

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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Dear District 14 Resident:

Since my last newsletter I have very been busy meeting with leaders throughout the region. These meetings have included folks from the business community, the non-profit sector, and fellow governmental leaders, among others. From owners of small businesses like the new Au Jus and BW3 restaurants in Parma, to the CEOs of Fairview Hospital and MetroHealth Systems, to the members of the Northeast Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, to representatives from R.T.A, my schedule has been full. Being an effective state representative requires that you build positive relationships with all stakeholders in the community. The knowledge gained and ties created allow me to serve you to the best of my ability.

Recently, I traveled to East Palestine with a delegation of fellow Representatives. While there, we met with the mayor and fire chief, as well as representatives from the railroad and state and federal Environmental Protection Agencies. We toured the site of the train derailment and watched the cleanup in action. I came away impressed with the progress being made. However, the work is just beginning and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Ohio General Assembly to pass safety measures to help prevent this type of disaster from occurring again and to ensure that our neighbors in EP, as they call it, are not forgotten as the media cycle moves forward.

My colleagues and I in the Ohio House continue our work on the biennial state budget. I have been vocal regarding the needs of our district, region, and state, including properly funding for our city governments, infrastructure needs, schools, libraries, public transportation, assistance to our neighbors with developmental disabilities, and programs for senior citizens and families, among many other priorities.

As always, if my office may ever be of assistance, please feel free to reach out to us.

It is truly an honor to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Brennan

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I was honored to stand with members of the East Palestine Fire Department near “ground zero” in EP.

The header image is a collage. On the left, there is a stained glass window with a circular pattern. In the center, there is a photograph of the interior of the Ohio Statehouse, showing a large hall with many people seated at desks. On the right, there is an aerial photograph of the Ohio Statehouse building, showing its distinctive architecture and the surrounding area.

Ohio State Biennial Operating Budget

In recent weeks I attended Governor DeWine's State of the State Address, in which he outlined his spending priorities. I have spent countless hours reading his 613-page, \$200 billion biennial (two-year) state operating budget proposal. The 2024-2025 state budget calls for a 12.7% increase in spending over the previous budget. The budget process begins with the Governor's proposal to the Ohio General Assembly. Next, the General Assembly will spend several months reviewing and amending his budget proposal. The budget must be approved by the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate and signed by the Governor by June 30th. I have outlined below some of the highlights of the Governor's proposal that affect the communities in District 14. This is just a proposal, and it may be subject to change drastically as it moves through the process. I will be deeply involved in the budgeting process to help ensure that it is balanced and that it addresses our communities' needs.

Primary and Secondary Education

- Continue to fund and implement the Cupp-Patterson Plan, also known as the Fair School Funding Plan, which addresses the unconstitutional funding of Ohio's schools over the years which forces public schools to overly rely on property taxes for funding. However, the General Assembly has not funded the plan fully.
- Provide all students with evidence-based curriculum to address the literacy gap.
- Providing school resource officers in every public and private school in Ohio that wants one.
- Expanding school vouchers at a cost of \$178 million by increasing the income eligibility for EdChoice vouchers to families at 400% of the federal poverty level.



Tax Policy

- Local Government and Libraries Funds (Increase from 1.66% to 1.7% of General Revenue Fund tax revenues) - This is something that I will be keeping a close eye on, as these are our tax dollars that the state sends back to our local communities to pay for police, fire, streets, sewers, recreation, and other key local services. Cuts to the Local Government Fund (LGF) have cost the cities in our district tens of millions of dollars over the years. I am happy that it is increasing, however, the increase does not get us close to where it was a decade ago. As Ranking Member of the State and Local Government Committee, I will be advocating to increase it to its previous levels. We deserve a better return of our tax dollars to benefit our cities.
- Ending sales taxes on "critical infant supplies," including diapers, wipes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and other safety equipment.

Mental Health

- Creation of the State of Ohio Action for Resiliency (SOAR) Network. This group of experts would research the root causes of mental illnesses and determine appropriate treatments.

Higher Education and Career Readiness

- \$300 million to fund capital improvements and equipment for career tech education programs.
- \$5,000 per year scholarships to all Ohio high school students who graduate in the top 5% of their class and choose to attend college in Ohio.

Transportation

- \$100 million for multi-modal transportation, including public transportation. I will be watching this part of the budget closely, as public transportation is important for helping workers connect to jobs, seniors and disabled residents to access needed services, and reduce wear and tear on roads.

Law Enforcement

- \$40 million per year to train officers in de-escalation, use-of-force, and crisis intervention for persons with mental illness.
- Increased funding for police body cameras.
- Fully funds the Next Generation 911 system in every Ohio community and would pay the monthly fees for any agency that uses Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) for improved communication.

Jobs and Economic Development

- \$2.5 billion All Ohio Future Fund to boost infrastructure and economic development sites across the state to ensure that sites are shovel ready for projects to attract businesses and manufacturing and create jobs.
- \$150 million increase for innovation hubs that partner with colleges and universities to create jobs and retain talent.

Affordable Housing

- Tax changes and new programs to help encourage the construction of housing for lower-income residents, including low income and single family housing tax credits, and the creation of the Ohio Home Ownership Savings Account program to help people save for a down payment.



District Spotlight

Due to the hard work of many local leaders, including Cleveland Councilman Brian Kazy, I am pleased to announce that Victoriaville & Co. USA Manufacturing Inc., one of the largest producer of wooden caskets and funeral materials, will be creating 100 new full-time jobs in Cleveland's Ward 16. Job creation and retention are vital to our local economy and key to improving the quality of life of those we serve. Read more at my website.



Statehouse Spotlight

It has been a distinct honor getting to know my fellow Representatives and Senators on both sides of the aisle at the Statehouse. With 99 members of the Ohio House and 33 Ohio Senators, there are a lot of folks to meet and learn about. Some of us have even been meeting on Wednesday mornings for prayer before we begin our work. We are already collaborating on planning legislation and other projects.



Brennan Is Appointed to Committees

Earlier this month, I was appointed to serve on five committees in the Ohio House of Representatives. I am honored to announce that I will be serving as Ranking Member of the House Standing Committee on State and Local Government. Below is my full list of committee assignments, all of which are of great importance to the residents of the District 14. I am very excited to begin working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve the quality of life for the residents we serve here in Ohio. My experience of three decades as a public school teacher and two decades on Parma City Council equip me well for my committee assignments and will benefit the cities of Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland.

- Pensions
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Public Utilities
- State and Local Government (Ranking Member)
- Ways and Means



Resident Spotlight



Parma resident Carmen Verhosek, partner at Dooley Gembala McLaughlin & Pecora, has been named the recipient of the Emerald Award for Inspirational Leadership at 2023's Difference Makers Gala. It was an honor to meet such a brilliant force in our community who is committed to civic service. She graduated cum laude from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, receiving her juris doctor degree. Thank you for your service to the community!