



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Fall! As we enter this new season, I hope you and your family stay safe, healthy, and warm.

Have you heard about Issue 1? My colleagues in the Democratic caucus and I introduced a resolution to express our support of Issue 1, the citizen-led ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio.

I encourage you to check your registration or register for the first time by visiting voteohio.gov. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 7th for the November 5th election. Make your voice heard and keep our democracy strong!

If you haven't yet, now is the perfect time to schedule a flu shot! Visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/> to find a vaccine provider near you. It's important to stay up to date on your shots to keep you, your family, and your community healthy.

I am proud to be your state representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns by email at rep04@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at (614) 466-4847.

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

To unsubscribe please email rep04@ohiohouse.gov

District 4 Office Hours

Please join me for my next District 4 Office Hours

October District 4 Office Hours

Thursday, October 17

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Gahanna Library, Study Room G

310 Granville Street, Gahanna, OH 43230

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

Information and Key Dates about the Upcoming Election

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights that we have. Make sure you register to vote for the upcoming November election, where we will vote to determine our future. Make your voice heard! The last day to register for the November general election is October 7th.

Here are some additional dates that might be helpful:

- **October 7:** Voter registration deadline
- **October 8:** Early in-person & absentee voting begins
- **October 29:** Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.
- **November 5:** Election Day (Polls open 6:30 am-7:30 pm)

Need to register or check your status? Register at: voteohio.gov.

Legislative Update – Prioritizing You

All of us who serve as lawmakers are elected by Ohioans who rightfully expect and want us to work together to represent their interests in government so that we can make their lives and communities better. When we put partisan politics aside and work toward common ground, no matter our background or beliefs, people win.

Instead, on issues that matter most, some Ohio politicians have shown a disturbing trend of putting politics and their political party above people. One of the fundamental freedoms that make this Country special is our ability to have fair elections, free from any interference. Rather than fairly and accurately conduct the business of designing and approving ballot language that properly identifies the substance of the proposals to be voted upon, they did their best to rig the system with false and misleading language hoping to trick voters at the ballot box.

Regardless of the outcomes, it's clear the current system and makeup of the Ohio Ballot Board is broken and fails to meet the high-standards Ohio's voters deserve during crucial elections. That's why Representative Upchurch and I introduced **House Bill 667** legislation that will reform and overhaul the composition and rules of the Ballot Board. The proposals in this bill require increased bipartisan cooperation and limit the control that politicians and lobbyists have over the process, giving more power to the citizens.

The Bill would do a few key things:

1. It would limit who can serve on the Ballot Board by prohibiting appointments of lobbyists and politicians in the four seats appointed by the legislature.
2. It would require two members of the Ballot Board to be appointed by the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, acting jointly, and require two members of the Ballot Board to be appointed by the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly. Under continuing law, no more than two appointed members may be members of the same political party.

3. It would restructure the Ballot Board to have co-chairs of opposite parties who shall jointly call meetings and set agendas. And,
4. It would require the Ballot Board, rather than the Secretary of State to prescribe the ballot issue titles.

You may find additional information here: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb667>

Property Tax Update



As we prepare for the end of the 135th General Assembly, one of my top priorities continues to be addressing skyrocketing property taxes statewide, and especially here in central Ohio.

On September 25 I hosted a press conference with House Minority Leader Allison Russo, Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano, Rep. Latyna Humphrey, Sen. Hearcel Craig and Grove City Councilman Mark Sigrist to encourage the legislature to take action on the legislation already introduced.

We are working across the aisle to address solutions that matter, making sure that our older residents can live independently in the homes they love, a young couple can afford to own a new home, and Ohio's strong communities remain intact.

Our communities are benefitting from incredible economic growth, but with that economic growth comes an increased population of students for our schools and increased need for other services that are funded by property taxes. For far too long, the state has chosen not to pay its fair share into Ohio's public schools. When the state chooses to pay less, it forces our communities to pay more – or it forces our teachers to do more with less. That's why Ohio communities have needed to vote on school levies more often than any other state over the last 20 years.

There are multiple pieces of legislation, mostly bipartisan, which would provide assistance, reduce consumer costs, and gives support to those impacted by the new valuations and higher property taxes:

- **HB 60 (Troy)** - Expands the homestead exemption to cover an additional 75,000 seniors and raises its value to \$40,000, providing nearly \$250M in targeted relief.
- **HB 263 (Isaacsohn/Hall)** - Freezes more than \$400M in property taxes for more than 700,000 seniors making \$50K or less.
- **HB 274 (Dell'Aquila/Matthews)** - For individuals who qualify and have owned their homes for more than 20 years, this bill increases the exemption from \$26,200 to \$50,000.
- **HB 645 (Isaacsohn/Hall)** - Legislation that provides a \$1K property tax rebate to help more Ohioans afford their tax bills, targeting \$1B in tax relief to over 1.3M middle-class homeowners and renters after their tax payments exceed 5% of their income.

House Resolution Supporting Issue 1

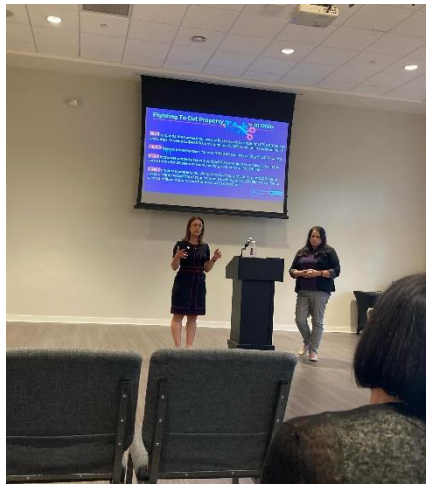
My colleagues and I have introduced a House resolution to express our support of a “YES” vote on the Issue 1, the citizen-led ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio.

This resolution is necessary due to the constant stream of lies and misinformation surrounding the true nature of Issue 1.

The resolution urges the people of the state of Ohio to support Issue 1, which would eliminate partisan gerrymandering by placing the redistricting process in the hands of Ohio citizens rather than politicians and paid lobbyists. It further notes that supporting Issue 1 would also establish the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission (OCRC), ensuring a fair and transparent process that reflects the diverse voices and communities of our state.

Ohioans can learn more about the amendment and its implications [here](#).

Recent Events



Thank you to everyone who attended the Town Hall that I hosted with Rep. Liston



50th Anniversary of Mark Twain Elementary School in Westerville



Grand Reopening of Griffins Floral in New Albany



Greeting OSU Students before a tour of the Statehouse

October 2024 Dates of Note

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Every day, more than 700 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with breast cancer. I will continue to support legislation that deserves the opportunity to receive the life-saving healthcare they need. Learn more about how you can prevent and detect breast cancer by visiting odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I will always support legislation that protects survivors and victims and holds abusers accountable. If you or someone you know needs help, visit odvn.org/find-help and share the hotline number 800.799.SAFE (7233)

Ohio Manufacturing Month

This October, Ohio is recognizing Manufacturing Month, a time to celebrate the incredible innovation, hard work, and dedication of Ohio's manufacturers, who are driving our economy forward. Thank you for all that you do!

National Work and Family Month

All Ohio families should have the opportunity to thrive. I'm working to continue to deliver real solutions for working families, not extreme legislation meant to divide us. The People First Agenda would reduce costs, keep communities safe, and invest in our children and future.

Mental Illness Awareness Week – Oct 6 - Oct 12

Millions of Americans' lives are impacted daily by mental health conditions. In 1990, Congress established the first full week of October as Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) to raise mental illness awareness throughout the US. Since then, mental health advocates across the country have joined in the effort to educate the public about mental illness. House Democrats will always support legislation that increases access to treatment, ensuring all Ohioans have the resources to thrive.

Rosh Hashanah– Begins October 2 (sunset)

Happy Rosh Hashanah to those who celebrate! I wish you a joyous and fulfilling new year!

World Teacher Day – October 5

We all know that preparing for the future starts in our classrooms. Our teachers work hard every day to ensure a bright future for Ohio and its children. Our teachers do amazing work everyday preparing our state for future success.

Voter registration deadline - October 7

Ahead of the October 7th deadline, make sure you're registered to vote in the November 5th election. Make your voice heard, visit voteohio.gov to get started!

Early in-person & absentee voting begins - October 8

Early in-person and mail voting begins for the November 5th election on October 8th. Voting is one of the most fundamental rights that we have. Have a plan to vote and make your voice heard!

Visit <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/> to view your county's early-voting information.

World Mental Health Day - October 10

October 10 is World Mental Health Day. Millions of people in the United States struggle with their mental health. As we work to build a stronger Ohio, it is necessary to recognize the important role that mental health plays in doing so. For more resources, visit mha.ohio.gov.

International Day of the Girl - October 11

Every year on October 11, the global community comes together to celebrate International Day of the Girl. Today recognizes the commitment towards creating opportunities for girls to have their voices heard on the global stage. House Democrats honor this commitment and will continue to support our youth, driving progress in our communities, building a strong Ohio for all.

National Coming Out Day - October 11

Happy National Coming Out Day! Today we celebrate sharing our authentic selves, breaking down the barriers that LGBTQ+ people face everyday. I will always stand with the LGTBQ+ community, championing legislation that protects their rights and recognizes them as vital members of our communities.

Yom Kippur – Begins October 11 (sunset)

Yom Kippur is a day observed in the Jewish community as a time for personal reflection and renewal. Wishing all who observe a meaningful day!

National Farmers Day- October 12

This October 12th, we celebrate and pay tribute to all farmers throughout American history. I am grateful for the hard work, dedication, and care that farmers put into feeding our communities and sustaining the land. Thank you for everything you do!

Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 14

Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day! I am proud to celebrate and honor the contributions, cultures, and communities of all Native American Ohioans. I will continue to ensure that everyone is welcomed and supported here in Ohio.

World Hunger Day - October 16

October 16 is World Hunger Day, an opportunity to reflect on the hunger crisis facing Ohio and the rest of the world. Democrats continue to fight for a state where all Ohioans have the access to safe and affordable food to nourish their families.

National Transgender Children Day – October 26

Today is National Transgender Children Day. All children deserve to live safely and securely in Ohio, but Republicans continue to attack our transgender youth with extremist bills. I will always fight back against discrimination and hate, loudly and proudly supporting our youth.

National First Responders Day – October 28

I am proud to recognize Ohio's hardworking first responders who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe every single day. EMTs, police officers, firefighters, and others, have always been there in our times of need and we are thankful for their service.

Absentee Ballot Applications Due – October 31

Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.

Halloween – October 31

Happy Halloween!

Diwali– October 31

I wish you a fun and festive Diwali!