

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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Dear District 14 Resident:

Over the past few weeks I have been very busy both in the district and at the Statehouse in Columbus. In my committees, we have been discussing legislation that would have very negative impacts on the finances of our local governments, including our cities, schools, libraries, Metroparks and zoo, Cuyahoga Community College, and others. For instance, House Bill 1 would eliminate the *10% rollback* (the state government's share of our property taxes). I am on the record stating my objections to defunding our police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs), schools, libraries, parks, etc. This would require all of our local governments placing huge levies on the ballot to recoup the lost revenues estimated at well over \$1 billion. The state made a commitment to us in the 1970s and it should continue to honor this commitment. You can watch the debate in the Ohio House Ways and Means Standing Committee upon which I represent us online at:

ohiochannel.org/collections/ohio-house-ways-and-means-committee

As a former member of Parma City Council for nearly two decades, I prided myself on being an accessible public servant. Rest assured that that will not change in my new position of service. In fact, you may reach out to my office via phone or email if we may ever be of assistance. Along those lines, I am also going to hold in-district office hours periodically. Here is the list of the upcoming dates:

*Tuesday, April 4 (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm): P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub (17119 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland)

*Wednesday, April 5 (8:00 am - 9:30 am): Starbucks (6780 Ridge Road, Parma)

*Monday, April 17 (11:30 am—1:00 pm): Parma Heights Library Room A (6206 Pearl Road)

Please visit my website at ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan to read press releases, follow the bills I am working on, and to sign up for my online newsletter.

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

State Representative, District 14

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Recently, I had the honor of speaking at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma at an event commemorating year one of the Russian invasion. District 14 is Ohio's Ukrainian capital. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian people.





Ohio Biennial Transportation Budget Passes the Ohio House on a Bipartisan Basis

I was explaining to a friend the other day that in my household, Deena and I talk in hundreds of dollars, when I was on Parma City Council we talked in millions, while at the state level we talk in billions. The numbers are truly astonishing at the Statehouse. Please know that I take the budgetary part of my job with extreme seriousness as tax dollars must be put to the wisest use to benefit the public.

I was very proud to cast my vote recently for House Bill 23 - the state's \$12.6 billion two-year transportation budget - *the largest jobs investment in state history*. I was especially proud of the bipartisan nature of this bill's passage. In fact, it was passed by a vote of 74-21 with 43 Republicans joining all 31 Democrats (the other 21 Republicans voted "nay"). The passage of this very important bill proves **when Democrats and Republicans work across the aisle Ohioans benefit!** The bill includes \$7 billion for job-sustaining bridge and highway construction, as well as measures to improve rail safety, and funding for public transportation, among many other important provisions. Below is a short summary. You can read more at my website. The bill now goes to the Ohio Senate for further deliberations and consideration.

Highway and Bridge Construction: Funding \$2.2 billion for pavement, \$717 million for bridges, \$360 million for dedicated safety upgrades, \$1.5 billion for large, capacity adding projects such as reconfiguring urban interstates, and \$1 billion for the Rural Highway Fund.

Public Transportation: Maintains state funding at \$74 million and maintains the \$66 million Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) flexible funding program. Creates the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program to provide grants to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) for workforce mobility initiatives.

Railroad Safety: Requires Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to work with each railroad company doing business in Ohio to ensure that the wayside detector systems used by those companies are operational, effective, and current. Requires immediate notification of a defect to the train operator under certain circumstances. Requires a freight train or light engine to have at least a two-person crew. Requires PUCO and the Ohio EPA to prepare and submit a written report to the General Assembly, within 90 days of the bill's effective date, pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials and hazardous waste.

Electric Vehicles: Beginning January 1, 2024, reduces from \$200 to \$100, the additional registration fee applicable to plug-in hybrid electric motor vehicles.

Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis/Studies: The bill creates a Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis to be used for a statewide study of the Ohio transportation system in collaboration with the Department of Development and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.



My work on the transportation budget took me to East Palestine, Ohio where I learned firsthand why we needed to include rail safety regulations in the bill to protect our communities. I also spoke recently to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACCA) - the agency that plays a large role in determining how state and federal tax dollars are used to improve transportation in northeast Ohio.





District Spotlight

Earlier this month, I was so fortunate to meet with the faculty and students of Artemus Ward Elementary School in Cleveland. As a former educator, children and their education are near and dear to my heart. I was impressed with the innovation and use of technology in the classrooms. The teachers and administrators at Artemus Ward are dedicated to excellence and to preparing our students and children to be future leaders.



Statehouse Spotlight

As a member of the Ohio House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary and Secondary Education, I am one of the 15 of the 99 members of the Ohio House to oversee bills that affect the education of our young people in Ohio. Recently, Assistant Principal Brian Brochetti from Parma Senior High School visited my office to discuss education policy. This was especially a treat, as Mr. Brochetti and I once served together on Parma City Council.



Resident Spotlight

This month I am spotlighting the students in the teaching professions program at Normandy, Parma, and Valley Forge High Schools who competed in the Educators Rising competition at Capital University in Columbus recently. I had the honor of meeting their dedicated teacher, Mrs. Wozniak, and the students at the event. As a social studies teacher for three decades, I am so proud of these young people who are preparing to serve their community!

