

A legislative update from
STATE REP. MEREDITH R. LAWSON-ROWE
HOUSE DISTRICT 5

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From the desk of Rep. Lawson-Rowe

Dear Neighbor,

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for the privilege of serving as the representative for House District 5. It is a responsibility I hold with great pride, and I am thankful for every opportunity to advocate for, connect with, and help grow our community. This Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for the bonds we share and the progress we've made together.

Please take time to be with your loved ones and reflect on what you are thankful for this holiday season.

That said, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the challenges many of our neighbors are facing, particularly in light of the federal shutdown and its impact on SNAP benefits. In this newsletter, you will find several resources that may be of help to you during this time. I also encourage those who are able to consider donating to local food shelters or volunteering during the upcoming holidays.

As always, my office is here to assist you, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns or need help navigating these tough times.

Wishing you and your family a warm and fulfilling Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

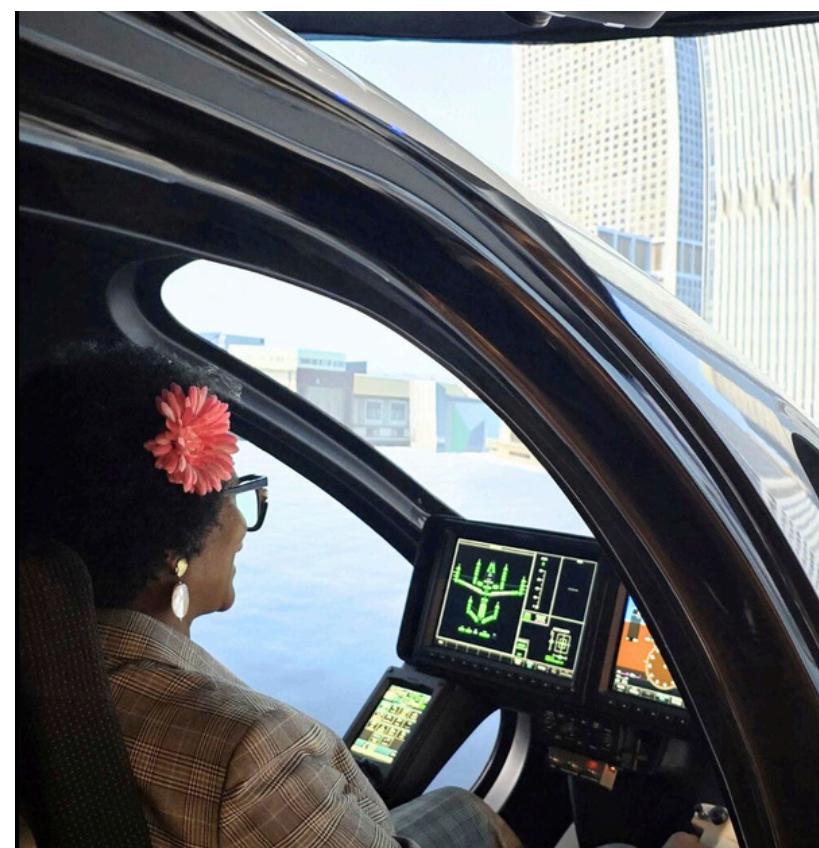


Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe
State Representative
Ohio House District 5





Last month, Rep. Lawson-Rowe completed a 5k at Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce's Wellness Fest! The Representative had a great time speaking with families and fellow runners at the event and had the opportunity to meet some of you all. After the event, she also had the chance to speak with teens about how youth leadership and civic engagement shapes our communities.



Rep. Lawson-Rowe took a field trip to the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport with the Veterans & Military Development Committee. While visiting, she learned more about drone technology, flew an electric plane simulator by Lady Liberty, and learned how a robotic dog can assist first responders. This experience was very close to where she grew up and went to high school!



In mid-October, Rep. Lawson-Rowe attended the city of Groveport's 52nd Annual Apple Butter Day. This community event celebrates Groveport's heritage, and includes homemade Apple Butter, handmade crafts, food vendors, and pony rides. The Representative enjoyed listening to the Community Choir and had a great time interacting with the residents of Groveport.

On the ROWE-d in District 5



Recently, Spectrum News featured Rep. Lawson-Rowe, who was asked to speak about her work as the Ranking Member on the Veterans & Military Development Committee. During this sit-down conversation, the Representative shared details on her work in the committee. Rep. Lawson-Rowe also shared how it is important to her to share military members' experiences that are outside of her direct community, she wants to honor all members.



This November, Rep. Lawson-Rowe spoke at Sunrise Social for the Canal Winchester Chamber about her support of the life blood of communities, small businesses. Rep. Lawson-Rowe has continuously expressed her support for local businesses and was honored to speak with business owners and leaders. She also shared that she is a resource for the entire community. The Representative was grateful for the opportunity, and for being presented with a Challenge Coin at the event.



This year, Rep. Lawson-Rowe had the chance to serve as Principal for a Day with Reynoldsburg City Schools. The Representative was one of the first faces to greet students in the morning and to visit them in the classroom. The highlight of Rep. Lawson-Rowe's day was visiting a humanities class, where they were preparing carnival-style games for Constitution Day. The Representative had a great time playing the games they designed and being reminded of the constitutional amendments.

Thank you to our Veterans

Rep. Lawson-Rowe was deeply honored to speak in support of Ohio's HCR 20, which commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy. It was a special moment for her to reflect on the remarkable history and enduring strength of our Navy.

Rep. Lawson-Rowe has always admired the resilience and courage of our veterans, and this occasion was especially meaningful as she had the privilege of lifting up the voices of those who have served—including her own father, nephew, and niece. She believes it is crucial to celebrate personal stories, not only to honor those who have served but also to foster a deeper connection with military members, both within her family and across the community.



Congratulations to the Newly Elected

Congratulations to all of those who won in the recent local elections.

Representative Lawson-Rowe extends her excitement to the newly elected city council, trustee, and board of education members; as well as all other officials who ran.

The Representative thanks you for serving the members of your community and congratulates you all. She cannot wait to build community with you.



Avery's Law

Rep. Lawson-Rowe was deeply proud to champion Avery's Law, named in honor of 12-year-old Avery Russell, who was severely injured in a vicious dog attack. Avery's story shined a light on the urgent need for stronger safeguards. House Bill 247, Avery's Law, creates tougher penalties and greater accountability for owners of dangerous dogs—and it is now on its way to the Governor's desk.

For Rep. Lawson-Rowe, Avery's Law represents the bravery of a young girl and the determination of her family to prevent similar tragedies. She is grateful for their courage in sharing Avery's story and remains committed to building a safer, more responsible Ohio for every child.



SNAP Update and Resources

Representative Lawson-Rowe acknowledges the horrifying reality of SNAP regulatory changes, and how it affects her constituents. Recently, Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order requiring the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to give \$7 million toward the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, which will go to Ohio's food banks.

This, combined with \$18 million in funds to Ohioans who are at or below half of the federal level and qualify for Ohio Works cash assistance, will provide some relief. However, this allocation of emergency funds does not support all groups of Ohioans in need.

Rep. Lawson-Rowe, along with her colleagues, has signed a letter to the Governor stating the need for further acknowledgement of this issue. The Representative urges the state to utilize its power to aid Ohio families. If you, or your family are in need, please refer to the resources that highlight food pantries in your area.

Mid Ohio at HEART

(614) 604-8878

Canal Winchester
Community Food Pantry
(614) 834-4700

Greater Groveport Food
Pantry

(614) 836-7652

Neighborhood
Services Inc
(614) 297-0592

Reynoldsburg Helping
Hands

(614) 868-9394

The Community Food
Pantry
(614) 834-4700

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State of Ohio Agencies

Workers' Compensation
(800) 644-6292

Medicaid
(800) 324-8680

Unemployment
(614) 466-6282

Taxation
(800) 282-1780

Transportation
(614) 466-7170

Commerce
(614) 466-3636

Veterans Services
(614) 644-0898

**Rehabilitation and
Correction**
(614) 387-0588

**Education/Workforce
Development**
(877) 644-6338

Civil Rights
(888) 278-7101

Franklin County Agencies:

Legal Aid
(614) 221-7201

Jobs and Family Services
(844) 640-6446

Aging
(614) 525-5230

Developmental Disabilities
(614) 475-6440

Animal Care & Control
(614) 525-3400

Board of Elections
(614) 525-3100

**Mental Health and
Addiction**
(614) 224-1057