



## February 2026 Legislative Update from STATE REP. JOE MILLER



@RepJoeMiller



@joemillerohio

House District 53



From the desk of Representative Miller

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are staying warm after Winter Storm Fern's ferocious appearance. With her freezing wind chills and mountainous snow drifts creating enough problems, the last thing anyone would want is an issue with the state government. If there is anything you need help with, do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Whether it is with food benefits, unemployment, or any number of state related issues, we are here to help.

While legislating is one of our primary tasks, constituent services are extremely important to me, and to you. If you are unsure whether your issue is within our power to help, call or email anyway. We oftentimes know which resources to direct you to if we cannot directly help.

So, you can reach my office at 614-466-5141 or  
Rep53@ohiohouse.gov: we will help you.

Sincerely,

State Representative Joe Miller

### District Spotlights

- LorMet Community Federal Credit Union in Amherst will celebrate its 90th Anniversary
- The Crafted Corner in Avon Lake opened for business
- Joe Rada was named the Avon Lake Post 211 American Legionnaire of the Year

### Digital Newsletter Signup

Use the QR code below to sign up to automatically receive our office's digital newsletter. Simply open the camera app on your smartphone, hover over the code, and tap on the link that pops up.





# Legislative Update & Summary

I am excited to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the progression of the legislation I have introduced over the course of this General Assembly.



Bill Number	Title	Most Recent Activity in the Legislature
HB 416	Designate Police Officer Phillip Wagner Memorial Highway	Referred to Committee 9/15/2025
HCR 7	American Legion Resolution Buckeye Boys and Girls State	Awaiting Full Senate Vote 10/22/2025
HB 362	Prohibit Deepfakes during Election Seasons	Referred to Committee 6/18/2025
HB 44	Police Lateral Transfer/Cadet bill	Signed into Law 11/5/2025
HB 79	Increase assault penalties if the victim is a sports official	Opponent Hearing 3/26/2025
HB 191	Increase Base Teacher Salary	Sponsor Testimony 4/8/2025
HB 165	Implicit Bias Training for licensed educators	Sponsor Testimony 4/1/2025
HB 164	Reinstate Joint Education Oversight Committee	Sponsor Testimony 4/1/2025
HB 77	Regards Type 1 Diabetes Info	Added to HB 96, passed into law 6/30/2025



## 250 Years Later

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation. I joined my fellow America 250-Ohio Commission member and friend, Senator Hearcel Craig, in the Kick-off Ceremony for Ohio's celebration of this momentous milestone. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open, there will be many exciting events and programs happening over the year, including Ohio Goes to the Movies, the 250 Buckeye Train, and the Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail among many others.

## Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Though the walk to Elyria High School was bitter cold, it was all the worth it to hear Reverend Bowen speak to the sacrifices Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made to advance the economic and civil rights of all Americans. Undoubtedly, his contributions to a more perfect union must be remembered, and his words taken into all of our hearts. Of his many great writings and speeches, I often return to the Letter from Birmingham Jail, where Dr. King tells us that “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”



## New Year, New Faces



The Oberlin and Lorain Municipal Courts, which serve much of District 53, have new, but trusted faces. Judge Farah Emeka of the Oberlin Municipal Court (pictured top) and Judge Linda Webber of the Lorain Municipal Court (pictured bottom) were sworn into office. A fair minded judiciary is the bedrock of civic trust, for without just courts, the law would mean nothing. I know Judge Emeka and Judge Webber are committed to upholding justice, equal protection, and due process. As they enter their new roles, I congratulate them and wish them well as they serve the people of District 53.



# Achieve Credit Union Scholarships

With many students making their college choices, the question of how to pay for their educations is no doubt on the minds of parents and students alike in the district. If you are a member of Achieve Credit Union, they are offering up to four non-renewable scholarships of \$1,000 each.

Up to two scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors, while up to two scholarships will be granted to students currently enrolled as full-time students at any post-secondary educational institution.

The application is available at [AchieveCU.org/scholarships](http://AchieveCU.org/scholarships), and must be submitted by February 21, 2026. More information can be found at the link.

## Lorain County Services Contact Information

- Lorain County Jobs & Family Services:  
(440)-323-5726
- Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities:  
(440)-329-3734
- Lorain County Income Tax Department:  
(440)-204-1002
- Lorain County Veteran's Services:  
(440)-284-4625
- Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services Board of Lorain County
  - Crisis and Suicide Hotline: 988
  - Non-Emergency Navigator: (440) 240 7025
- Lorain County Educational Service Center: 440-324-5777



## Office Contact Information

Office Address: 77 South High Street  
10th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Office Phone: (614) 466-5141

Office Email: rep53@ohiohouse.gov

Instagram: @joemillerohio

Twitter: @RepJoeMiller