

## Statehouse Update May 2023

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



Dear Neighbor,

April was a busy month at the Statehouse! We are proud to unveil our values and vision to Ohio with what we call the “People First” agenda. Putting people first means working together to ensure all Ohioans—no matter your race, gender or economic status—have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

**I hope that you will join me for my first Town Hall of the General Assembly on Monday, May 15 at 6:30 at the Gahanna Library.** I will be joined by my colleagues from neighboring House Districts to share more information about the People First Agenda, the State Budget, and other legislation of interest. The special guest will be Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano. Ohio law requires properties to be fully reappraised every six years and Franklin County is expected to have a historic increase in home values. Auditor Stinziano will provide more information about this process and answer questions.

This May, I recognize and celebrate our educators in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. I thank all our educators and school staff who work hard each and every day to ensure our children and students are receiving the best education and care possible. That’s why I support legislation to guarantee every Ohioan, no matter where they live, has a quality education. The version of the budget passed by the House delivered a major win for education by including an update to the Fair School Funding Plan that would invest more money in our public schools. The Fair School Funding Plan supports students and ensures that public schools get the funds they need to succeed. Thank you, teachers, administrators, and staff, for all you do!

In my efforts to find common ground to better the lives of all Ohioans, I remain steadfast in my position of never dividing and distracting Ohioans from the crucial work needed to put people first and move Ohio forward.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Lightbody  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 4

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## Town Hall Meeting

# TOWN HALL MEETING

Host: Rep. Mary Lightbody (OH 04)

Assistant Minority Leader

Dontavius Jarrells (OH 01)

Rep. Latyna Humphrey (OH 02)

Rep. Ismail Mohamed (OH 03)

Rep. Richard Brown (OH 05)

Rep. Munira Abdullahi (OH 09)

- Legislative Update
- State Budget
- People First Agenda

Guest: Franklin County Auditor

Michael Stinziano

- 2023 Property Reappraisal  
Process and Information



Date: Monday, May 15

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Gahanna Library  
310 Granville Street  
Gahanna, OH 43230



OHIO HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

## Update on HJR 1

[House Joint Resolution \(HJR\) 1](#) and [Senate Joint Resolution \(SJR\) 2](#) are undemocratic, unpopular, unfair, and unnecessary. In a rush to restrict access to reproductive rights—which they freely admit--some extremist members of the majority party and special interest groups are putting culture wars ahead of our freedom and Ohio's economic future with HJR 1. This bill will drive businesses from Ohio, discourage new innovation from coming to the state, and set Ohio's economic potential back decades. Restricting ballot initiatives takes away Ohioans voices and our right to decide what matters most. It would end majority rule in Ohio, shred our Constitution, and take away our right to decide what happens in our communities.

I will always support legislation that upholds the freedom to be who we are, the dignity of representation, and opportunity to thrive.

## People First Agenda

This month, House Democrats unveiled our People First agenda. The People First agenda is built on top of three values: freedom, dignity, opportunity.

FREEDOM is the belief incorporated within fighting for our fundamental rights. A value that brings our communities, our tribes, our people together. Our mission is aimed at protecting the freedom of all Ohioans to vote, to choose, to live, to love and learn.

DIGNITY is focused on the value of building an Ohio we all deserve. Dignity means good jobs, fair wages, and suitable health benefits. The dignity found in the American dream of safe and affordable housing where we have a chance to reach our potential.

OPPORTUNITY is centered around the ideal that Ohio must invest in its most valuable resource that will lead this state forward- its people. This can be done by meeting people where they are supporting them, through good times and bad.

Bills like [HB 7](#) (Improve Maternal & Infant Mortality Outcomes), [HB 96](#) (Increase Minimum Wage to \$15), and [HB 115](#) (Ohio Equal Pay Act) are priorities and will propel our state forward.

## District 4 Spotlight



I attended the Centennial Celebration for Hanby Elementary School in Westerville to present a House Resolution. Congratulations to the Students, Teachers, and staff!



I recognized Carly Meeting, Senior at New Albany High School during a recent House Session for winning Division I Swimming Championships in two events. She is pictured above with her parents. Congratulations Carly!

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

### May Dates of Note

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month.** Nearly 1 in 4 Ohioans experiences a mental illness and during Mental Health Awareness Month, it's important to recognize the role mental health plays in our lives. We must discuss investing in our mental well-being and breaking the stigma that goes with receiving mental health care by investing millions of dollars for services, research, and workforce development. For more resources, visit [mha.ohio.gov](http://mha.ohio.gov).

**May is National Foster Care Month.** Nearly 16,000 children are in the custody of a child welfare agency in Ohio. These children are often escaping abuse, addiction, or neglect. Today we recognize the important role that members from all parts of child welfare play in supporting children, youth, and families. I will continue to advocate for children in foster care and their success.

We observe **Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month** to reaffirm our commitment to stopping Asian hate and ensuring all Ohioans can live with safety and dignity in their communities. I support legislation which would create the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs to address the injustices of the past and understand the unique difficulties in addressing the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander population in Ohio.

**May is Jewish American Heritage Month**, a time to recognize the contributions of Jewish Americans who have made a tremendous impact on our state and country. From Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first female to be ordained as a rabbi in the U.S, to Jerome Schottenstein, generations of Jewish Americans have helped form the fabric of American history, culture and society.

**May is National Military Appreciation Month**, a time to recognize and pay tribute to all members of the military. Congress designated May as National Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure that we appreciate the men and women of our armed services that keep us safe. I will continue to advocate for active military and veterans so that they receive the resources and support they deserve.

**May 5th was African World Heritage Day**, a day for us to celebrate the continent's unique cultural and natural heritage. We celebrate African culture and achievements which have made Ohio, and America, a better place for us all. I am dedicated to ensuring all in Ohio are welcomed and supported, so we can all thrive.

**Cinco De Mayo (May 5<sup>th</sup>)** originated as a celebration of military victory in Mexico and is now an opportunity to recognize Mexican history and culture.

**May 6-12 is Nurse's Week.** From higher wages to safe staffing, I will always advocate for Ohio's 200,000 nurses. Ohio's nurses make less than the national average, which hurts our state's ability to hire and retain quality healthcare professionals. Our nurses deserve support and quality resources to do their jobs to the best of their ability.

During the week of **May 8-12th, Teacher Appreciation Week**, I want to reflect and focus on the amazing work our teachers do every day preparing our state for future success. We all know that preparing for the future starts in our classrooms. Our teachers work hard every day to ensure a bright future for Ohio and its children.

Visit Ohio! **May 10th is Ohio Tourism Day.** Today, we show off all the amazing things to do, see, and eat here in Ohio. From Cedar Point to Hocking Hills, our great state has something to offer everyone and every family. I will continue to ensure that Ohio is a great place for families to visit.

On **May 12, National Military Spouse Appreciation Day**, we honor and celebrate our military spouses who do so much to support the men and women of our armed forces. Whether at home or abroad, the members of the United States military rely on their spouses for love and commitment. I honor our men and women in uniform and thank their spouses for their selfless sacrifice to their families.

On **May 14** I wish all of the mothers in Ohio's 4<sup>th</sup> District a very **Happy Mother's Day!**

On **May 21st, World Day for Cultural Diversity** we celebrate the vast array of cultural diversity displayed across our planet. The things that make us different are what make us special. Ohio is lucky to have so many amazing communities from around the world. From the Somali community to the Ukrainian community to our many different Latin American communities, Ohio is a better place because of our diversity.

**May 24th is First Responders Appreciation Day!** I am grateful for the hard work and sacrifices that first responders do to keep our communities safe. From firefighters to police officers to EMTs, our first responders are our heroes.

**On Memorial Day (May 29th)**, I honor the courage and bravery of the Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we are the land of freedom, dignity, and opportunity.



### **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](mailto:Rep04@ohiohouse.gov)

