is "National Hire a Veteran Day," a day to remind and encourage businesses to hire veterans. Veterans bring leadership, work-ethic, teamwork, tenacity, dedication, and determination to succeed, benefitting both small and large businesses throughout the United States. I am committed to investing in our veterans by guaranteeing that we support and protect all Ohioans wages, taxes, and benefits with bills like [HB 53, the Hire Veterans Tax Credit](#). This legislation will put money in the pockets of working families, while providing opportunities to our heroes.

### **National Black Women's Equal Pay Day (July 27)**

On average, Black women earn 63.7 cents for every dollar earned by white men. The gender and racial pay gap have already been around far too long. True pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses both the gendered and racialized injustices that Black women encounter every day. [HB 115, the Ohio Equal Pay Act](#), would address crucial and long overdue steps to close the gender and racial wealth gap that currently hurts too many working families in Ohio.

### **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 30)**

Ohio ranks fifth for human trafficking incidents in the United States. I want to ensure Ohioans are equipped with the resources necessary to combat this frightening trend.

**National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 888-373-7888

**Text:** Info or Help to BEFREE (233733)