

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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January Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

Happy January! As we dive into 2026, I could not be more excited to serve our community in the Ohio House of Representatives. This year is filled with opportunities to work together and deliver results for the people of Ohio.

With a new year, I am more optimistic than ever about the future of our state. Ohioans have faced great challenges in the last few years and 2026 will be no different. But, I am confident that we can put people first to create better lives and brighter futures for everyone in this state-no matter who you are.

This month I introduced my first bill of 2026. House Bill 653 establishes statewide standards for civil parking ticket late fees. The bill extends the minimum grace period for paying the fine from 15 to 30 days, caps total late fees per ticket at \$20, and limits excessive administrative and collection fees. The bill creates uniform statewide standards, while preserving local enforcement. The goal of House Bill 653 is to encourage compliance and safety, without creating additional financial hardship for Ohioans.

As your voice in the state legislature, I promise to work hard for you and your family every single day. I am excited to share more updates on legislation, committee work, and more in the months to come.

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

School Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month! Let's express gratitude to our dedicated school board members who work tirelessly to enhance education for our students. Your commitment is shaping the future. Thank you for your service!



National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is also National Human Trafficking Awareness Month! Together, we can raise awareness, empower survivors, and work towards a world where every individual is free and treated with dignity.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR RIGHTS:

- You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents, or other officials. Anything you tell an officer can later be used against you in court.
- If an immigration agent asks if they can search you, you have the right to say no. Agents do not have the right to search you or your belongings without your consent or probable cause.
- Officers must have a warrant signed by a judge to enter your home. If ICE claims to have a warrant, it should be reviewed carefully to confirm it is signed by a judge and includes the correct name and address.
- If you are over 18, carry identification with you at all times. If you do not have them, tell the officer that you want to remain silent, or that you want to consult a lawyer before answering any questions.
- If safe, record the interaction or write down details such as agent names, badge numbers, and what is said.

HOW TO REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF:

- Stay calm. Do not run, resist, or obstruct the officer, even if you believe your rights are being violated. Keep your hands where officers can see them.
- Do not lie about your status or provide false documents.

RESOURCES

- **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**
 - **Phone: 614-586-1958**
 - **For legal assistance: <https://www.acluohio.org/>**
 - **Legal Aid**
 - **Resources for Noncitizens: lasclev.org/noncitizenrights**
 - **Legal Aid has an intake phone number for individuals who are detained. Call 216-861-5700**
 - **League of United Latin American Citizens**
 - **Resource Guide: https://lulac.org/el_pueblo_unido/**
 - **CRIS Ohio**
 - **<https://www.crisohio.org/>**
 - **National Immigration Law Center**
 - **<https://www.nilc.org/>**
 - **American Immigration Lawyers Association**
 - **Find an Immigration Lawyer: <https://ailalawyer.com/>**
 - **National Immigration Detention Hotline**
 - **If detained, call 9233#. Volunteers are available to notify loved ones.**
 - **In case of detention, locator.ice.gov can be used to locate friends and family.**
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