

A legislative update from
STATE REP. ISMAIL MOHAMED
HOUSE DISTRICT 3



Contact us:

(614) 466-1896

77 S High St. 10th Floor
Columbus OH 43215

rep03@ohiohouse.gov

From the desk of Rep. Mohamed

Dear Neighbor,

Happy first full month of summer! July has been off to a busy start and will stay busy as we see Ohio prepare for the upcoming August 8th election. I encourage you to vote early or on election day, and make sure your voice is heard. Issue 1 originated in the Ohio Legislature (where I voted against it), and is an unfair, unpopular, and undemocratic attack on the people and an attack on our sacred constitution. It would end majority rule in our state and snuff out the principle of "one person, one vote." We must defeat Issue 1 to protect our freedom to determine our future.

On July 4th, the State budget was signed into law by the Governor, funding Ohio for two more years. While the final budget did not include many of our priorities, there are encouraging elements that will help our state and our district to thrive. A full breakdown is below.

As always, if there is anything my office can do please reach out to us by email at Rep03@Ohiohouse.gov or by phone at (614) 466-1896. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ismail Mohamed

Ismail Mohamed
State Representative
Ohio House District 3

August 8th 2023

**YOUR
VOTE.
YOUR
VOICE.**

Important Voting Dates:

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.

August 7: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date

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

Ohio's New Budget

The 2023-2025 State Budget was a complex mix of positives and negatives for the people of Ohio. While key funding asks were ignored, we fought hard to see allocations for important programs across the state included.

Budget Highlight!

I fought hard to advocate for funding for the New African Immigrant Commission (NAIC).

The NAIC was founded in 2009 and prior to the passage of HB 33, was the only state commission of its kind with no funding. The NAIC organizes **community health, education, and engagement initiatives for the New African Immigrant population in the State of Ohio.** The Commission received \$500K in funding, and an established account to receive additional funding.

Statewide Funding

Funding Our Future: K-12 Education

- Continued implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan
 - Columbus City Schools funding increased by 15.5%, \$27 Million Dollars, over two years
- Increased funding for school transportation
- Increased Special Needs Scholarship Program funding
- Funds literacy improvement and professional development programs
- Increases funding for student dropout recovery and prevention programs
- Requires schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to students in need
- Increases base teacher salary from \$30K to \$35K
- Increases funding for reduced price breakfast and lunch in schools
- Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio

Higher Education

- Limits tuition increases to 3%
- \$400 Million funding to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant
- Appropriates \$5000 per year for students who graduate in the top 5% of their Ohio high school graduating class
- KSU Columbus Programs
- Ohio State University learning center locations

Saving You Money: Tax Credits and Exemptions

- Creates state tax credit for low-income and affordable housing construction
- Removes the state sales tax for children's diapers, creams, lotions, cribs, wipes, car seats, and strollers

Public Safety

- Increases funding for civil legal aid
- Requires a minimum of 24 hours of additional training for law enforcement officers
- Creates a victim's bill of rights
- Increases funding for reentry employment programs

Caring for Your Health and Wellbeing: Health and Human Services

- Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for vision, dental, general health care, ambulance use, neonatal and newborn services
- Increased pay for direct care and EMS workers
- Medicaid buy-in expanded to include workers with disabilities 65 and older
- Continuous Medicaid enrollment for children 0-3
- Expands program funding for children and youth with special health care needs
- Publicly funded child care eligibility expanded
- Increased funding for child care infrastructure
- \$39.55 Million to Ohio foodbanks
- Ohio Works First eligibility expanded
- \$200K invested to recruit and train support service providers and connect with DeafBlind individuals
- Distributes \$1.4 Billion to address the opioid crisis in Ohio
- Somali Community Link Social Service Program
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio
- MY Project USA
- LifeTown Columbus
- African American Male Wellness Agency to support the Calling All Dads initiative

Investing in a Better Ohio: Development and Natural Resources

- Creates the Welcome Home Ohio program to encourage rehabilitation or construction of low-income housing
- Maintains funding for environmentally contaminated site cleanup and lead removal
- Funds study to assess whether minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses face barriers to contracting with the state for goods and services
- Increases funding for H2Ohio's efforts to improve water quality in the state
- Increased funding for broadband access



Know the Impact: Issue 1

The August Special Election regarding Issue 1 is fast approaching. If passed, Issue 1 would raise the threshold to approve a citizen initiated constitutional amendment to 60% from 50%. Ballot issues give us the freedom to make decisions that affect our everyday lives. Issue 1 would make it harder for Ohioans to have a say over their own futures. Make sure your voice is heard by voting "NO" to stop special interests from ending majority rule. Protect our rights and the sacred principle of "one person, one vote".

You can **vote early-in person** by going to your county Board of Elections office.

Absentee voting by mail also starts on July 11th. Absentee ballot applications must be turned in by August 1st at 8:30 pm. All absentee ballots must be postmarked by August 7th. On **Election Day, August 8th**, the polls will be open from 6:30am-7:30 pm.



Ohio voter ID laws **may have changed** since you last voted. There are still several types of valid identification, but all ID cards must have a photo. Valid forms of ID are listed below:

- Ohio driver's license;
- State of Ohio ID card;
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- A US passport;
- A US passport card;
- US military ID card;
- Ohio National Guard ID card; or
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

NOTICE: An unexpired Ohio Driver License, State ID Card, or Interim Documentation with your **former address IS an ACCEPTABLE** form of ID when your current address is in the pollbook. All forms of ID must be non-expired, have a photo, and name that matches your voter registration.