





A legislative update from House Minority Leader
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From the desk of Leader Sykes

Dear Neighbor,

At the Statehouse, we are still working on drawing new, fair congressional districts. Because the Redistricting Commission failed to pass a bipartisan, 10-year map by Oct. 31, the responsibility for redistricting has gone back to the General Assembly. The legislature can now either pass a bipartisan 10-year map or a short-term partisan map by **Nov. 30**.

Ohioans and Democrats still want to see a bipartisan, 10-year map that keeps our communities together and reflects the preferences of Ohio's voters. Fair districts means districts that do not have undue, unfair favoring of one party, and keep large cities together so Ohioans who live and work together can get the representation they deserve.

With fair districts, we can fund our schools fairly, create good paying jobs, and stop pushing through extremist legislation that does nothing but divide us.

To learn more about the redistricting process or to get involved, visit redistricting.ohio.gov.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

House Minority Leader
Emilia Strong Sykes

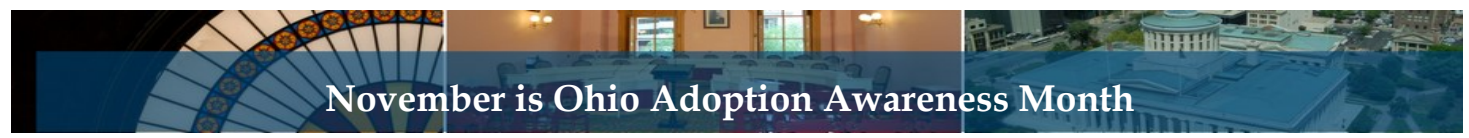


Small Business Saturday

With many small businesses still working towards recovering from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, make sure to help your community by supporting a small business this **Small Business Saturday (Nov. 27)**.

Small businesses make up the backbone of Ohio's economy, comprising roughly 98% of all Ohio businesses and employing half of the state's private-sector workforce.

If you are a small business owner looking for resources, visit businesshelp.ohio.gov.



November is Ohio Adoption Awareness Month

In 2018, **House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes** and Representative Janine Boyd co-sponsored House Bill (HB) 420, which would designate November as "[Ohio Adoption Awareness Month](#)". After HB 420 was passed out of both the House and the Senate, Ohio became the first state to recognize Adoption Awareness as a month.

In Ohio, more than 2,800 children are in foster homes waiting to be adopted on any given day. November is meant to raise awareness on the resources available to families as they navigate the adoption process, and to give hope to children who are looking for their forever home. For more information on adoption, visit the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services [Foster, Adoption and Kinship Care resource page](#).

Sign up for Leader Sykes' email list at <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/emilia-strong-sykes/newsletter-sign-up>

House Dems outline next steps for key pillars of their “Opportunity Agenda for Ohio” in final months of 2021

House Democrats are outlining our next steps to expand on the Opportunity Agenda for Ohio, our legislative framework to restore Ohio’s promise of better lives, brighter futures and an economy that works for everyone. We have released a short list of key legislative priorities in the coming months, including delivering fair maps, combatting the coronavirus pandemic and reforming the state’s broken unemployment insurance system.

Our caucus recently concluded its [Ohio Promise: Opportunity Agenda Tour](#), a 28-stop, 10-week tour hosted in 24 communities across the state, where hundreds of constituents weighed in on the issues most important to them and their communities.

Our short list of priorities heading into the final months of 2021 include:

- Passing bipartisan, 10-year congressional maps that keep communities together and reflects the preferences of Ohio voters;
- Ending the pandemic by improving vaccine access, reducing hesitancy, enacting paid family and medical leave for workers who get sick on the job, among other legislation;
- Fixing Ohio’s broken unemployment insurance system;

- Investing in working people by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour;
- Pushing for commonsense gun safety reforms supported by the majority of Ohioans;
- Protecting victims of the most serious domestic violence cases by passing Aisha’s Law;
- Expanding opportunities for justice for survivors of sexual violence and abuse;
- Pushing back on Republican attacks on Ohioans’ freedom to vote.



Leader Sykes reads to Akron Scholars

On October 20th, Leader Sykes had the pleasure of visiting McKinley Early Childhood Center West Akron to read to some of Akron’s youngest scholars. She was also able to learn about how the pandemic has contributed to many issues surrounding early childhood education and that in order to continue to “enrich the lives of our students, we must prioritize early learning centers”.



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