

Statehouse Update

April 2023

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



Dear Neighbor,

March was a busy month at the Statehouse! The House and Senate passed Ohio's \$13.5 billion Transportation Budget, which includes railroad safety improvements, infrastructure investment projects and job creation programs. I was honored to support this bipartisan budget, which puts people over politics and improves the lives of all Ohioans.

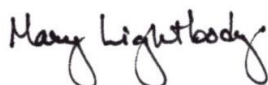
On March 21 I presented sponsor testimony to the State and Local Government Committee on [House Bill 74](#). This legislation would modernize our state's information technology systems and shared services. It is joint sponsored by Rep. Thomas Hall (R-Madison Twp.).

April is National Minority Health Month, a time to focus on the health disparities in minority communities across the state and country. Latina and Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than white women. In addition, infant mortality rates among Black Americans and Native groups are higher than other racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Improving healthcare in minority communities is one of the most important issues facing our state. I will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can thrive here in Ohio.

Also in April, we turn our attention to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget. We will be hard at work ensuring Ohio's budget puts people first by supporting working families, small businesses, and our children.

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

Sincerely,



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.****

Save the Date!

Please save the date for our first Town Hall of the 135th General Assembly. It will be held on May 15th in the late afternoon/evening. It will be at the Gahanna Branch Library. Additional details to follow.

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, April 16

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Westerville Library Pink Room

126 S State St., Westerville, OH 43081

Monday, April 24

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2

200 Market Street, New Albany, OH 43054

Friday, May 5

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Blacklick/Reynoldsburg Starbucks

8070 E Broad St, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

House Bill 33: Biennial Operating Budget

The 2024-2025 Operating Budget will be the primary focus of the House during April. The budget is expected to pass the House at the end of April before going to the Ohio Senate. Much like the Transportation Budget, I look forward to supporting a bipartisan budget. While I am willing to work with all House Members, I will not support extremist ideas that seek to divide and distract us from the issues that matter. My priorities for the budget include investments in families, children, workers and communities. I am working to ensure our public schools are fully and fairly funded, that Ohioans have access to affordable housing, quality mental health care and we invest in maternal/infant care. These priorities will drive Ohio forward, making us more competitive and guarantee Ohio is the best place to work, live, and raise a family.

Information for May 2 Election

Early voting for the May 2nd primary/special election starts on Tuesday, April 4th. Please note that the voter ID requirements were changed in [House Bill 458](#) and go into effect April 7, 2023.

Please visit <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/id-requirements/> for more information on Voter Identification Requirements.

You may visit <https://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/> to determine if your community has any contests to vote on during this election.

April Dates of Note

The week of April 11-17 is **Black Maternal Health Week**. Black mothers are 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white women. We must address this injustice by supporting Doula services, the Strong Foundations Act and removing barriers many Black mothers face to receiving quality healthcare.

Child Care Appreciation Week is April 16-22 Child care workers are some of our most essential workers, caring and nurturing our children through compassion, patience, and kindness. This year's Child Care Worker Appreciation Week honors and remembers the child care workers who were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. By supporting our amazing child care workers, we ensure that all Ohioans receive quality, affordable child care.

April 22nd is **Earth Day**, a celebration of all the Earth offers us and a time to reflect on how we can protect our planet. We only have one Earth and we must do all we can to protect and care for it. Climate change is one of the biggest issues we face as a planet. I will always stand up for sustainable and environmentally friendly policies that create clean, renewable and affordable energy that can power our cities and heat our homes.

April 28 commemorates the day when the federal **Occupational Safety and Health Act** was enacted. This landmark legislation created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), greatly improving Ohioans safety in the workplace. Workers Memorial Day remembers workers who have been killed, injured, or made sick on the job. Ohio's workers keep our state competitive and are the reason Ohio is an economic leader in America. House Democrats are committed to fighting for workers' rights to ensure we all have safe workplaces, proper training and fair pay.

National Minority Health Month is observed in April and focuses on the health disparities minority communities experience in the United States. Black men are more likely to die from cancer than Caucasian men and Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. We must provide more linguistically and culturally appropriate health education as well as remove barriers to receiving healthcare. I will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can succeed.

Every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. April is designated **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and is meant to raise awareness regarding the prevalence of sexual assault, educating people on how to minimize the risk of sexual assault as well as how to help survivors. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault you can call 800-656-4673 to be connected to a local sexual assault service provider. More information here:
<https://www.rainn.org/get-help>

April is **National Arab American Heritage Month**! This month celebrates Arab American culture and achievements which have made Ohio, and America, a better place for all. Ohio is proud to have the country's ninth-largest Arab American population. I am dedicated to ensuring Arab Americans in Ohio are welcomed and supported, so we can all thrive.

Tax Day is April 18

Taxes are due by April 18th this year! Make sure you file your taxes and take advantage of any returns you may be offered. If you cannot file your taxes by April 18th, make sure to request an extension which will give you until October 16th to file your tax return.

Scholarship Opportunity

Applications are now open for the Ohio Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering Scholarship Program. The deadline to apply is April 17, 2023. This is a merit based, nonrenewable scholarship of up to \$5,000 for college students that will be juniors and seniors for the 2023-2024 academic year. For more specific information and to apply, visit:

<https://www.ohiosci.org/ohio-epa-scholarship-program/>

Read It Again!

Read It Again! is a free curriculum supplement available to all and made specifically for those providing early child care and education. Visit readitagain.osu.edu for more information and to get access to both Read It Again! Infants and Toddlers curriculum supplement (for children birth to age 3) and the Read It Again! PreK curriculum supplement (for ages 3-5).

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

