

Year in Review: Representative Crystal Lett

January 2025



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we close out the year, I've been reflecting on what this first year in office has meant to me. Serving you has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me.

This year has taught me that this work is not about titles, it's about people. I've learned so much by listening to your stories, standing with you in moments of joy and hardship, and working alongside you to face real challenges. I've seen neighbors care for neighbors in powerful, quiet ways, and it has reminded me that our community's greatest strength is how we show up for one another.

We have faced obstacles this year, but I truly believe that every challenge only fuels our resolve to be stronger together. We don't back down when things get hard—we rise together. As we head into the new year, I carry your voices with me into every decision I make. I remain committed to fighting for opportunity, dignity, affordability, and fairness for every family in our community, and I promise to continue serving with heart, energy, and determination.

Thank you for believing in me. Wishing you and your loved ones peace, good health, and joy in the year ahead.

In Service,

Crystal Lett
State Representative, Ohio House District 11

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH REP. LETT

- **January 12 Legislative Update Presented to City Council, 6pm - 7pm @ Hilliard City Council**
 - 3800 Municipal Way Hilliard, OH 43026
- **February 21 Coffee with the Representative, 10am - 12pm @ Sweetwater Cafe in Dublin Library**
 - 75 N. High St. Dublin, OH 43017
- **March event/location TBD**

Come join me at any of these events for a chance to connect, discuss the issues that matter most to you, and work together for a stronger community!



A YEAR IN REVIEW

- Introduced 8 bills
- Connected with thousands of constituents
- Advocated for health and human services as Ranking Member of Children and Human Services Committee
- Contributed as a member of the Small Business Committee and Medicaid Committee
- State Operating Budget (HB 96)





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

While we continue to work on initiatives that will improve lives of Ohioans, I have already introduced the following pieces of legislation:

- **HB 136** - Prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination
 - Enacts the “Ohio Fairness Act,” which specifies that any provision found in the Ohio Revised Code respecting discrimination on the basis of “sex” includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender expression.
- **HB 140** - Authorize the refundable thriving families tax credit
 - Credits taxpayers with qualifying children \$1000 (less than six years of age) and \$500 for each other qualifying children, the amount credited is reduced by 1/20th of that amount for each one thousand dollars of a taxpayer’s annual household income in excess of sixty-five thousand dollars.
- **HB 300** - Prohibit conversion therapy for minors by certain professionals
 - This bill prohibits any licensed health professional from engaging in conversion therapy when providing mental health treatment to minors
- **HB 373** - Enact the Universal Background Checks Act
 - This legislation requires a firearm transfer to be made through a dealer, through a law enforcement agency, or pursuant to a specified exception, and to require a background check when a firearm is transferred
- **HB 521** - Enact the Ohio Nurse Workforce and Safe Patient Act
 - Requires hospitals to meet minimum staffing requirements when assigning registered nurses in hospital units, including by meeting specified RN-to-patient ratios.
 - Establishes the Nursing Student Loan-to-Grant Program, under which nursing students may be awarded amounts that do not have to be repaid if a five-year service obligation is completed
- **HB 552** - Regards Medicaid reimbursement for hospice providers
 - HB 552 requires the Medicaid Director to adopt rules for hospice providers that specify that Medicaid hospice providers will be reimbursed for room and board for a hospice patient who is the resident of a nursing or intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- **HB 581** - Regards specified Medicaid disability, Ohio Workability Programs
 - Also known as Connie’s Law, this legislation would exempt \$20,000 of an individual’s earned, unearned, or a combination of both, income for the purpose of determining income eligibility for the Medicaid buy-in for workers with disabilities program (as opposed to current law, which only allows for \$20,000 of *earned* income to be disregarded)
- **HB 585** - Regards DoDD authority re: community capital assistance funds
 - This bill would allow the Department of Developmental Disabilities to make available community capital assistance funds to county boards of developmental disabilities. The funds are to assist county boards to acquire housing for individuals receiving supported living services, such as single-family homes, duplexes, quadplexes, condominiums, newly constructed housing, multi-structure dwellings, accessory dwelling units, etc.



WINS OF THE 136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Although we still have a lot of work to do, it is also to celebrate the wins! Here are some things the General Assembly has accomplished one year in:

- Ensured feminine hygiene products for incarcerated Ohioans
- Established the 'Joshua Alert' System, which is Amber Alert for children with disabilities
- Mandated in-car driving instruction for all Ohioans under the age of 21
- Abolished police quotas in Ohio
- Passed a law requiring public and nonpublic schools to carry a supply of an overdose reversal drug for emergencies
- Refined the age requirement for kindergarten start date to require admittance of any child who is five years old by the first day of instruction
- Modified the process for property tax sales-assessment ratio studies, which would give county auditors more control over property valuations
- Passed "Avery's Law" to prevent dog attacks
- Enacted "Keith's Law" which expands the communication disability database maintained by the Department of Public Safety to include more disabilities, and makes the database available to emergency medical service personnel, firefighters, and law enforcement officers through each countywide 9-1-1 system



HB 96: CHILDREN & HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Lett dove headfirst into the 136th General Assembly after being appointed to Ranking Member for the House Children & Human Services Committee (CHS) during the state operating budget. The Ohio House of Representatives delegates budget responsibilities to committees corresponding to subject matter--i.e. the Office of Jobs and Family Services' budget for FY 26-27 went through the House Children & Human Services. While health and human services experienced significant loss in federal funding, the Ohio operating budget was a different story. The bipartisan efforts of CHS committee mitigated harm from seven HHS-related agencies. Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, and Representative Lett were even honored with Prevention Action Alliance's "Stick Your Neck Out for Prevention" Award for their work on the budget! Some highlights of their work include increased funding for county public children services agencies, allowing continuous Medicaid enrollment for children 0-3, and funding for the new Child Care Cred Program.





OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES

No one ever said it was going to be easy! This legislative body has delivered some big wins for Ohioans, but there is always room for improvement. One of the first things that comes to mind is property tax relief. Ohioans in every part of the state are feeling it: property taxes just keep going up. Property tax relief is a bipartisan issue, since there are people impacted in every House District.

There is mutual urgency to pass legislation that will aid the cost of living crisis. However, *how* to produce meaningful property tax relief is where Democrats and Republicans disagree. House Democrats have repeatedly introduced effective solutions, such as a property tax circuit breaker or expanding the homestead exemption. Unfortunately, Republican lawmakers have generally rejected these ideas, instead introducing methods that could kindly be described as futile, and at the worst, destructive. Shirking more fiscal burden onto local governments, while also limiting their fiscal autonomy, could produce devastating consequences.

If we are serious about providing comprehensive, targeted property tax relief as a state, we have the money. What we are lacking, however, is political will to provide a solution that provides useful relief to the people who need it the most. Ohio's residents carry much of the property tax burden, as compared to commercial and industrial entities. This needs to change.

Cheap solutions unintentionally harm one of the benefits of property tax: the fact that it rises with inflation. Only limiting assessment methods, for example, will diminish the value of property tax revenue for local governments. We must be careful not to discard the valuable with the useless.

This all isn't to say that there haven't been significant efforts to solve this issue by members of the majority party or during prior General Assemblies. Currently, there are many proposed pieces of legislation, but they vary in quality. As a state, we must adopt solutions that provide property tax relief which benefits *all* Ohioans that don't result in a Pyrrhic victory.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT

With a whole year left in the General Assembly, there is still a lot of good legislation making its way through the legislature! Here are some bills we are watching:

HB 34: Increase the state minimum wage

HB 72: Prohibit public funding for lethal injection drugs

HB 130: Regards Medicaid Estate Recovery Program notification requirement

HB 156: Authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes

HB 163: Enact the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2025

HB 191: Require school district, ESC teachers to be paid at least \$50,000

HB 212: Allow eligible homeowners to defer property tax payment

HB 250: Enact the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act

HB 351: Establish the Ohio Task Force on Gun Violence

HB 365: Enact the Property Tax Refund Act

HB 374: Regards prescription drug readers for visually impaired patients

HB 472: Waive ID, birth certificate fees for homeless individuals

HB 579: Regulate the use of artificial intelligence by health insurers

To see all the bills from the 136th GA (and prior GA's) please use the Ohio House of Representatives website!