

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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April 2026

*Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, Clark-Fulton, & South Hills Neighborhoods!*

Dear District 14 Resident:

This month, I want to dedicate my newsletter to everyone feeling the punch of rising costs—utilities, groceries, rent, property taxes, and just about everything else. I hear you. I see you. And I want you to know that you're not alone.

Like many of you, I know what it means to pinch pennies. I grew up the son of a single mom who worked hard to keep a roof over our heads. Later, I put myself through college while living on my own, and then raised my family. Even today, I still do the grocery shopping and the lion's share of the cooking for my wife and me, and every week I see with my own eyes how much prices have spiked, especially since COVID. It's real, it's frustrating, and it affects households across our community.

That's why so much of my work at the Statehouse focuses on easing that pressure. I am constantly pushing back against utility companies that want to raise our rates. I'm fighting for policies that will deliver meaningful property tax relief. And I'm working every day to advance legislation that helps your hard-earned dollars stretch farther.

Unfortunately, too often the policies that win out in Columbus disproportionately benefit the wealthy and well-connected instead of helping everyday Ohioans. And far too much time is wasted on divisive culture-war issues that do nothing to solve the real problems Ohioans face every day. While these realities can be frustrating, I want you to know that I will *never* stop being a voice for the people back home.

If you or someone you know is struggling right now, please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance. You can call **2-1-1** or visit <https://www.211oh.org>, the United Way helpline, to be connected with local resources. They can walk you through what help is available and whether you qualify. I also strongly encourage older adults (60+) and individuals with disabilities to contact the **Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services** at **216-420-6700** for a free, confidential benefits checkup. They can help determine eligibility for programs such as Medicare LIS, SNAP, the Homestead Tax Exemption, home energy assistance, and more. Additional information is available at <https://benefitscheckup.org>.

We're in this together. And as your state representative, I'll keep fighting for you and your family every single day. Please know how much I care about each and every one of you, and that my highest priority is doing everything in my power to ensure you have the best possible quality of life—because you deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street, Floor 10

Columbus, Ohio 43215

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*Recently, I had the honor of meeting with members of the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) Parma Lodge at my Statehouse office in my continuing discussions regarding policies that are important to our law enforcement officers in Ohio.*

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Calls for Improved Electric Reliability Before the PUCO

Community News Published: Mar. 09, 2026

## State Rep. Brennan delivers emotional testimony at PUCO hearing

By John Benson, special to cleveland.com

PARMA, Ohio -- FirstEnergy is currently before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) seeking to lower its obligations to the public for providing safe and reliable power.

In response, State Rep. Sean Brennan -- who serves residents in Parma, Parma Heights, Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre and Clark Fulton -- recently testified at an evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge.

Speaking about the real-world impact of prolonged outages on vulnerable residents in his district, the Parma resident became emotional while describing their circumstances.

“There are moments in public service when policy becomes personal,” Brennan said in a press release.

“I got emotional when speaking about some of my seniors and wheelchair-bound residents who depend on medical equipment and elevators for their health and safety.

“When the power goes out, it is not an inconvenience for them -- it is a threat.”

FirstEnergy is seeking permission to extend the average time it takes to restore power following outages and, in some cases, increase the number of allowable outages per year.

The company has acknowledged in filings that its reliability performance has declined in recent years.

Brennan formally read into the hearing record a letter from Parma City Councilwoman Deborah Lime detailing how extended outages have affected elderly and disabled residents, particularly those living in multi-story residential buildings who rely on elevators and powered medical equipment.

The letter urged regulators to maintain strong reliability standards and reject any proposal that would normalize longer or more frequent outages.

The matter remains pending before the commission following the evidentiary phase of the case.

“As elected officials, our first obligation is to protect the health and safety of our residents,” Brennan said.

“Lowering reliability standards because a company has struggled to meet them sends the wrong message.

“Ohioans have invested heavily in grid improvements. They deserve accountability and measurable results -- not a reduced standard.”



Some of my most trusted friends and advisors in Columbus are the folks at the **Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC)**. They offer a plethora of information about assistance programs and disconnection protections for utility services. There are consumer assistance programs provided by a variety of organizations, including utilities. Some programs provide a one-time credit toward a utility bill while others may help reduce monthly bills, establish a payment plan, or weatherize the home to make it more energy efficient. As some assistance may be based on household income, it helps to check income eligibility before applying. Visit the OCC at [www.occ.ohio.gov](http://www.occ.ohio.gov) or call them at **877-742-5622**.

## State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Supports Plan to Lower Energy Costs, Provide Relief to Families

COLUMBUS – **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma)** today announced his support for a new **House Democratic** legislative effort to address rising energy costs and provide immediate financial relief to Ohio households.

The legislation would:

- Freeze utility rate increases from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for 12 months.
- Provide immediate relief to Ohioans through a \$150 direct payment energy dividend for 5 million Ohioan ratepayers funded by a severance tax on oil and gas extraction.

“As a retired public school teacher, I’ve spent my career working with families who are doing everything right but still struggling to make ends meet,” said **Rep. Brennan**. “Right now, too many Ohioans are being hit with unpredictable and rising utility bills. We need to provide real, immediate relief.”

**Rep. Brennan** emphasized that freezing utility rate increases will help stabilize household budgets and prevent sudden spikes in monthly bills, while the proposed energy dividend would put money directly back into the pockets of working families.

“This is about fairness and affordability,” added **Rep. Brennan**. “Ohioans should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for groceries or medication. A temporary rate freeze gives families breathing room, and the energy dividend ensures they see a direct benefit.”

The proposal would also fund the \$150 payment by increasing Ohio’s severance tax from 2.5 percent to 7 percent. A severance tax is a fee paid by oil and gas companies for the right to extract natural resources from the ground in Ohio—essentially ensuring that when private companies profit from publicly shared resources, the people of Ohio receive a fair return.

“For too long, large energy companies have profited from Ohio’s natural resources while local communities see little direct benefit,” continued **Rep. Brennan**. “It’s time to rebalance that equation and make sure Ohio families share in the value of what’s being taken from our state.”

**Rep. Brennan** noted that addressing energy costs is a critical step in tackling the broader affordability challenges facing Ohio families and reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing policies that protect consumers and promote economic stability.

“I will continue fighting for practical solutions that lower costs, increase transparency, and put Ohio families first,” concluded **Rep. Brennan**.

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### **Rep. Brennan Applauds First Energy Settlement**

COLUMBUS — State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan is applauding the settlement reached between FirstEnergy, the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), and a coalition of consumer advocates resolving PUCO’s investigations into FirstEnergy’s misconduct tied to House Bill (HB) 6.

“This settlement is an important step toward accountability after one of the darkest chapters in Ohio’s public policy history,” said Rep. Brennan. “Ohio consumers were improperly charged, and it’s only right that ratepayers—not corporate shareholders—benefit from this outcome.”

**Key provisions include:**

- **\$187 million in refunds** returned to customers over three billing cycles beginning January 2026, tied to improper charges and undocumented grid modernization costs.
- **\$64 million in civil penalties** redirected from the state’s General Revenue Fund to direct bill credits.
- **\$20 million in low-income assistance**

Rep. Brennan noted the settlement builds on his ongoing legislative efforts to undo HB 6. “Last year, I was honored to lead the effort to end the subsidies tied to that corrupt law. Today’s settlement is another critical step in putting Ohio consumers first.”

“Going forward, the General Assembly must remain vigilant. We owe it to Ohioans to ensure stronger oversight, ethical guardrails, and consumer protections so this never happens again.”



# State Rep. Brennan Out & About



Wishing **Mrs. Wensing** happy 100th; Serving the St. Charles Fish Fry with **Sr. Mary Ann**; I love it when residents from back home visit me at the Statehouse—thanks for stopping by **Allison Younger**; Standing with one of Ohio’s finest who keep me safe at the Statehouse; Reading to the young learners at St. Leo’s; Saying hello to my friend, **Dennis Vasko**, at the Parma World Water Day celebration; **Plumbers Local #55** leader **Shawn Gray** and I speak about issues facing workers; Meeting with leaders serving our military veterans at my Statehouse office; Observing the Ohio Military Reserve training exercises with Governor DeWine; Visiting with young people involved with the county Help program which supports pathways that give every individual the chance to thrive and reach their full potential; Posing with three Padua High School students who shadowed me for a day at the Statehouse

