

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to the 136th General Assembly! I want to welcome all of our new constituents to our monthly newsletter! Each month, you will learn about the different holidays my office honors, what is happening in Columbus at the Statehouse and events happening in the district. If there's a particular topic you would like to learn more about, we are always open to suggestions!

Over the past month, my office recognized some important dates and anniversaries. June 6th was the 81st anniversary of D-Day. 81 years ago Allied forces landed in Normandy, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control. Thousands of American, British, and Canadian soldiers gave their lives for a free Europe. We must remember and honor the sacrifice of these brave soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to liberate Europe from fascism. June 15th was Fathers Day. I want to recognize all the amazing fathers across my district and across the state. Being a father is my greatest accomplishment in life. My daughters are my world and have taught me so much. Happy Fathers Day to the amazing Dads of HD-34. June is also Gun Violence Prevention Month. The gun violence epidemic in America is out of control. Every day, we wake up to hear about a shooting that happened in our communities. House Democrats are committed to sponsoring, advocating, and voting for legislation that will curb gun violence. Democrat sponsored bills like HB 45, which would require a 10-day waiting period for firearm purchases, and HB 235, a bill that would authorize a safe storage and handgun training tax credit. These bills, and others sponsored by Democrats, will make our communities safer and are crucial first steps to ending gun violence in America.

In this month's newsletter, you will learn about legislation that I'm sponsoring, the finalized version of the state operating budget, and some community events I attended. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out and I would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Derrick Hall

Here are some ways my office can assist you:

- Disputes with state government agencies;
- Ohio House commendations, condolences, and congratulatory letters;
- Proposing bill ideas and law changes;
- Connecting you or your business to state programs or services

Helpful Contacts:

- BMV: (844) 644-6268
- Summit County Board of Elections: 330-643-5200
- Summit County Job and Family Services: 844-640-6446
- Community Legal Aid : 330-535 -4191
- Ohio Consumers' Counsel: 877-742-5622
- Unemployment Compensation Hotline: (877) 644-6562



Legislation

Property taxes are without question the top issue facing our state. For too long the legislature has refused to act to give meaningful property tax relief to Ohioans. That's why I am proud to introduce my first bill along with Rep Sean Brennan aimed at relieving the property tax burden many Ohioan's face. We introduced House Bill 365, the Ohio Property Tax Refund Act as a first step to give Ohioans tenable property tax relief. This bill would create a refundable tax credit for Ohioans whose property tax bill exceeds 5 percent of their yearly income. A quick example is an Ohioan making up to \$60,000 a year who pays over \$3,000 in property tax would be eligible for up to a \$1,000 refundable tax credit for their property tax bill. This bill is just a first step in easing the property tax burden many Ohioans face. This is not the only property tax bill my office is working on, I will have updates to come about the other bills my office is introducing.





State Operating Budget

This past week the House passed the final version of the state operating budget. I would be lying if I said there was nothing good in this budget. This budget expands the Child Care Choice Voucher Program, creates PFCC eligibility for homeless families, expands support for children with special health needs and increases funding for brain injury research. While there was a lot of good in this budget, I felt there was more bad, and after much deliberation I ultimately decided to vote "No" on the operating budget. Below are some of the provisions in the budget that led me to my no vote.

- **Medicaid Services Funding Below ODM Recommendation:** Makes large cuts (over \$1.2B over biennium) to funding that is primarily used for reimbursement for health care providers that cover Medicaid recipients services.
- Elimination of 0-3 Yr-Old Continuous Enrollment Request: Keeps House budget provisions that eliminates the law requiring ODM to seek approval to provide continuous Medicaid enrollment waiver for Medicaid-eligible children from birth through age three.
- Eliminates the Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lake Erie program: Phases out funds by 50% (\$482K) in FY26 and zeros out the program in FY27.
- **Replacement of independent campaign finance enforcement with partisan control of campaign finance enforcement through the Election Integrity Commission:** In a state with a sadly earned reputation for political corruption, this budget creates partisan control of campaign finance enforcement. The Secretary of State investigates and makes determinations of whether there is a violation and appeals go to a board chaired by a Secretary of State appointee.
- **Creates Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program:** Creates a new program administered by the Treasurer of State and DEW, that directs up to 75% of the value of an EdChoice Scholarship into an ESA to apply toward tuition and fees for any nonpublic school student not enrolled in a state voucher program.
- **Eliminates Elected State Board of Education Membership:** Abolishes the 11 elected offices and reduces the appointed membership from 8 members to 5. Requires the remaining members to represent each of a rural, suburban, urban school district, a community school, and charter school.
- **Changes to School Funding:** Fails to update the fair school funding formula with present day data, funding schools based data on from 2022. Leaves schools to continue to return to tax payers asking for support through levees.
- **Changes to Library Funding and Restrictions on Library Content:** Redirects and decreases funding from the Public Library Fund and requires a public libraries to place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily open to the view of minors. This will burden libraries, limit access to broad and vaguely defined materials, and could be particularly challenging for small libraries.







HD34 Leadership Council Meeting

After taking office, I established a House District 34 Leadership Council comprised of elected officials from each of the communities in our district. After our June meeting at the Tallmadge Branch Library, members took some time to explore the library shelves. Our libraries are a vital community asset that we must preserve and support!



Joshua Stow Festival

The Stow Historical Society's annual Joshua Stow Festival shares the history of Stow with a fun, familyfriendly event while raising funds to preserve the city's historical buildings at Silver Springs Park. Thank you to Society Trustee and Stow City Councilman John Baranek who helped organize and run the event.



Immigration Forum

Last month, I participated in an immigration forum with Sen. Casey Weinstein, Green Law Director Lisa Dean, Cuyahoga Falls immigration attorney Farhad Sethna and former federal judge Tania Nemer to provide information on the rights of immigrants and how to navigate the immigration system and contacts by ICE.