

A Legislative Update from Representative Richard D. Brown

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! 2021 was full of challenges for many in our community and our state, but I'm optimistic as we look ahead to the new year.

In January, I was honored to be elected by my colleagues to continue my role as Assistant Minority Whip for the Ohio House of Representatives. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation that benefits all Ohioans.

While we've made significant progress in ending the pandemic, COVID-19 cases have spiked in recent weeks. Getting vaccinated and boosted is the best way to protect you, your loved ones, and our neighbors. Everyone ages 5 and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters are now available for anyone 16+. To protect against the latest variant, Omicron, it is recommended to wear a mask with more layers and that fits snugly over your nose and mouth. As new information on the virus, eligibility and protocols comes out frequently, it is important to stay up to date. To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). To find a vaccine provider near you, visit gettheshot.ohio.coronavirus.gov.

I wish you and your family a successful and healthy 2022. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office to share your thoughts on state issues or if I can be of any assistance. I'm proud to be your State Representative and look forward to continue working for you and our district.

Sincerely,



Richard Brown
State Representative

✂ Cut off and keep my contact info handy, I want to hear from you! Helpful contacts for state and local resources on the back side.

New Crimson Coffee Facility

This month, Representative Brown announced Crimson Cup, a Columbus-based coffee company, received a \$710,000 loan from the state for renovation of a new space in the district. The project, based in Canal Winchester, will support the company's warehouse and shipping operations. Seven new full-time jobs will be created, while retaining 37 existing jobs at the site.

"I'm grateful for this commitment to the economic success of House District 20," said Rep. Brown. "By creating new jobs, Crimson Cup is expanding opportunity and ensuring our community remains a great place to live, work and thrive."

Local Leadership

Representative Brown had the honor of swearing in new City Council members in Obetz and Canal Winchester this month.

"Congratulations to these hard working public servants! I look forward to working with the newly elected officials throughout the district. The future of our community is bright!" said Rep. Brown.



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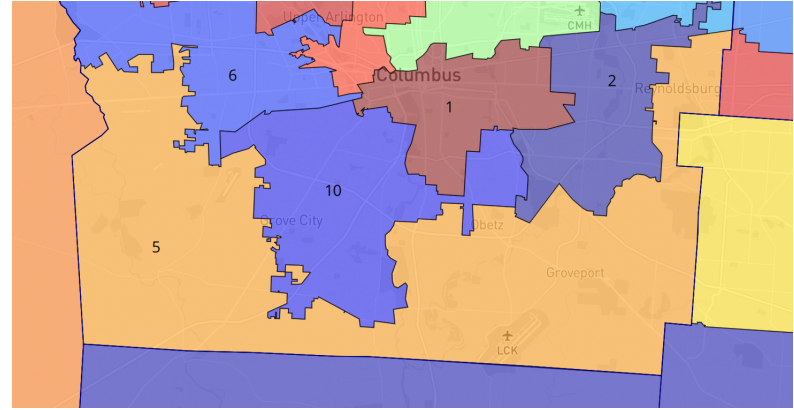


Ohio Redistricting Update

This month, the Ohio Supreme Court struck down the new state legislative and Congressional maps passed by the Republican Party late last year citing several violations to the Ohio Constitution. As a result, the Ohio Redistricting Commission and the Ohio General Assembly has been tasked with redrawing the maps to meet the anti-gerrymandering reforms passed by Ohio voters in 2015 and 2018. Unfortunately, the Republican members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission passed another gerrymandered map that splits communities apart and ignores the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court, but most importantly, it blatantly disrespects the reforms passed by Ohioans in 2015 and 2018 that demanded fair maps.

No matter what our district looks like, I look forward to representing our communities in the Ohio House. However, it's clear the district drawn in this map is not compact, which is constitutionally required, and meant to dilute the voice of our community and favor one political party over another. The map is now before the Ohio Supreme Court for their decision on its constitutionality.

The Ohio General Assembly has until February 13 to draw new Congressional maps that are in line with the Ohio Constitution. The



Above is Rep. Brown's new district, District 5, as currently passed by the Republican members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

Supreme Court of Ohio ruled the map passed by Republicans unduly favored their party, as Republicans would have won 13 seats and Democrats would have won 2. The Ohio Supreme Court cited a violation of the constitution's proportionality rules and ordered the legislature to draw fair, constitutional maps. Of the decision, Representative Brown said, "I hope the majority party will work with our caucus on a map that earns the support of members from both parties, and most importantly, the people of Ohio."

Free at-home COVID-19 tests

You can now order completely FREE, at-home COVID-19 tests. Tests are limited to four per household. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Place your order now and use it when you need it. Go to [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) or call **1-800-232-0233** to order your tests today.

Insurance companies are also now required to either pay for over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests or reimburse you up to \$12 per test, limited to 8 per month. To learn more about insurance-covered COVID-19 tests, visit <https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>.

Supporting our Veterans

Rep. Brown is proud to support Ohio's servicemembers, past and present, and is grateful to serve on the Ohio House Armed Services and Veterans Committee. Rep. Brown has introduced legislation that would give Ohio's servicemembers who have served during the COVID-19 pandemic a one-time paycheck bonus. Additionally, Representative Brown has co-sponsored more than 12 other pieces of legislation that support our troops, including to fund veterans' homes, improve education opportunities for military kids, and increase in-state tuition eligibility for veterans and their dependents.

✂ Cut off the contacts below for helpful state and local resources. My contact info is on the front side. I want to hear from you!

State Agencies

- | | |
|---|---|
| Veterans Services
(614) 644-0898 | Medicaid
1-(800)-324-8680 |
| Civil Rights
(614) 466-2785 | Unemployment
1-(877)-644-6562 |
| Rehabilitation and Corrections
(614) 387-0588 | Taxation
(614) 282-1780 |

Local Resources

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|--|---|
| Legal Aid
614-285-6710 | Job and Family Services
1-844-640-6446 |
| Mental Health and Addiction
614-224-1057 | Developmental Disabilities
614-475-6440 |
| Aging
(614)-525-5230 | Transportation
216-241-8230 |