

Statehouse Update

February 2023

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From the Office of State Representative Mary Lightbody
House District 4 | 614-466-4847 <><> Rep04@ohiohouse.gov

Dear Neighbor,

The 135th General Assembly is well underway at the Statehouse in Columbus. My colleagues and I have begun working on various bills that will be debated and voted on in committee as well as on the floor of the House. We recently received our committee assignments, allowing us to work on improving our state and communities. Information about my committee assignments is on page two of this newsletter. I am working on bringing back some of the education bills that I have worked on previously. Some of the best ideas for legislation comes from constituents who come up against Ohio laws that are confusing, arcane, or otherwise deserve attention. If you have found any policy that should be changed please let me know because serving my constituents is and remains a top priority.

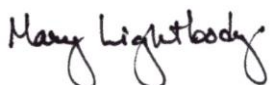
Recently, Governor Mike DeWine gave his State of the State speech, outlying his priorities for Ohio. I am optimistic about several initiatives that will improve the lives of Ohioans. The governor, however, did not mention how the state plans to prevent gun violence or how we can ensure that all children receive a quality public education with adequate funding, regardless of zip code.

February is Black History Month! Black history is American history and we should celebrate how Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. We need to build a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. I am committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting and impactful change.

Finally, House districts changed between the 134th and 135th General Assemblies. You may verify if you still reside in my district by using the online link below
<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/district-map>.

I am proud to be your state representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary Lightbody
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

Happy Valentine's



Day!



I work for you.

Please contact me about any issues of concern and reach out anytime for updates on legislation in committees or votes by the legislature, as well as any upcoming district events that you would like me to attend.

Please contact my office at any time:

Office: 614-466-4847

Email: Rep04@ohiohouse.gov



Upcoming Open Office Hours

I hope you will join me for open office hours. There is no RSVP needed. Please contact my office if you would prefer a private meeting.

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
Starbucks (Blacklick/Reynoldsburg)
8070 E. Broad Street

Monday, February 27, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2
200 Market Street

Thursday, March 2, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Upper Cup Coffee (Gahanna)
121 Mill Street

Monday, March 6, 9:15 - 10:45 a.m.
Westerville Public Library, Pink Room
126 S. State Street

Black History Month

Happy Black History Month! I am at the Statehouse working towards equality and justice. It is my mission to ensure that Ohioans of all races, ethnicities, sexualities, gender expressions, religions, classes, and backgrounds are treated with respect and given the tools needed to succeed.

Black Ohioans are disproportionately affected by inequalities in our healthcare system. I am committed to creating a state that can better provide for all of its residents. This commitment is not limited to healthcare but extends to ensuring fair access to economic opportunities, housing, safe communities, and transportation. Ohio must be a welcoming, safe, and prosperous state for everyone.

There are many local events, exhibits, and activities where you can honor Black History Month in Franklin County. Visit the following links for a sampling of the many events available:

<https://www.columbuslibrary.org/black-history-month/>

<https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/blog/post/how-to-honor-black-history-month-in-columbus/>

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus/where-to-celebrate-black-history-month-in-central-ohio/>

Committee Assignments

I am proud to share that I will serve on the following committees during the 135th General Assembly:

• Agriculture	Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., Room 122
• Energy & Natural Resources	Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., Room 116
• Higher Education	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Room 017
• Pensions (Ranking Member)	Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., Room 115
• Primary & Secondary Education	Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m., Room 116

Committee meetings are open to the public. You may watch live and archived recordings by going to www.OhioChannel.org. The schedule for all committee meetings may be found at www.OhioHouse.gov. Please note that meeting times and locations for each committee may change from week to week.

I appreciate that I have been entrusted as Ranking Member of the Pensions Committee. I will be a continuing member of the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) this General Assembly. Membership on the ORSC has provided me with insights into our five public pension systems and I am glad to have an expanded role. The members and beneficiaries of State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), School Employees Retirement System (SERS), State Highway Patrol Retirement System (SHPRS), and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) are hard-working Ohioans who earn(d) their pensions through dedicated service to our state and our communities. I look forward to having this opportunity to be their advocate. I would be glad to speak to anyone with insights and information that would help me in this new role.

I am delighted to continue serving on the Primary & Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Energy & Natural Resources Committees and to return to the Agriculture Committee this General Assembly. These committees provide me with an opportunity to keep working on policy that provides high quality education for Ohioans of all ages and legislation which protects our environment, issues which are some of my highest priorities.

Purchase a Plate to Support Local and State-wide Organizations

Ohio drivers can show support for our community by purchasing a specialty license plate. I sponsored HB 296 in 2019 to create the “Healthy New Albany” plate, which promotes a culture of health in the New Albany community. There is also a plate which supports the Westerville parks. You can show that you care for Ohio’s children and families with the Ohio “Kids First” license plate, with sales benefitting Ohio Children’s Alliance.

Specialty license plates are available through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Learn more and view the full list of options at <https://bmvonline.dps.ohio.gov/bmvonline/oplates/specializedplates>.

February Dates of Note

February 12 marked the formation of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**. Founded exactly 100 years after Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the NAACP advocates for civil rights and justice for all. The NAACP has been vital in the fight for equality.

National Donor Day is on February 14 and focuses on the great significant that organ, eye, tissue, and blood donors have on others. I have seen first-hand the life changing effects that donated organs can provide. You have the power to save a life today by donating.

Susan B. Anthony Day recognizes the life and career of Susan B. Anthony on her birthday, February 15. Anthony was a pioneer of women's suffrage and left a lasting legacy on the United States. She is an instrumental figure in Americans fight for equal rights. Anthony, and the women's suffrage movement, played an integral part in ensuring that the United States provides justice and liberty for all.

February 20 is the **National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants**. Today we support our Muslim, Arab, and South Asian friends, many of whom have found a home in Ohio. We must make Ohio a welcoming state where immigrants can live in peace, security, and prosperity.

Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week will be held Sunday, March 19 through Saturday, March 25, 2023. As part of the 2023 Severe Weather Awareness campaign, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) announced that the annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest is open for submissions. The contest is held in partnership with the National Weather Service and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

All poster entries must be postmarked or e-mailed by Friday, April 21, 2023. The contest is open to all Ohio students in first through sixth grade including individualized instruction (special education), public, private and home school classes.

The poster contest is meant to be a tool to help students learn about severe weather safety and preparedness. Through their illustrations of Ohio severe weather events, such as tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding, students can demonstrate what actions they can take before, during and after severe weather events to protect themselves and others.

To learn more about the 2023 Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest, including the complete contest rules and entry forms, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at <https://weathersafety.ohio.gov/>.

Resources from the Ohio Department of Taxation

The Ohio Department of Taxation no longer widely distributes paper copies of return forms and instruction booklets. If you would like to obtain paper forms for your state taxes there are several options:

Full electronic copy of the Instructions:

https://tax.ohio.gov/static/forms/ohio_individual/individual/2022/it1040-sd100-instruction-booklet.pdf.

Fill-in version of the 1040, which includes the relevant schedules:

https://tax.ohio.gov/static/webview/view1/UIExtension/1/pdf-view.html?filename=forms/ohio_individual/individual/2022/89/1040-bundle-fi.pdf

If you print this form, it is imperative that you print using the blue Print button and not your web browser's printing option.

Fill-in version of the SD-100 for school district income tax:

https://tax.ohio.gov/static/webview/view1/UIExtension/1/pdf-view.html?filename=forms/school_district_income/2022/89/sd100-bundle-fi.pdf

If you print this form, it is imperative that you print using the blue Print button and not your web browser's printing option

If you would like to have paper copies of forms or instructions mailed, that request can be submitted here:

<https://tax.ohio.gov/individual/resources/forms-for-individual-income-and-school-district-tax>

Alternatively, form requests can be made by calling the Ohio Department of Taxation Taxpayer Services line at 1-800-282-1780. Form requests are Option 3.

Calling all Elementary Science teachers, administrators and curriculum directors

The Supporting Elementary Science Committee for the Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS), is currently collecting examples of elementary (K-5) instructional schedules at the classroom, school, district, and state level that include time allocated for science learning. The goal is to understand how teachers, schools, and districts are finding successful ways to organize instructional minutes so that elementary students are provided with the learning time they need for a quality science education. The information collected will be used to develop a guiding resource illustrating schedule examples and strategies that are working in practice across the US in a variety of contexts.

Please share this survey link to any elementary teachers, coaches, principals, and district leaders who could provide schedule examples. <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7106582/Supporting-Elementary-Science-Scheduling-Examples>