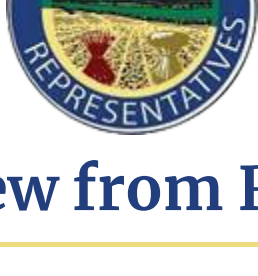


Statehouse News

From the Office of State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney

January 5, 2022



Year in Review from Rep. Sweeney

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you and your family are well and had a healthy and joyous start to the New Year. As your Representative, I wanted to share some of what I've been up to this past year. After the whirlwind that was 2020, I spent my time fighting to make government more accountable to you while still finding ways to work across the aisle and deliver real results for our community.

First and foremost, I spent much of this year working closely with our community members and local governments to recover from the ongoing public health crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact us, I have been committed to helping each and every citizen of our district with navigating our governmental systems. I am proud to say that we corresponded with over three thousand constituents this year, with the majority of casework dealing with the inadequate unemployment system. We also leveraged funding for local governments to help avoid layoffs or cuts to vital services, provided relief for everything from food pantries to housing assistance, and worked with small businesses to help cut red tape so that they can adapt and remain open. At the end of the day, I know that I work for you, so please don't hesitate to reach out if there is ever anything I can do to help you and your loved ones.

In addition to providing constituent services, I have also been hard at work trying to pass legislation that will better Ohio. Three decades ago, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the way the state funds K-12 schools unconstitutional. One of the main concerns was an over-reliance on property taxes. Since that time, no General Assembly has been able to fully address that issue because of its inherent complexity. It was the biggest honor of my career to be the lead sponsor of House Bill 1, which finally gave Ohio a fair school funding plan and became law in the budget. For the first time ever, we have a constitutional funding framework that uses Ohio-specific data and is fair for students, communities, and taxpayers no matter where they live. I am committed to fully funding the plan so that we can truly account for the real cost of holistically educating children and preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow. You can learn more [HERE](#).

Fair school funding was not the only legislative win we had this year. The House passed many of my bipartisan bills, including HB 163 that prohibits mandatory overtime work for nurses as a condition of continued employment, HB 77 to allow boards of trustees at state institutions of higher education to meet virtually if they adopt an electronic communication policy, HB 68 to ensure that prime contractors are paid promptly and construction projects can move forward across Ohio, and HB185 to designate March as bleeding disorders awareness month.

This year I also became the top Democrat on the House Finance Committee; you can read on to learn more about this role. Prior to that, I served in that capacity on the House Government Oversight Committee, where I pushed back on extreme legislation and partisan attempts to undermine the freedom to vote. We held a statewide town hall tour, listening to Ohioans share their thoughts on these efforts to rewrite election laws. I also objected to efforts to further politicize the judicial branch, a move that was widely opposed by the legal community, including the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Association for Justice, the Ohio Court of Appeals Judges' Association, and the Ohio Judicial Conference.

Looking to 2022, there are many exciting things that I am hoping to accomplish in order to continue advocating for a healthier economy, a healthier government, and a healthier Ohio. Clearly, we are not out of the pandemic, and we need leaders who are committed to finding a way out of this public health crisis so we can truly return to normal. I am ready to do the difficult work of coming together to find common ground and real solutions to very real problems. We must build an economy that tackles our higher cost of living at a time when wages remain stagnant. We must be innovative and incentivize young people to stay in Ohio and work in some of our most vital public servant roles; teaching, firefighting, and the trades. I'm looking forward to continuing to serve. Thank you for being with me on this journey.

As always, feel free to reach out any time my office or I can be of service. Your participation helps make government work for the people.

All the best,

Bride

Bride Rose Sweeney
State Representative

Legislative News



Ranking Member of the House Finance Committee:

I am pleased to announce that this October, I was named the top Democrat on the House Finance Committee. As likely the youngest legislator ever to hold this leadership position, I am very grateful to have been entrusted with this responsibility. It is further evidence that not only are young women more than capable of holding public office, but they can make a real difference once they get there.

The House Finance Committee oversees all budgetary and fiscal matters that go before the General Assembly. It is the largest committee in the House, encompassing a third of its members. The panel is charged with crafting a balanced budget that funds every aspect of state operations, totaling more than \$70 billion. It is also responsible for more than \$7 billion in transportation funding to maintain and invest in Ohio's roads, highways and public transportation. The body will also allocate the remainder of critical federal pandemic relief dollars and tackle the upcoming capital budget, which funds important brick and mortar projects in every corner of the state.



CONTROLLING BOARD:

This fall I also had the honor of being appointed to the State Controlling Board. This body regularly meets to approve the allocation of state and federal funding to state agencies and other entities. It is a seven member panel, which practices legislative oversight to ensure that public tax dollars are spent appropriately. As a fiscal watchdog on the Controlling Board, I will oversee the distribution of state and federal dollars to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent appropriately.

2021
YEAR IN REVIEW

State Rep.
Bride Rose Sweeney
HOUSE DISTRICT 14

3k+ Constituents
Corresponded With

400+ Constituents Helped
With Casework

6 Bills Passed

3 Bills Signed Into Law

& Billions in State & Federal
Funding for District 14

OHIO HOUSE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Resources

Unemployment Overpayments:

- Unemployment claimants with non-fraud overpayments that they received at no fault of their own can now request waivers that, if approved, would absolve the claimant from repaying those funds to the state.
- Please visit your unemployment portal to request a waiver and contact my office if you require additional assistance.
- Money will also be returned to claimants who qualify for a waiver but who previously repaid the overpayment. Notifications are being sent to claimants in the traditional unemployment program and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. If approved, all portions of overpayments could be waived.

Free Eviction Help in Northeast Ohio

- Legal Aid helps residents of five counties in Northeast Ohio. Their [Free Eviction Help](#) program, established in partnership with United Way of Greater Cleveland, focuses specifically on Cuyahoga County. Visit [freeevictionhelp.org](#) for more information and resources.

Tenant Information Line & Worker Information Line

- Legal Aid's [Tenant Information Line](#) is available 24/7 for renters with questions about housing law. Tenants can call 216-861-5955 or 440-210-4533.
- Legal Aid's [Worker Information Line](#) is also available 24/7 to field questions about employment and unemployment compensation. People can call 216-861-5899 in Cuyahoga County and leave a message at any time.
- Callers should clearly state their name, phone number, and a brief description of their question, and Legal Aid will call back within 1-2 business days

Ohio House District 14 - Pandemic Resource Guide: Click [HERE](#)

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