



Dear Neighbor,

I hope you had a fun and celebratory Pride Month. Pride honors the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, where brave individuals protested for their right to have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive. June is a time to celebrate Ohio's diverse LGBTQ+ community, which we have seen in parades and festivals across the state. While we have celebrated the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community to our state and to our country, we must also recognize the threats made against the community.

Last week, House Republicans passed two bills that directly target LGBTQ+ youth in the state. House Bills 8 and 68 would forcibly de-transition youth by denying them access to evidence-based health care, force children out of the closet, and prohibit some youth from playing on sports teams that align with their gender. Despite countless hours of testimony from physicians, LGBTQ+ youth and their families, and advocates telling us that these bills would have detrimental effects on the lives of LGBTQ+ youth across the state, the bills were passed anyway. House Bills 8 and 68 represent state-sponsored bullying against an extremely vulnerable group of individuals, and I am proud to have stood with House Democrats in total opposition.

While these bills await consideration in the Senate, I will continue my work to ensure Ohio is a welcoming and safe space for all. To that end, I look forward to supporting legislation that enshrines equality among all Ohioans, such as the Ohio Fairness Act. LGBTQ+ people are our neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends who pay taxes, do their laundry, and celebrate birthdays just like the rest of us. It's time the GOP start treating them as such.

Sincerely,

Michele Grim

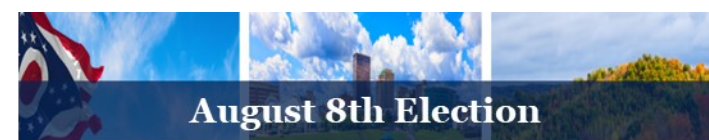


Ohio's Budget

On June 21, I voted against the Senate's version of the budget, which will send it to conference committee. The Senate-passed version rolled back much of the progress we made in the House by changing income tax brackets to disproportionately benefit the wealthiest Ohioans, adding provisions of the Higher Education Censorship Act, and removing significant investments in child care.

The Senate also removed \$40 million in funding for the Maritime Assistance Program, which would jeopardize our ability to upgrade and modernize our ports' infrastructure and maritime commerce. Last week, I held two events urging legislative leaders to reinstate funding for this program, which you can read more about [HERE](#).

To learn more about my key priorities in Ohio's budget, please click [HERE](#).



The upcoming election on August 8, 2023 will ask Ohioans if they want to end majority rule and the principal of one-person, one-vote in the state. Issue 1 would increase the passage threshold for citizen-led ballot initiatives from 50% +1 to 60%, effectively enshrining minority rule and ending a 112-year-old right Ohioans have enjoyed when their elected officials have ignored them.

To vote in the August 8 election, Ohioans must be registered to vote by **July 10, 2023**. You can register to vote [HERE](https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/): <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>



On June 2, I got the chance to attend some great events in the district. I observed National Gun Violence Awareness Day at the new Peace and Healing Commons. Later in the evening, I got the chance to commend the Old West End Festival on its 50th Anniversary! Events like these make Toledo a truly special place.



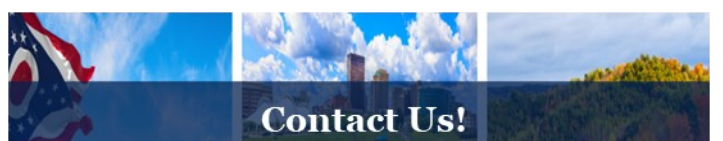
Later in the month, I visited the Ronald McDonald House. It was truly inspiring to see the support and services they provide to families in our community.



Standing With Survivors

On June 6, I provided sponsor testimony for my bill to establish Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) in Ohio, also known as "red flag laws."

[House Bill 170](#) creates a legal framework to allow family members and law enforcement to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms from those who present an imminent danger to themselves or others. This commonsense measure can help save lives—particularly those who are imminently distressed and suicidal — while respecting the rights of due process and the Second Amendment.



Residents of the 43rd House District can contact me at any time by calling 614-644-6017 or emailing Rep43@ohiohouse.gov.

Here are some ways our office can assist:

- Resolving disputes with government agencies
- Ohio House commendations, condolences, and congratulatory letters
- Voice opinions or concerns with bills moving through the legislature
- Connect you or your business to state programs or services

We look forward to hearing from you!