



Dear Neighbor,

Happy April! This month, I voted no on the House's version of the state operating budget (HB 96, *page 3*), held my first town hall in-district (*page 2*), introduced four more pieces of legislation (*page 3*), had one of my bills pass out of committee for the first time (*page 3*), and so much more. I am, and always will be, hard at work for you!

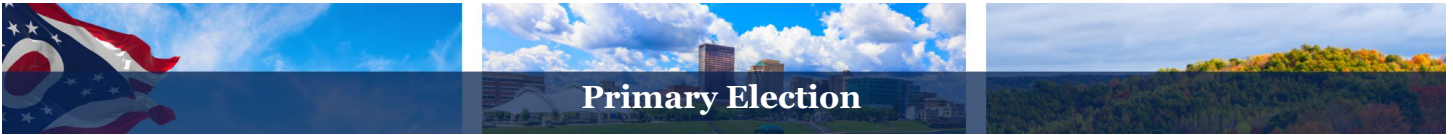
Too, April is National Minority Health Month, a time to focus on the health disparities in minority communities across the state and country. Improving healthcare in minority communities is one of the most important issues facing our state. To this effect, I am actively working on legislation and policy that will prioritize maternal health, combat infant mortality, and aid postpartum mothers. More on these initiatives will come in future newsletters.

Always remember, I work for you and am here to be a resource to you in whatever are your needs. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe**  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 5





Reminder to make a plan to vote in the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, May 6!

There are several issues on the ballot this Spring, including:

### Statewide:

- Issue 2, which would permit up to \$250M per year over the next decade to support the Ohio Public Works Commission Capital Improvement Program.

The Ohio Public Works Commission has funded infrastructure projects in communities throughout Ohio for nearly 40 years. It provides grants and loans for better roads, bridges, wastewater treatment, water supply, and stormwater infrastructure. The program does NOT increase taxes and is reliant on bonds which are paid off with existing state revenue.



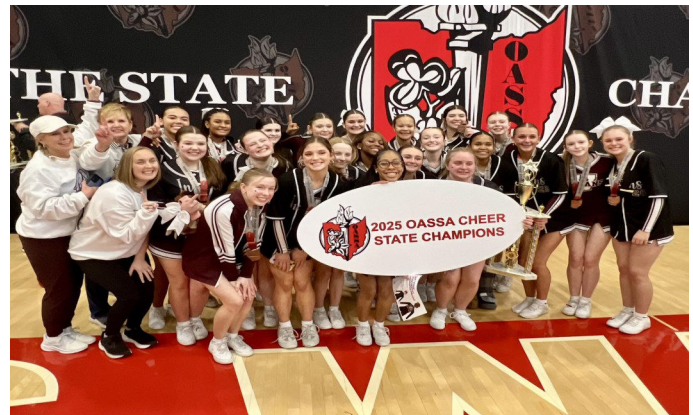
### Local

- Three candidates will be vying for the Columbus City Council District 7 seat previously held by current Franklin County Prosecutor Shayla Favor. The top two will advance to the general election.
- Ten candidates are vying for three seats on the Columbus City School Board of Education. The top six candidates chosen this May will advance to the November election.
- (Issue 12): The Village of Lockbourne will, again, have a proposal on the ballot to increase its income tax to 2.5%, with an 1.5% allowance credit for income paid to an employer jurisdiction.
- (Issue 18): Hamilton Township will have a five-year renewal police levy on the ballot for both incorporated and unincorporated residents. It is important to note that renewal levies maintain the same millage as the most-previous passed levy, therefore, this proposal, if passed, will not increase property taxes.
- (Issue 24): Groveport Madison Local School District will have a bond issue on the ballot to authorize \$77.2M in bonds to construct, improve, furnish, and equip three new middle schools and an addition to Groveport Madison High School.

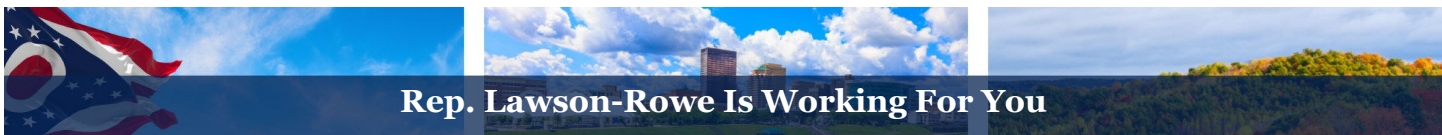
Early voting is **now** until Sunday, May 4, at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Monday, May 5 to be counted. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. on May 6 and close at 7:30 p.m. Remember that you can still vote if you are **in line** at 7:30 p.m. on Election Day!

### Local Shoutouts

House District 5 is the district of champions! I am pleased to recognize both the Reynoldsburg Raiders Boys Basketball Team (left), and the Canal Winchester High School Competitive Cheer Team (right) on their recent respective achievement as regional and state champions.







## Rep. Lawson-Rowe Is Working For You

I am proud to announce that I have introduced the following legislation this General Assembly:

- HB 104, with Rep. Kellie Deeter (R-Norwalk), to designate February 14 of each year as “Cardiovascular Awareness Day”.
- HB 135, with Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland), to prohibit income-based rental discrimination.
- HB 166, with Rep. Josh Williams (R-Sylvania Twp.), to designate March 10 each year as “Harriet Tubman Day”, which was voted out of the House Government Oversight Committee and now awaits a vote on the House floor.
- HB 181, with Rep. Jamie Callender (R-Concord), to establish an indigent defense fund in Ohio to aid in the defense of persons facing evictions who cannot afford a lawyer.
- HB 235, with Rep. Darnell Brewer (D-Cleveland), to authorize a nonrefundable income tax credit for the cost of a firearms training or recertification course, or for the cost of a secure storage or lock box for a firearm, not to exceed \$250.00.
- HB 240, with Rep. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati), to enact “Avery’s Law” which would revise the current dog laws in our state to offer more accountability to owners of dogs who attack, more mechanisms for certain authorities to enforce dog laws and to create serious criminal penalties to owners whose dogs attack humans and companion animals.
- HB 241, with Rep. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati), to authorize the quarantine of dogs who attack while an investigation is held, and would allow that investigation authority to determine the culpability of a dog and its owner in an attack.
- HB —, with Rep. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati), to authorize a nonrefundable income tax credit for the cost of spaying or neutering a dog, or for a completed dog training or obedience course, not to exceed \$350.00.



As mentioned, future legislation is forthcoming regarding property taxes and maternal health and infant mortality.

### Legislative Update

On April 9, I voted “no”, along with 38 of my fellow colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, on House Bill 96, the state operating budget for fiscal years 2026-2027. I deliberated long and hard before casting my dissenting vote. My decision ultimately came from the reality that this budget arbitrarily and recklessly slashes critical state funding areas while failing to benefit everyday Ohioans.

Ohio’s operating budget is reflective of our priorities as a state. The House’s version of this budget makes it evident that everyday Ohioans are not the priority. Among a litany of issues, this budget asks public schools to do more with less by deviating even further from the fair school funding formula, forgoes and forsakes accountability in campaigns and elections by abolishing the Ohio Elections Commission, risks the healthcare of nearly one million Ohioans by peeling back the layers of the successful expansion of Medicaid, and so much more. The budget is unfair, unsustainable, and, yet completely avoidable.

I pledge to continue fighting so that we can send a real, people’s first budget, to the Governor’s desk.



**SAVE A TREE!**

**SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE MY NEWSLETTER VIRTUALLY AT:**  
<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/meredith-r-lawson-rowe>

## Resources

As your state representative, I want to be a resource to you in whatever your needs might be. Should you ever need anything from:

### My Office

Call me  
(614) 644-6002

Email me  
rep05@ohiohouse.gov

Instagram  
@replawsonrowe

Twitter  
@mlawsonrowe

Facebook  
State Rep. Meredith  
Lawson-Rowe

Mailing Address  
77 S. High St., 10th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215



### State of Ohio Agencies

Workers' Compensation (800) 644-6292	Medicaid (800) 324-8680	Unemployment (614) 466-6282
Environmental Protection Agency (614) 644-3020	Taxation 1 (800) 282-1780	Transportation (614) 466-7170
Rehabilitation and Correction (614) 387-0588	Commerce (614) 466-3636	Veterans Services (614) 644-0898
	Education/Workforce (877) 644-6338	Civil Rights (888) 278-7101

### Franklin County Agencies:

Legal Aid (614) 221-7201	Jobs and Family Services 1 (844) 640-6446
Aging (614) 525-5230	Developmental Disabilities (614) 475-6440
Animal Care & Control (614) 525-3400	Mental Health and Addiction (614) 224-1057
Board of Elections (614) 525-3100	