

Statehouse Update March 2023

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



Dear Neighbor,

We started March by passing a bipartisan transportation budget that improves railroad safety, funds highway construction and creates jobs. This transportation budget is an investment in the people that will drive our state forward. Ohio's most valuable resource is our people, which is why I am focused on putting people over politics.

Recently, the House majority caucus unveiled their priorities for the 135th General Assembly. Several of these bills are bipartisan priorities that will empower Ohioans and move our state forward, including House Bill 9, my legislation with Rep. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), to encourage Ohioans to become teachers. We are working on the final language of the bill and hope to introduce it soon. My colleagues and I are excited to work across the aisle when it improves the lives of Ohioans and puts the people first. However, we will not be beholden to extremist legislation that instigates needless culture wars or threatens the freedoms of Ohioans.

March is Women's History Month! We celebrate and honor the women who fight for equality. From Susan B. Anthony to Harriet Tubman, American history is full of inspiring women who fought to create a more equitable America. Today, we continue to fight for Women's rights by protecting reproductive freedoms and closing the gender wage gap.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lightbody". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Lightbody" clearly legible.

Mary Lightbody
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

If you prefer a paper newsletter, please reply to this email with your address and I will mail you a copy

****If you do not wish to receive an electronic newsletter, please reply to this email to opt-out.****

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.

Sunday, March 19

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2
200 Market Street

Friday, March 31

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Gahanna Library, Study Room G
310 Granville Street

Saturday, April 1

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Java Central Westerville
20 S. State Street

Ohio House District 4 Spotlight

Congratulations to our neighbors who have recently made our district proud:

Gahanna Lincoln High School Girls Track for winning the Indoor State Championship!

Congratulations to Carly Meeting, of New Albany for winning the 100 Meter Backstroke State Championship

Congratulations to Westerville South Girls Basketball for winning District Championships!

Congratulations to the Gahanna Lincoln High School Boys Basketball for winning Division Championships!

Congratulations to the Gahanna Middle School South students who moved on to the Regional Power of the Pen competition after a strong finish at the district tournament!

Congratulations to Taryn Jolly, of New Albany for advancing all the way to the Division I Bowling State Championship and placing 24th!

There were certainly more accomplishments that I missed, if you have an idea for a future District 4 spotlight, please contact my office.

Update on East Palestine

Following the toxic train derailment in East Palestine, I am working hard with concerned members of the Ohio House and Senate to rectify the situation and ensure that an accident like this never happens in Ohio again.

The transportation budget passed by the House on March 1st included bipartisan solutions to make our railroads and communities safer. The transportation budget will require two-person crews on trains and wayside detector systems. These new requirements will increase train crews' ability to identify and solve an issue before an accident.

Cleanup and monitoring efforts are ongoing, ensuring that East Palestine is safe for all residents and that the soil, water, and air are cleaned up.

You may view updates from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency at <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/east-palestine-derailment-info>

Consumer Alert

The first week of March was Consumer Protection Week, a good opportunity to learn more about how to best protect yourself and your personal information. You can follow these tips to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.

- Carry only the number of credit cards that you need for a specific outing. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place at home.
- Don't give out your personal information unless you initiate the contact.
- If you are doing business online, make sure the site is secure and your anti-virus, firewall and other personal computer security applications are up-to-date.
- Shred all documents that contain personal information before you dispose of them.
- Keep copies of credit cards (front and back) in a safe place so you will be able to call and cancel them if they are stolen.
- Check your credit history at least once a year using www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling **877-322-8228**. If you notice suspicious activity, contact the appropriate credit bureau immediately.
- Review your medical, bank and credit card statements thoroughly upon receipt and notify the provider/institution of any discrepancies.

If you become a victim of identity theft:

- Contact local law enforcement and file a police report.
- If you notice any accounts in your name that have been compromised or opened without your consent, close them immediately. Call each bank or company and then follow up in writing.
- Immediately place a fraud alert on your credit report(s) by contacting the three major credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.
- Fill out an identity theft complaint form with the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling **877-ID-THEFT**.

For more information, you may visit the Ohio Attorney General's Website at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/consumers>.

March Dates of Note

Happy Women's History Month! This month we honor and support the amazing women who have shaped our state and country. From Florence Ellinwood Allen, the first woman to serve on a state supreme court anywhere in the United States, to Toni Morrison, a renowned African-American author, to Judith Resnick, a NASA astronaut aboard the Space Shuttles Discovery and Challenger. I am committed to advancing women's rights and creating a more equal state. Equal pay, reproductive rights, and quality maternal health are at the forefront of our priorities. We are working hard in at the Statehouse to ensure that our state is equitable and welcoming to everyone.

March is eye donor month in Ohio. Those who donated their eyes and corneas have allowed thousands to regain or retain their eyesight. Consider becoming an eye donor today!

March 1st marked Ohio's 220th anniversary! Join my office in celebrating our great state by fighting for legislation to make Ohio a great state for everyone. Here's to another 220 fantastic years.

March 10th was Harriet Tubman Day, a celebration of the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman. After Tubman escaped from slavery, she bravely returned to Maryland to lead enslaved people to freedom. Over the course of about 13 trips, she was able to free around 70 people from enslavement. She is an American hero whose bravery should be honored and remembered.

March 14 was Equal Pay Day, a symbolic date representing how long a woman would have to work into 2023 to equal what a man was paid in 2022. Ohioans should receive equal pay for equal work, which is why I am committed to creating a state that welcomes and supports everyone.

The second full week of March is Ohio Agriculture Week. We appreciate and support Ohio's agricultural workers who keep our state fed and healthy. Ensuring our state can grow nutritious, affordable and sustainable food will allow us to remain competitive in the future.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American pilots in the United States Armed Forces. March 29 is Tuskegee Airmen Day, where we honor these brave aviators who fought during World War II. These men served their country with courage and honor but were discriminated against due to the color of their skin. The Tuskegee Airmen embody the American spirit and African Americans' struggle for equality.

On March 30, we honor the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, many veterans came home with long-term physical injuries and mental scars. We must ensure that our Vietnam War veterans, and all veterans, are cared for and supported.

Addiction and Mental Health Resources

I recently took a tour of the Refuge, a Faith-based Addiction Recovery center in Columbus that provides short and long term assistance to Ohioans in need. If you would like to learn more, visit <https://therefugeohio.org/> or call 614-991-0131.

For additional resources in Franklin County, you may contact the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County at 614-224-1057 or visit <https://adamhfranklin.org/>.

I work for you



(from L to R: tour of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, New Albany parent information meeting about keeping our children safe, and Ohio Women in Government)

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:

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