

SUMMER 2025

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DONTAVIUS L. JARRELLS


HOUSE DISTRICT 01

(614) 466-5343 | rep01@ohiohouse.gov | [@iamDontavius](https://www.instagram.com/iamDontavius)

Dear Neighbor,

As we embrace the crisp air and changing colors of autumn, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we accomplished **together** over the summer. In this newsletter, you'll find recent **legislative updates**, a recap of our **town hall**, highlights from the **block party**, and important information on changes to **Ohio's driver training requirements** and updates on the **redistricting process**. Our work is far from over, but we are doing this together. If you ever need assistance, have concerns, or want to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Dontavius L. Jarrells
State Representative
Ohio House District 01



Business Highlight

Posh Teatime Co. is a Black, Female, Muslim-owned tea room, dedicated to educating, empowering, and employing local youth while bringing elegant, community-centered experiences to Franklinton. They are located at 1273 W Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43222. Visit their website at www.poshteatime.com/



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Recent Legislation

As efforts continue to shape more equitable policies, here are a few key bills to keep on your radar. If any of these speak to you and you're interested in testifying, visit the House Committee website at <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees>.

- **H.B. No. 34 (Jarrells, Mohamed)** – Proposes an increase to the state **minimum wage**; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 35 (Pizzulli, Jarrells)** – Seeks to designate a portion of highway as the **Al Oliver Highway**; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 57 (Jarrells, Williams)** – Enhances school safety by setting policies for administering **overdose reversal drugs**; passed by the House, awaiting Senate approval.
- **H.B. No. 215 (Jarrells, Stephens)** – Would prevent new property **tax levies** from taking effect in the current year; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 216 (Williams, Jarrells)** – Proposes the **A HAND UP Act** to provide assistance in transitioning into the workforce as participants become ineligible for public benefits; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 255 (Jarrells, Miller, M)** – Aims to establish the **Ohio Sports Commission** to support sports development in the state; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 306 (Jarrells, Williams)** – Introduces **the Hate Crime Act** to strengthen legal protections against hate-motivated offenses; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 307 (Jarrells, Robb Blasdel)** – Enacts **the Lead Line Replacement Act** to speed up the removal of hazardous lead service lines; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 388 (Williams, Jarrells)** – Addresses **GLP-1 drug cost reimbursement** for state employees to improve access to essential medications; currently in House committee.
- **H.B. No. 444 (Williams, Jarrells)** – The **Tithing Protection Act** allows income tax deductions for qualifying church donations; currently in the House.

You can also learn more about these and other bills I'm supporting by visiting [my website](#).

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, a reminder that prostate cancer often has **no early symptoms**, making regular screenings critical. **LifeCare Alliance** provides a free Cancer Screening and Support Center that is located at **1699 West Mound Street**, open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. I'm currently working to pass **House Bill 33**, which would require **insurers to cover preventive screenings** for men at high risk.



REP. JARRELLS IN THE COMMUNITY

P.L.A.N. Ohio Town Hall

Alongside Representatives Christine Cockley, Darnell Brewer, and State Senator Bill DeMora, I hosted a town hall at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The event brought together **constituents, local advocates, and community leaders** for a powerful conversation on **gun violence prevention, survivor support, and firearm safety**. Attendees engaged in open dialogue around **effective programming and policy solutions**.



All of Us Legislative Town Hall & Resource Fair

More recently, I was proud to host the All of Us Town Hall, a day focused on **connection and accessible information**. I was honored to be joined by State Representative Latyna Humphrey, Columbus City Councilmember Melissa Green, and Columbus City School Board President Michael Cole. Together, we spoke on the importance of understanding how the legislative process works, staying informed, holding elected officials accountable, and building strong community partnerships.



All of Us Block Party

To all the incredible **community members, families, young adults, organizations, and vendors** who joined us this past week, **thank you!** Your presence helped make the inaugural All of Us Block Party a truly meaningful celebration. This event was created to uplift our community, and thanks to you, we're off to an amazing start.

These events serve as powerful reminders of the value of civic engagement. I'm **endlessly grateful to every resident, advocate, and organization** who participated. Your voices matter, and they're helping shape a better future for all of us.

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

New Driver Training Requirements for Young Adults (18 - 20)

A state law has gone into effect requiring that new drivers **aged 18, 19, and 20** complete a **mandatory** “Class D” driver education course, **regardless of when they received their learner’s permit**. Proof of course completion **must be presented** before taking the driver’s license test. To find an approved school near you, visit drivertraining.ohio.gov and click on the “Find A School” button. For more information on the new requirements, visit otso.ohio.gov/under21



Ohio Redistricting

Ohio’s redistricting process is underway, and I remain committed to a **fair, transparent, and community-centered process**, not one that divides historically Black neighborhoods or silences voters through gerrymandering. Ohioans deserve maps that **reflect our full diversity** and keep communities together. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Let’s fight for fair representation together.

Senate Bill 1

With the recent implementation of Senate Bill 1, which **prohibits DEI initiatives, bans faculty strikes**, along many other actions, Ohio’s higher education institutions have been forced to shut down many centers and initiatives **previously established to support the academic and intellectual growth of students**. I believe all students enrolled at these higher education institutions deserve to feel seen and equally supported, and I **am working to ensure that their voices are represented at the state level**.

Important Changes to SNAP Benefits for Some Immigrant Families

Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, SNAP (food assistance) benefits are at risk of being delayed or paused **starting November 1, 2025**. Without new congressional funding, the USDA cannot issue November benefits, meaning many households may not see new funds added to their EBT cards until the shutdown ends. October benefits already on cards can still be used, and people are urged to keep their SNAP information up to date so benefits can resume smoothly once funding is restored.

Beginning November 1, H.R. 1 (The One Big Beautiful Bill Act) will also **change SNAP eligibility to U.S. Citizens and green card holders who completed a 5-year waiting period**. Many non-citizens, including refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking or domestic violence, and some individuals with special immigrant visas, may lose their SNAP benefits due to this change. If your household is affected, you should receive a notice from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

If you receive a notice or are unsure how this affects your benefits, **please contact JFS or our office as soon as possible**. We’re here to support you and connect you with additional resources like food pantries and emergency assistance.