



A legislative update from

State Rep. Derrick Hall

House District 34

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RepDerrickHall
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From the Desk of Representative Hall

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 at the Statehouse, and events happening in the district. If there is a particular topic you would like to learn about, we are always open to suggestions!

Happy New Year! In December, my office honored Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the New Year! As I begin my second year in office, my New Year's resolutions are to champion meaningful property tax reform, work towards more accessible healthcare for Ohioans, and bring transparency to insurance and environmental issues.

In this month's newsletter, you will learn more about how I have spent my time while my colleagues and I are in recess. Even though we are not in session, I am still meeting with stakeholders, attending events in District 34, working on legislation, and hearing from constituents. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out! I would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



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:

- Summit County Veterans Service Office: (330) 643-2830
- 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: (614) 466-8574
- Unemployment Compensation Hotline: (877) 644-6562



Representative Hall in the Community!

ASCVB Partnership in Motion Holiday Celebration

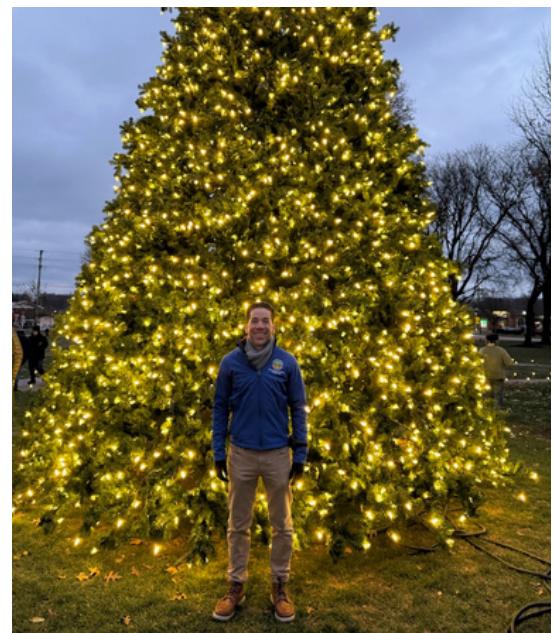
This month, I attended the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau's Holiday Celebration! This was a celebration of the partnership and unity it takes to make a community a great place to live and visit. I am so proud to have represented the communities of District 34 this year, and I look forward to continuing my work next year!



City of Tallmadge Tree Lighting Celebration



At the beginning of December, I attended the Tallmadge Tree Lighting Celebration, where I met with my constituents, Mayor Carol Siciliano-Kilway, and Santa Claus! This was a great way to gather the community and celebrate friends and family.



Cuyahoga Falls City Schools Ribbon Cutting

As the House Rep. for Silver Lake, I was pleased to join my colleague, Rep. Bill Roemer, and Superintendent Dr. Andrea Celico at the ribbon cutting for Cuyahoga Falls City Schools' new junior and high school complex. Congratulations to Silver Lake students and faculty on this new chapter!





Representative Hall in the Community!

Munroe Falls Annual Tree Lighting and City Hall Sparkle in the Park

My second tree lighting this holiday season was in Munroe Falls! Despite the cold weather, I had a great time visiting and celebrating with constituents, seeing the holiday decor, and participating in Munroe Falls' traditions. I also had a chance to catch up with Congresswoman Emilia Sykes!



Governor DeWine's Holiday Party

I am thankful for the time I was able to spend with my colleagues at Governor DeWine's holiday party this year! I am also hopeful that our unity and dedication to our constituents will bring progress and growth in the new year. 2026 will be a year full of hard work and collaboration, but I am optimistic about the opportunities ahead.

Glow With Stow Holiday Lighting

Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, Mayor John Pribonic, and I had the honor of celebrating with our constituents at the Glow with Stow Holiday Lighting this year. The event included stilt walkers, food trucks, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and so many amazing light displays! Thank you for having me, Stow!



The Capital Budget

As we begin the second (and final) year of the 136th General Assembly, I wanted to share some information about what is to come. In 2025, we decided on Ohio's operating budget. In 2026, we will go through a process to decide on the **capital budget**. While the operating budget funds core functions and services, the capital budget funds **physical projects, like infrastructure, schools, parks, and more**. My role as a legislator is to meet with agencies and organizations to hear about and review their project goals and proposals. Once these requests for funding are decided on, approved, and submitted, Governor DeWine will introduce the budget as a bill, and it will go through the legislative process to be passed.



Senate Bill 56

SB 56 goes against the will of voters, who voted to decriminalize cannabis with Issue 2 in the November 2023 election. I voted against it. However, **SB 56** was recently passed into law, and will go into effect in March of 2026. **Let's review what the bill does:**

- SB 56 makes it illegal to obtain cannabis outside of Ohio or take it across state lines.
- The bill implements a ban on intoxicating hemp products sold outside of a licensed marijuana dispensary, causing many small businesses to close.
- SB 56 prohibits possessing marijuana in anything besides its original packaging, and it must be stored in the trunk of a car while driving, along with any paraphernalia.
- The bill caps the number of dispensaries in Ohio at 400.
- Areas where it is prohibited to smoke or vape will be expanded.
- The bill increases criminal penalties for many of these regulations.



Primary Election Day on May 5th, 2026

Please note Ohio's Primary Election takes place on **May 5th**. Make a plan to vote on that day, and don't hesitate to reach out to my office or the Summit County Board of Elections if you need assistance finding information and resources. Visit **VoteOhio.gov** to find your sample ballot and polling location, track your absentee ballot, check your registration status, learn about ID requirements, or become a poll worker! Every vote counts. Make your voice heard this year!

Summit County Board of Elections

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