




A legislative update from House Minority Leader
EMILIA STRONG SYKES
HOUSE DISTRICT 34

(614) 466-3100 | rep34@ohiohouse.gov

 @EmiliaSykesOH

 fb.com/EmiliaSykes



From the desk of Leader Sykes

Dear Neighbor,

Last month, I voted “no” on HB 110, the state’s two year budget.

Ohioans wanted an opportunity for Ohio’s future, and while Democrats were able to deliver some important wins, this budget ultimately was a missed opportunity to invest in working people, families and communities.

Republicans chose to prioritize a \$1.64 billion tax giveaway that benefits millionaires and billionaires while working people see very little. Instead of more handouts to the wealthy, we could have prioritized funding to help our single moms, struggling businesses and people who remain out of work through no fault of their own.

Another tax cut for the rich takes away our ability to protect our environment, improve our children’s schools and create an infrastructure that’s built for the future.

The budget also included attacks on healthcare access for LGBTQ+ Ohioans and abortion care, and undermined police accountability measures.

In addition, the budget undermined the will of Ohio voters who wanted fair districts with no strings attached.

Democrats were pleased to see the inclusion of Fair School Funding, a long-held Democratic priority to reform our broken and unconstitutional school funding system, but were disappointed to also see an increase in funding for the state’s EdChoice Voucher Program, which undermines public education in Ohio.

Democrats also applauded the inclusion of \$250 million to expand broadband to unserved areas of Ohio, allowing Ohioans to better communicate, connect and compete.

Overall, this budget was a mixed bag, but ultimately didn’t do enough to make the investments we need to grow jobs, strengthen our economy and expand opportunity for all of us, not just some of us.

Beyond this budget, Democrats will continue fighting for measures that will restore the Ohio Promise and ensure better lives, brighter futures for all Ohioans.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Rep34@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-3100.

Sincerely,

House Minority Leader
Emilia Strong Sykes

Naloxone Distribution to Combat Overdose in Summit County

Summit County’s overdose rate for Black men have more than doubled since 2019. Summit County Public Health is increasing naloxone distribution to combat this serious issue. (330)-923-4891 | scph.org

Visit these clinics to pick up a naloxone kit:

- **Saturday, July 10th-11th**, at Springfield Assembly Flea Market, 8:00 am- 12:00pm, 1551 Canton Rd, Akron 44312
- Mondays @Akron Say No to Dope 9:00am- 12:00pm, 932 Kenmore Blvd, Akron 44314
- Wednesdays @ Summit County Public Health- 3:00pm-6:00 pm 1400 Arlington Street #28, Akron, 44306 (Arlington Plaza)
- Fridays @Summit County Public Health 8:00am- 3:00pm 1867 W Market St, Akron, OH 44313

May also request kits by mail anytime: <https://www.scph.org/kit-request-form>



Let’s get vaccinated, Ohio

As of June, only 44% of Ohioans had completed the COVID-19 vaccine. Furthermore, Ohio ranks 28th in the nation for vaccination rates.

To find a vaccination site near you, visit gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Ohioans rally at Statehouse in opposition to anti-voter legislation

Leader Sykes joined voting rights advocates and organizations from all across Ohio at the Statehouse on June 24 to express their opposition to House Bill (HB) 294, the Republican anti-voter bill that would roll back ballot access and intentionally make the process more confusing for voters.

Ohio's Anti-Voter Bill would reduce the number of days of early voting, shorten mail ballot access by a week, restrict ballot drop boxes, and codify new reasons to throw away ballots, among other changes opposed by pro-voter advocates.

HB 294 has had two contentious committee hearings thus far. Democrats walked out of the first hearing after GOP leaders abruptly cut short debate on the legislation, and the Majority Leader exploded in a tirade aimed at Democratic members during the second hearing.

In response to the lack of civil debate, Leader Sykes launched the Freedom to Vote Tour, town-hall style events to give Ohioans the opportunity to safely share their thoughts and concerns on HB 294. Democrats have made stops in Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron, Toledo, Cleveland and Canton, with more to come.

Republicans have yet to announce the date for HB 294's third hearing.

To learn more about how you can protect the freedom to vote in Ohio, visit OhioAntiVoterBill.com.



Kindergarten Registration for Akron Public Schools

Kindergarten registration is open to children who will be at least 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2021

Visit akronschools.com and click on the Enrolling students button.

- Select Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022.
- Enter your email address and password to create an account.

Buchtel Cluster Schools:

Crouse CLC
Helen Arnold CLC
Schumacher CLC

East Cluster Schools:

Barber CLC
David Hill CLC
Mason CLC
Robinson CLC
Seiberling CLC

Firestone Cluster Schools:

Case CLC
King CLC
Portage Path CLC
Resnik CLC

North Cluster Schools

Findley CLC
Forest Hill CLC
Harris-Jackson CLC
Leggett CLC

Open Enrollment Ends August 15

Every American deserves access to quality, affordable health care, especially as we continue to fight back against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deadline to enroll in healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act has been extended to August 15.

As a result of the American Rescue Plan, additional savings will be available for consumers through **HealthCare.gov**. These savings will decrease premiums for many, on average, by \$50 per person per month and \$85 per policy per month.

To learn more or sign up for a plan, visit **Healthcare.gov** today!

Office of House Minority Leader
Emilia Strong Sykes

(614) 466-3100 | rep34@ohiohouse.gov

