

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 22

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November Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you have a safe and healthy holiday with friends, family, and good food!

I am thankful to be your state representative! I am also thankful for each and every person who is working tirelessly to better our community. Please continue to have a positive impact on all those who cross your path, kindness is the key to healing hearts. Whether it's on a grand scale or a personal level, take this holiday season to recognize someone in your life who is doing the good work.

We had a busy month at the statehouse including a “mini lame duck” session where the House voted on 30 pieces of legislation in one night. This newsletter will feature updates on some of the major legislation that passed.

This month we also celebrated Veterans Day! Thank you to all of the women and men who serve and have served our country. I am forever grateful to each and every one of our veterans for the selflessness and sacrifice. Ohio and America would not be and could not be the best place to live without their service. We must remember to support our veterans and their families for their commitment to defending our freedoms.

As always, I love hearing from my constituents, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer
State Representative
Ohio House District 22





Rep. Brewer's HB 393 Passes the House

One positive of the “mini lame duck” was the passage of **HB 393**, a bill I sponsored that expands the state ID program to community-based correctional facilities. This bipartisan legislation requires community-based correctional facilities and programs to assist individuals in custody in obtaining a state-issued identification card prior to their release. Previously, the 135th General Assembly enacted a program to assist individuals in custody of the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in obtaining an ID card, **HB 393** expands this program to community based correctional facilities.

In many cases, a state ID card is the barrier preventing justice-involved individuals from accessing crucial supports such as SNAP benefits, housing, healthcare and can prevent them from taking the next step in their life in finding employment, opening bank accounts, voting, and basic stability needed for reintegration. This legislation isn't just about paperwork. It's about dignity. It's about opportunity. It's about giving people the chance to succeed. If rehabilitation is our goal, then we must make the path to rehabilitation as accessible as possible.

The legislation passed the Ohio House unanimously with a vote of 86-0 and now moves to the Ohio Senate to begin the committee process.



Rep. Brewer speaks on the House floor, urging a yes vote on HB 393.

SB 293 Passes House, Adds New, Unnecessary Hurdles to Voting

House Democrats condemned the passage of anti-voter **Senate Bill 293**, which places new burdens on voters by adding unnecessary hurdles to the voting process and shortening the time available for Ohioans to make their voices heard.

The bill, which moved with lightning speed through the General Assembly and was heavily amended only the day before passage, would throw out absentee ballots because the mail is late. Current law allows for a grace period for mailed absentee ballots to arrive after election day. The bill eliminates this grace period and says all ballots must arrive by 7:30pm on election day. This creates additional, unnecessary barriers to people who simply want to legally exercise their right to vote and may not be able to physically make it to their polling location. In 2024, nearly 1 million Ohioans voted by absentee mail-in ballot or absentee drop box and thousands would have not counted under this law.

It also creates vague and problematic procedures that could cancel registrations when other agencies' databases reflect different information or records, whether or not those records are factually correct. Without clean procedures in place, Ohioans could easily be disenfranchised when one of the multiple databases that contain their information have inaccurate or out-of-date information.

If you would like to make your voice heard and ask Governor DeWine to veto the legislation, call his office at 614-644-4357.



Rep. Brewer Introduces the Green Burial Act

This past month, Rep. Brewer introduced **House Bill 591**, the Green Burial Act. This bipartisan legislation authorizes the use of natural organic reduction as an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional burial and cremation.

The Green Burial Act brings Ohio's laws regulating funerals and burials into the 21st century. Green burial practices present a unique opportunity for Ohio to be a leader in environmental sustainability while honoring the desires of individuals and their loved ones to be laid to rest naturally.

Natural organic reduction breaks down human remains into nutrient-rich compost via natural processes. This new option not only reduces pollutants but also meets the growing demand for sustainable end-of-life choices for Ohio families.

House Bill 591 now awaits sponsor testimony in the House General Government Committee.



Rep. Brewer introduces HB 591.