



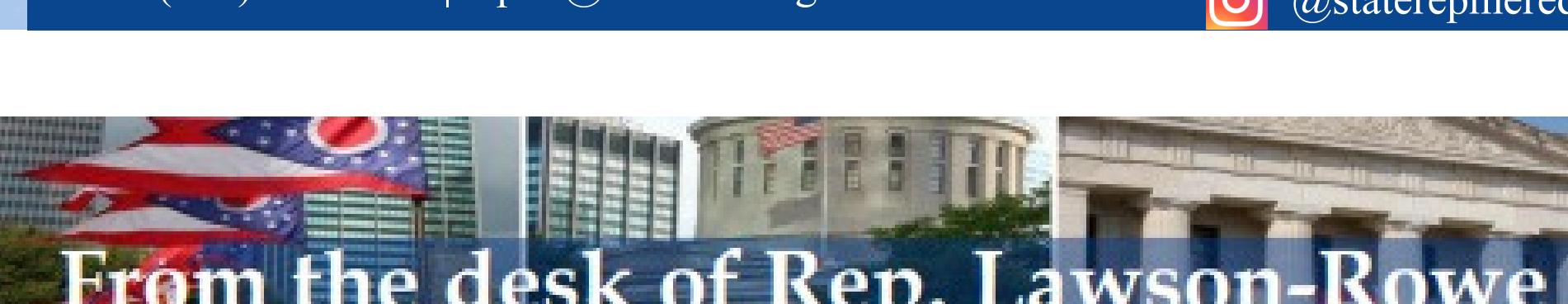
A legislative update from

STATE REP. MEREDITH R. LAWSON-ROWE
HOUSE DISTRICT 5

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From the desk of Rep. Lawson-Rowe

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays to you and your family! As we near the close of the year, I find myself reflecting on the past 12 months as your Representative. It has been a true privilege to serve you, our community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working on your behalf.

This month, we have much to celebrate, but there are also important updates I would like to share. Several key bills are moving through the legislature that could have a significant impact on our families, our election process and individual rights. Rest assured, I will continue to advocate for policies that support our families, strengthen our democracy and protect the rights of all Ohioans.

Throughout the year, I have had the honor of meeting many of you at community events, schools, neighborhood meetings and through visits to the Statehouse. Your voices directly guide my work to ensure that our district's concerns are represented in Columbus. I look forward to continuing this engagement in the new year.

As always, if you have any questions or there is anything you would like to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Wishing you and your loved one's peace, joy and good health this holiday season.

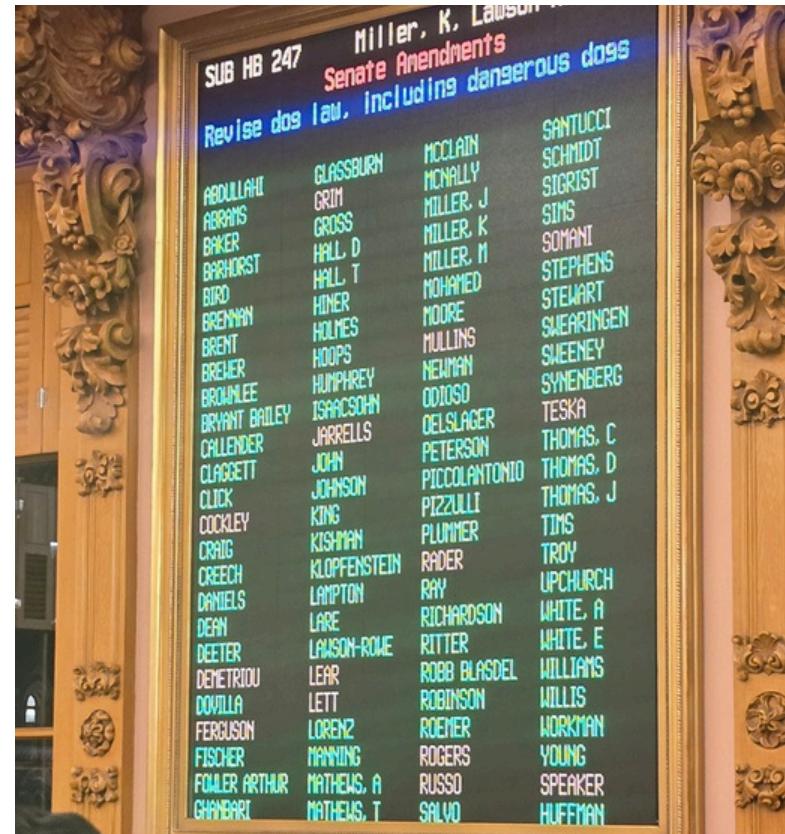
Sincerely,



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



Staying in the Rowe



Rep. Lawson-Rowe was selected to receive the Brigid Kelly Founders' Award at the "Smash the Glass" ceremony. This award recognizes her dedication to public service, her work to expand opportunities for all Ohioans. Congratulations to Rep. Lawson-Rowe on this well-deserved honor!

We are thrilled to announce that HB 247, Avery's Law has passed both the House and Senate unanimously, is set to be signed into law on December 19th! Be sure to check out our November issue for more details on this important legislation.

Rep. Lawson-Rowe recently appeared on the 12 O'Clock Show with Mayor Joe Begeny of Reynoldsburg. During the interview, she discussed the impacts of SB 1, fair school funding, other key issues affecting our community!

In response to recent comments by President Trump, Rep. Lawson-Rowe joined the Columbus City Council, Mayor to stand with the Somali community in Columbus. She emphasized that their contributions are vital to the city, reaffirmed that their safety and dignity remain a top priority.

House Bill 293 - Attacks on Absentee Voting and Voter Registration



Without sufficient public input, Republicans passed SB 293, which eliminates the grace period for absentee ballots arriving after Election Day. Ballots must now arrive by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, even if postmarked by that date. In 2024, nearly 1 million Ohioans voted by absentee ballot, thousands of votes could be invalidated under these new restrictions.

Additionally, SB 293 introduces vague procedures that could cancel voter registrations due to minor errors in government databases not maintained by the Secretary of State. The bill passed the House on a party-line vote, is now headed to the governor for signature.

SB 56: Undercutting the Will of Ohio Voters

In a deal with Senate Republicans, the House Republicans passed SB 56, overriding the 57% of Ohioans who voted to protect adult-use cannabis in 2023. The bill, passed on November 20th, adds criminal provisions, removes anti-discrimination protections, limits expungement efforts.

It also blocks craft brewers from making THC beverages with Ohio-grown marijuana, restricts cannabinoid product sales, even if federal law changes. SB 56 finally releases community host funds withheld from local communities for two years.



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State of Ohio Agencies

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

Warming Centers During Cold Weather

Columbus Metropolitan Library - Reynoldsburg Branch
Address: 1402 Brice Rd., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-645-2275
Days: Monday - Sunday

Columbus Metropolitan Library - Marion-Franklin Branch
Address: 2800 Lockbourne Rd., Columbus, OH 43207
Phone: 614-645-2275
Days: Monday - Sunday

Columbus Metropolitan Library - Canal Winchester Branch
Address: 115 Franklin St., Canal Winchester, OH 43110
Phone: 614-645-2275
Days: Monday - Sunday

Church and Community Unity Development for All People
Address: 946 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43206
Phone: 614-445-7342
Days: Monday - Sunday
7 am - 7 pm