

— January-July 2025 —

Statehouse Update

Representative Cecil Thomas



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Dear Neighbors,

As always, it is a great honor to represent and serve the people of the 25th district in the Ohio House of Representatives. In this newsletter, I'll keep you posted on what's happening at the statehouse, share my work with you, and highlight some of the best Cincinnati events, programs, and resources.

I hope each one of you has a wonderful summer, and has the chance to explore all our city has to offer. In the meantime, feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns. I'm always here to help!

Best,

Cecil Thomas
State Representative

What's Going On with the Budget?



On July 1, Governor DeWine signed Ohio's FY26-27 Operating Budget, passed by the Ohio House and Senate, into law. Rep. Thomas voted against it because this is a harmful budget that prioritizes Ohio's wealthiest over kids and families.

Here's what it includes:

- An **income tax cut for the wealthy**, costing the state \$1.67 billion, while providing no relief for working Ohioans
- Vastly **underfunding our public schools**, which educate the next generation of Ohioans, and instead handing the Cleveland Browns' billionaire owner \$600 million for a new stadium
- **Medicaid cuts** that leave 800k Ohioans at risk of immediately losing their health insurance and that reduce critical funding for hospitals around the state
- **Giving politicians more control** over our kids' education by redesigning the State Board of Education. Now, board members will be appointed by the Ohio Senate, not directly elected by voters. This dangerous move subjects students to political agendas and interference.

Gov. DeWine used his line-item veto to remove several other harmful provisions from the final budget, including limits to school districts' ability to raise funds through levies, cuts to H2Ohio, and political censorship of library collections. The House of Representatives will consider veto overrides on July 21, for which they would need 60 votes. Even if the vetoes hold, this budget remains a far cry from one Ohioans deserve.

Rep. Thomas Wins:



Rep. Thomas' resolution (HB4) to designate September 19 as Ohio Stillbirth Prevention Day was signed into law by Governor DeWine! HB4 aims to increase awareness and resources surrounding this critical health issue.

Rep. Thomas is pleased to announce that his School Bus Safety Act (HB3), has passed the House floor and now moves on to the Senate! The bill holds drivers accountable, invests in safety measures, and empowers school districts to implement the most effective solutions for their communities.



Rep. Thomas applauds the passage of HB210, which protects against catalytic converter theft. The bill is similar to a 2012 ordinance that Rep. Thomas championed as a member of the Cincinnati City Council. His ordinance was among the first of its kind in Ohio. Today, Rep Thomas is “proud to see that what we started locally is now being expanded across the state”.

New Bills

Spotlight - H.B. 359:

This bipartisan bill would create a “Joshua Alert” system for missing children with autism and other spectrum disorders. The Joshua Alert would operate similarly to the AMBER Alert, and was designed in response to the tragic drowning of Joshua Al-Lateef. Read more HERE

Spotlight - H.B. 247

This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Reps. Kevin Miller and Meredith Lawson-Rowe, would enact Avery’s Law to address dog safety issues in response to several recent tragedies. The bill is based on an earlier version, H.B. 240, that was introduced by Rep. Thomas

Rep. Thomas’s 2025 bills introduced, so far

H.B. 3: Enact the School Bus Safety Act

H.B. 4: Designate Ohio Stillbirth Prevention Day

H.B. 45: Prohibit certain firearms transfers without a background check

H.B. 46: Enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act

H.B. 110: Increase the penalty for repeat voyeurism

H.B. 240: Enact Avery's Law

H.B. 241: Regards dog quarantine, disposition hearing after dog attack

H.B. 242: Authorize tax credit for dog spaying, neutering, or training.

H.B. 243: Designate Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez Ohio Community Service Act

H.B. 337 - Require firearm sale by federal dealer to include trigger lock

H.B. 350: Prohibit certain conduct that accelerates firearms' rate of fire

H.B. 359: Regards emergency Joshua Alert system for certain missing kids

In the Community



Rep. Thomas speaks at a rally against H.B.1, organized by the Asian-American Coalition of Ohio

Rep. Thomas spoke at the American Legion's Buckeye Boys State civic engagement conference.



Rep. Thomas at Cincy Pride with State Rep. Karen Brownlee

Shout-Outs: New Local Businesses!



If you are craving authentic Indian food, check out Clifton Indian Restaurant and Bar! Offering samosas, curries, biryani, and more. Now open at 3215 Jefferson Ave. (the former Cactus Pear location)

Hummus Republic is now open in Clifton, offering fresh and fast Mediterranean bowls, salads, wraps, and more! Located at the south end of the UC campus, 257 Calhoun St.



At Two Seven Two Bakery, you will find a variety of pastries and breads baked from scratch, made using high-quality local fruit, flour, and dairy. Now open at 272 Ludlow Ave.

Summer in Cincy



The Cincinnati Music Festival - three days of concerts, headlined by “Earth, Wind, and Fire” and “LL Cool J” July 24-26

Sign up for the Queen City 5K on July 26!



On July 19, AfriFest Cincy highlights the cultures of Africa with ethnic food, live entertainment, a marketplace, and more!

Check out Festival 513! July 25-26



Join the nation’s largest paddling event on August 2 at the Ohio River Paddlefest!

Find your local Farmer's Market!



Cincinnati’s Black Family Reunion is Aug 14-17!

Resources

Need help with legal issues?

[Legal Access Clinic at the University of Cincinnati](#)

[Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#)
[Expungement Program \(Urban League\)](#)

[Ohio Innocence Project \(UC\)](#)

[Immigration - Know Your Rights](#)

Need help with employment?

[Urban League](#)

[Cincinnati Works](#)

[Hamilton County JFS](#)

[513 Relief](#)

[Workforce Development - U.S. District Court](#)

Need help with housing?

[City of Cincinnati Housing Resources](#)

[Cincinnati Metro. Housing Authority](#)

[Bethany House](#)

[Talbert House](#)

[513 Relief](#)

For Kids/Teens/Parents:

[Youth Summit \(Urban League\)](#)

[Cincinnati Preschool Promise](#)

[Parks and Recreation - Events](#)

[Family Summer Activity Guide](#)

[Cincinnati Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Summer/Other Resources

[Cooling Centers](#)

[Mobile Food Pantry](#)

[AC Repair/Utility Bill Assistance](#)

[Prevent Blindness - Dry Eye](#)

Contact Rep. Thomas's Office:

614-466-1645

Rep25@ohiohouse.gov

**We look forward to hearing
from you!**