



Dear Neighbor,

Happy June! This month, the 2024-2025 Operating Budget will come back to the House from the Senate. The budget must pass and be signed into law before July 1. My Democratic colleagues and I fought hard for fully funding our public schools, funding Ohio's food banks, and investments in affordable housing. We anticipate some changes from the Senate but are hopeful Ohioans will benefit from this budget.

On June 14, I will be traveling to the White House alongside Leader Russo for the White House State Legislative Convening on Reproductive Rights. I am grateful for this invitation and look forward to contributing to the conversation! I will not stop fighting for reproductive freedom here in Ohio.

As we head into our summer break, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Anita Somani, MD State Representative Ohio House District 11

Happy Pride Month!

on Saturday, June 24 at 12pm.

Local celebrations are also being held in Hilliard on

Saturday, June 10 from 12-3pm and in Dublin

Happy Pride Month! June is designated as National Pride Month to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and to honor the protests at Stonewall. This month reflects the strides towards equal justice and opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community.

While the Ohio GOP continues to try and strip rights away from all LGBTQ+ Ohioans, my Democratic colleagues and l continue to fight back against the hate and misinformation spread at the Statehouse.

this month can be found at: www.stonewallcolumbus.org/pride/.

OHIOANS WANT SAFE & RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP LAWS.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. Gun violence is an epidemic in this country, and we know that the majority of Ohioans want stricter gun laws. Yet Republicans continue to loosen regulations and pass legislation like permit less carry.

My Democratic colleague, Representative Cecil Thomas, and I will be introducing legislation this month requiring trigger locks to be attached and provided with firearm sales. This is just one measure that can prevent senseless shootings and save innocent lives.

HAPPY PRIDE The annual Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade will be taking place on Friday, June 16 from 4-10 p.m. and Saturday, June 17th from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. More information about the pride parade and other events



Legislative Updates before Summer Recess Before the Ohio Legislature breaks for Summer SB 83 **passed out of the Senate**, and both bills now

to move to the floor quickly this month. Some bad bills that take away the rights of Ohioans

recess, we are anticipating bills, both good and bad,

to watch out for are:

- HB 6: Bans transgender athletes from participating in girls' sports. HB 6 has passed out of committee and is anticipated to be brought up for a House vote. Contact all Republican
- members to voice your opposition to this bill. HB 68: Bans gender affirming care for minors, including all mental health services. HB 68 is anticipated to pass out of Public Health Committee and move to the House floor. Contact Chairman Lipps at

rep55@ohiohouse.gov to voice your opposition.

SB 83/151: These bills eliminates higher

education employees' right to strike, bars institutions from receiving state funding if they have DEI programs, and censors free speech.

Reach out to Chairman Tom Young at rep37@ohiohouse.gov to stop these bills. Despite the numerous bills in the Ohio Legislature

sit in the House Higher Education Committee.

that are detrimental to Ohioans, there are pieces of legislation that will benefit all. These include: HB 171: Changes the model social studies

- curriculum to include the history and contributions of cultural minority groups HB 170: Creates Red Flag Laws in the
- state of Ohio HB 57: Increases the Homestead
 - the House last month and heads to the Senate. We must continue to work to solve the real life

Exemption to account for inflation. This **passed**

problems facing Ohioans, like the economy, funding our public schools, and keeping everyone safe from gun violence.



SJR2, now known as Issue 1, will create minority rule by taking away the last option for citizens to be a • check on the Statehouse. House Republicans amended the resolution to allow for a special election in August, just months after

they voted to get rid of all special elections for being too costly to taxpayers. The passage of this resolution was a blatant violation of our constitutional rights. This should not be a partisan issue, but it has become one. If Issue 1 passes, no constitutional

amendment would pass without a 60% vote.

Monday July 10: Deadline to register for the August 8 election

- Tuesday, July 11: Early, in-person absentee voting begins
- **Tuesday**, **July 11:** Deadline for absentee ballot applications to be received by the county
- Boards of Elections. Boards will be open until 8"30 p.m. that day Tuesday, August 8: Election Day. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Important Notice for Increases in Electricity Bills Starting this month, both AEP and FirstEnergy users FirstEnergy usage cost will go from 5.3 cents per kw/ may experience higher electricity bills due to rising hour to an estimated 10.2 cents. PUCO has been

companies.

AEP rates are going up 28% and do not apply to customers who have shopped around for another provider or are covered by a government aggregation program. More information on this hike and how to

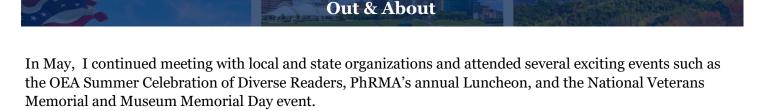
demand and energy prices worldwide.

potentially avoid it can be found here: https:// www.axios.com/local/columbus/2023/05/30/aepelectricity-bills-increasing-columbus-ohio

Using EnergyChoiceOhio.gov and then using the Apples to Apples comparison tool, Ohioans can view rates, terms, and conditions associated with

advising Ohioans to shop around for other energy

competitive generation supply offerings. More information can be found on PUCO's website at: https://puco.ohio.gov/news/news-bureau-energychoice.



I had the opportunity to celebrate AAPI Heritage month by speaking at ASIA Ohio's Advocacy Day, attending the Asian Festival Gala, and volunteering at the festival! I am grateful for so many opportunities to get out in the community and meet constituents.

I also stood alongside fellow advocates of the AAPI Community at the press conference for House Bill 171,

sponsored by Representative Lightbody to add AAPI history to social studies curriculum!

