

## Statehouse Update July 2023

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From the Office of State Representative Mary Lightbody  
House District 4 | 614-466-4847 <><> [Rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep04@ohiohouse.gov)



Dear Neighbor,

Happy first full month of summer! This July, we celebrate Independence Day, a holiday we typically spend with loved ones, enjoy cookouts and fireworks displays. The Fourth of July also serves as a reminder of why this country, and state, is such a special place. This nation was founded upon the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice, values that we should all embrace and celebrate. While we should all enjoy this special American holiday, we should also remember the sacrifices and struggles in our continuing journey towards equality.

On this Independence Day weekend, I urge you mark your calendars for the special election on August 8, 2023, read about Issue One (below), and verify/update your voter registration

And please make sure your voice is heard this August! Register to vote at: [voteohio.gov](https://voteohio.gov).

Allow me to take a moment of personal privilege. As your state representative, I hope you will join me in voting "NO" on Issue 1, which will be the only state-wide issue on the ballot. I truly believe that Issue 1 is an unfair, unpopular, and undemocratic attack on the rights of Ohio citizens to make important decisions. A NO vote will protect the rights of a 50%+1 majority of voters to determine the outcome of elections. If Issue 1 passes, a 40%+1 minority will decide the outcome over the 59.9999% majority. I believe this gives too much power to a minority and I know it will end majority rule on citizen-led ballot initiatives. We must defeat Issue 1 to protect our freedom to determine our future. #VoteNoInAugust

Thanks to all of you who contact my office with questions or to express your opinions. If there is anything my office can do, please do contact me by email at [Rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep04@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-4847. My wonderful Legislative Aide, Esther Kelsch and I are happy to answer any questions, and to responds to any comments or concerns you bring to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lightbody". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary Lightbody  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 4

*\*Prefer a paper newsletter? Please reply to this email with your address for a copy in the mail.*

***\*To unsubscribe, please reply to this email to opt-out.\****

### **Open Office Hours**

I hope you will join me for open office hours. No RSVP is needed, just come find me for a conversation. Please contact my office if you would prefer a private meeting.

#### **Saturday, July 8**

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Java Central Westerville

20 S. State St Suite B, Westerville, OH 43081

#### **Friday, July 14**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Gahanna Panera

91 N. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, OH 43230

#### **Monday, July 24**

\*Walking Office Hours at Blendon Woods

Meet at the visitor Center 8:00-8:15 a.m. then depart for a short walk

4265 E Dublin Granville Road, Westerville, OH 43081

#### **Sunday, July 30**

1:00 - 2:20 pm

Rocky Fork Metro Park, meet at the Dog Park

7180 East Walnut Street, New Albany, OH 43054 (east of the Hoover and Rt. 605)

Note: Please bring your dog! I miss my standard poodle and need some time with canines!

**\*Please note, I am no longer holding office hours on July 18**

### **District 4 Spotlight**

Congratulations to brothers Teddy Fellrath and Joey Fellrath, who recently competed in the International Geography Bee's US National Championships!

- Teddy Fellrath is a rising sophomore at New Albany High School was a semifinalist in the Junior Varsity division.
- Joey Fellrath is a rising 5th grader at New Albany Intermediate School was a quarterfinalist in the 4th Grade and Under division.

Both have earned invitations to the biennial International Geography Championships in 2024, which will be held in Ecuador. We look forward to cheering you on!

*Have an idea for a future District 4 spotlight? Please contact my office!*

## Issue 1

Voting for Issue 1 starts in July. If passed, it would raise the threshold to approve a citizen initiated constitutional amendment to 60% from 50%.

Here are some important dates to remember:

July 10: Deadline to register to vote

July 11: Absentee voting by mail begins (ends August 7)

July 11: Early in-person voting begins

August 1: Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.

Tip: Don't wait. If you plan to vote absentee by mail, get the request form for an absentee ballot from the Franklin County Board of Elections on Morse Road or online at <https://electionlink.franklincountyohio.gov/portals/ElectionLink/VoterSearch.aspx>, and send it in now. Then watch your mail and return the ballot as soon as you receive it to be sure the ballot arrives by the shortened deadline for receipt of the completed ballot.

August 7: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date and received by August 12.

August 8: **Election Day** (Polls open 6:30 am-7:30 pm)

When we need a check on the actions of our elected officials, citizen-initiated ballot issues give us the freedom to make decisions that affect our lives. Make sure your voice is heard by voting "NO" to protect our freedom to determine our future. #VoteNoInAugust

## New Voter ID Law

Please be advised that the voter identification (ID) requirements included in [House Bill 458](#) went into effect in April. A utility bill as proof of address will no longer be accepted, so please note the changes:

### There are three ways to vote in Ohio:

- Vote Early by Mail (No photo ID required, only the last 4 of your Social Security #)
- Vote Early in Person with Photo ID
- Vote on Election Day with Photo ID

### Permissible Photo IDs:

- Ohio Driver's license
- State of Ohio ID or interim ID issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)
- US Passport
- US or State military ID

### FAQs:

- State of Ohio IDs are free at your [local BMV](#) to any Ohioan 17 and older. To obtain State ID, you will need proof of your legal name, date of birth, legal presence in the United States, social security number (if applicable), and Ohio residence. For more information, click here: <https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/free-ID-palm-card.pdf>

- A former address on the ID is fine. (The ID requirement is for proof of identity not address.), if you have moved, update your address with the Franklin County Board of Elections
- College IDs won't be accepted
- ID MUST be current, not expired

### **Legislative Update: LGBTQ+ Edition**

So far in 2023, there have been almost [500](#) anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in states across the US. That's an unprecedented figure, already doubling the number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in all of 2022. This is just one of many factors prompting the Human Rights Campaign to declare a "[State of Emergency](#)" for LGBTQ+ Americans.

Ohio is no stranger to this alarming trend. Extremists in this General Assembly have introduced several bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community's freedoms at schools and universities, in sports, at the doctor's office and beyond. Some of these bills were passed through the Ohio House in June, which I consider to be especially shamelessly, as June is also Pride Month.

I continue to put people first and stand with the LGBTQ+ community. I recently introduced the Anti-Bullying Act (HB 216), and the Anti-Conversion Therapy Act (HB 220) which protects civil rights and recognizes LGBTQ+ individuals as vital members of our communities. I am also a co-sponsor of the Ohio Fairness Act, which will be introduced soon, also with bi-partisan support.

### **Clean Energy Rebates and Incentives**

Did you know that you may qualify for rebates and incentives for clean energy projects in your home? Visit the [Rewiring America's website](#) to identify the programs for which you may qualify.

### **July Dates of Note**

**National Postal Workers Day (July 1)** From birthday cards to ballots, our postal workers play a vital role in our lives. There are approximately 490,000 postal workers in the United States who work diligently every day to deliver our mail. Today, we take a moment and appreciate our postal workers and their commitment to ensure that we receive quality, timely service.

**On July 2, 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed** by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin in the United States. With support of activists, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the Civil Rights Act was a crucial step forward in America's continued journey towards equality and justice for all. I am committed to continuing this work by fighting for an Ohio where we all have the freedom, dignity, and opportunity to thrive.

**Independence Day (July 4)** Happy Fourth of July! Today, we celebrate our strengths and recommit ourselves to fighting for liberty, equality, and justice for all Americans. May we honor every sacrifice of those who fought for our independence, ensuring that we all have the freedom, dignity, and opportunity to thrive.

**Malala Day (July 12)** Malala Day honors Malala Yousafzai, an activist who fights women's right to an education. Targeted for standing up for educational opportunities for women, Malala Day pays tribute to her work, while emphasizing the vital importance of receiving quality education around the world. I am committed to Malala's vision, advocating for quality, affordable public education.

**On July 19, 1848, the first American women's rights convention took place in Seneca Falls, New York.** An estimated 300 attendees took part in the effort to obtain equal rights and suffrage for women. Today, there are more than 5.9 million women in Ohio who have the opportunity to vote on issues that they care about. This August 8th, make your voice heard by voting "NO" on Issue 1. #VoteNoInAugust

**National Hire a Veteran Day (July 25)** Today, over 600,000 veterans live in Ohio. July 25th is "National Hire a Veteran Day," a day to remind and encourage businesses to hire veterans. Veterans bring leadership, work-ethic, teamwork, and determination to succeed, benefitting both small and large businesses. Bills like HB 53, the Hire Veterans Tax Credit are an investment in our veterans. This legislation will put money in the pockets of working families, while providing opportunities to our heroes.

**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 30)** Ohio ranks fifth for human trafficking incidents in the United States. I want to ensure Ohioans are equipped with the resources necessary to combat this preventable trend.

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888  
Text: Info or Help to BEFREE (233733)

**July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for Black and brown Ohioans. There are often barriers and stigmas that accompany minority mental health, and we must work to dismantle these and make healthcare more accessible for all.

Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.

**It's Corn Month!** Ohio ranks 8th for the production of corn in the United States. I want to appreciate our hardworking farmers who bring us this golden goodness year after year. Thank you for tending to our land, nurturing our crops, and ensuring our tables are full. Your dedication is invaluable to our communities. Let's celebrate this staple of Ohio agriculture and continue supporting our local farmers. Attend your Farmer's Market for locally grown produce.

### Property Reappraisal Sessions

Did you miss my town hall with Auditor Stinziano? Do you have questions about the Franklin County Property Reappraisal Process? He will be hosting two information sessions where you can learn the answers to questions such as:

- What is the reappraisal and how it will impact you?
- What factors go into my property value?
- How will the reappraisal affect my property taxes?

Reynoldsburg Senior Center

Thursday, July 13, 6-7:30p.m.

1520 Davidson Dr., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Columbus Metropolitan Library-Parsons Branch

Wednesday, August 2, 5:30-7p.m.

1113 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43206

\*Please note, these are not legislative town hall events, and will only include presentations from the Auditor's office

You may also call (614) 525-HOME or visit

[www.franklincountyauditor.com/KnowYourHomeValue](http://www.franklincountyauditor.com/KnowYourHomeValue) or with any questions.

### 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)

