



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

March was a busy and productive month, and as we step into April, I'm looking forward to building on that momentum.

As you know, the May Primary is quickly approaching. Elections are an opportunity for every Ohioan to make their voice heard and help shape the future of our communities.

Early **in-person voting has begun** and **vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed starting Tuesday, April 7.**

As we head into April, I encourage everyone to stay informed, check their registration, and make a plan to vote. Strong participation is essential to ensuring a healthy and representative democracy. For Ohio voting information please visit VoteOhio.gov or visit our county board of election at <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/>

If there is anything my office can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out by email at Rep21@ohiohouse.gov or by phone: 614-644-5079.

Sincerely,

Eric Synenberg

Eric Synenberg
State Representative, District 21



2026 May Primary Election

Tuesday, May 5
Election Day

Early Voting

Early In-Person Voting Hours:

April 7 to 10: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 13 to 17: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 20 to 24: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 27: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
April 28: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
April 29 to May 1: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
May 2: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
May 3: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



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Legislative Updates

I am always committed to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our state and its residents. Here's a brief legislative update:



HOUSE BILL (HB) 659: REGARDS CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE AND STUDENT SEXUAL ABUSE (RUSSO, SYNENBERG)

As we observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it's crucial to support survivors and strengthen protections against sexual abuse. The case of Dr. Strauss, who abused hundreds of OSU athletes over two decades, shows how institutional failures can leave victims without justice. I have introduced legislation with **Representative Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington)** that would expand the definition of student sexual abuse, extend the time survivors have to file civil actions, remove damage caps for noneconomic losses, and hold both perpetrators and negligent institutions accountable. Sexual abuse has lasting personal and public health impacts, often creating economic burdens from medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity. We hope for this bill to receive its first hearing come May so that we can help ensure survivors' voices are heard and justice is more accessible.

HOUSE BILL (HB) 677: THE KELSEY SMITH ACT (SYNENBERG, ABRAMS)

The Kelsey Smith Act, created in response to the tragic abduction and murder of Kelsey Smith, a young woman from Overland Park, Kansas, recently had a **proponent hearing in the House Public Safety Committee**.

Representative Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) and I were honored to welcome Gregg Smith, Kelsey's father and former Kansas Representative, to the Statehouse. He shared powerful testimony about the origins of the bill and the countless lives it has helped save in other states across the country. I encourage you to watch the committee hearing here: [Ohio Channel](#)



HOUSE BILL (HB) 188: CREATE THE OHIO ISRAEL TRADE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP (T. HALL, SYNENBERG)

After passing the Ohio House, **HB 188, the Ohio-Israel Trade and Innovation Partnership**, held its first hearing in the Senate Finance Committee.

Representative Thomas Hall (R-Sylvania Twp) and I provided sponsor testimony and answered questions from Senators about the benefits of this legislation.

States like New Jersey and New York **have seen over a billion dollars in economic impact** in just the past two years from similar partnerships. We aim to bring that same innovation and opportunity to Ohio, creating jobs and supporting local businesses.



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Ohio Jewish Caucus

The Ohio Jewish Caucus had an impactful and inspiring month in March, hosting two major events that brought together community members, elected officials, and faith leaders from across the state. **On March 12, nearly 100 guests joined the Caucus for a town hall in Cleveland at the Mandel Jewish Community Center.** The discussion, moderated by Marc Ashed of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, created a meaningful space for dialogue on issues important to Ohio's Jewish communities. **Caucus members also toured the Maltz Museum** in Beachwood, gaining a deeper appreciation for the history and contributions of the Jewish community in the region. Participants from across sectors came together, reinforcing the



importance of shared responsibility in

strengthening inclusion and confronting antisemitism in Ohio. **On March 30, the Caucus hosted the 4th Annual Interfaith, Bipartisan Passover Seder** at the Ohio Statehouse, welcoming more than 100 guests. Rooted in the story of Passover, a celebration of freedom, resilience, and community, the Seder continues to bring people of different faiths together in a spirit of reflection and connection. The evening highlighted not only tradition, but also the importance of ensuring Jewish perspectives are present in

conversations shaping public policy. **Together, these events demonstrate the Caucus's ongoing focus on engagement, education, and building meaningful connections.** Bringing together residents, community leaders, and public officials creates opportunities to both celebrate heritage and respond to the challenges facing Jewish Ohioans today. These efforts help strengthen understanding, encourage collaboration, and support a more welcoming environment for all. **I am and will always be proud to be a member of the Jewish community.** My colleagues and I look forward to continuing these conversations, strengthening partnerships, and elevating the voices of Jewish Ohioans throughout our state. I am committed to advancing policies that protect our community, expand opportunity, and reflect the values we share. I will continue working to promote understanding, encourage open dialogue, and stand firmly



against hate in all its forms. **The strength of Ohio lies in our ability to come together across differences and move forward with purpose.** I am honored to do this work and remain focused on building a future that reflects the dignity and potential of every Ohioan. **Together, I believe we can build a safer, more connected Ohio where every person feels valued and has the opportunity to succeed.**



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Out and About

Here are a few highlights of how I've been out in our community, engaging directly with residents and working alongside community members on the issues that matter most:



I was proud to be invited by Pastor Brad Borke of Vision Baptist Church in Lyndhurst to attend a service and receive an honorary bible. I was joined by Senator Kent Smith and Mayor Pat Ward.



I was able to meet with LifeBanc during their advocacy day in Columbus. LifeBanc is our organ procurement organization in NEO. They do lifesaving work and I am proud we have such a great team working for all of us.



I had a great time reading "The Little Engine that Could" at Family Connections at the Cleveland Heights- University Heights Public Library in celebration of Read Across America Day!



Starting Passover at a Seder hosted by the Columbus City Council and JewishColumbus, alongside my colleagues, was a great way to mark the beginning of the holiday.



It was an honor getting to spend time with our local first responders at the Statehouse during their advocacy day. Thank you for your service in protecting our communities.



Representative Brown Piccolantonio and I welcomed CSU students for a day of shadowing. As an alum, it was especially meaningful to connect with the next generation.



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