

JULY, 2023

NEWSLETTER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANGIE KING

WELCOME

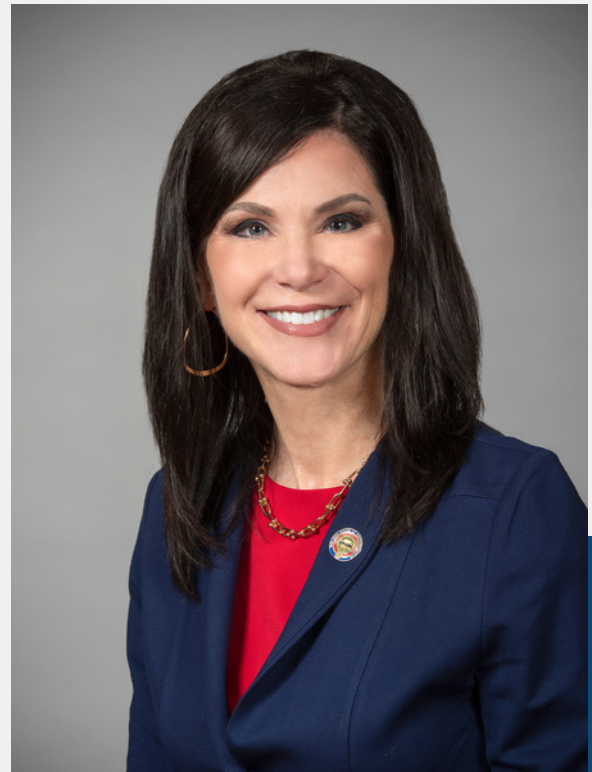
DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

After a lengthy budget cycle, the general assembly has passed an operating budget with a focus on education and keeping more of your hard-earned money in your pockets.

We made historic strides toward investing in education throughout Ohio with a new Fair School Funding Formula and landmark investments in school choice with a universal voucher program. By expanding access to vouchers, Ohio ensures parents can make the best decisions for their children's education.

The budget also works toward a flat tax by providing a tax cut and simplifying taxes down to just two brackets. Individuals earning between \$26,050 and \$100,000 will benefit from an income tax rate of 2.75%. Meanwhile, those earning above \$100,000 will have a flattened rate of 3.5%.

If you have any questions, need assistance with state agencies or would like to discuss how to improve the 84th District, please reach out to my office at rep84@ohiohouse.gov.



**PROTECTING OHIO'S
AGRICULTURAL FUTURE**

**GIVING OHIOANS THE
RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

**ESTABLISHING SCHOOL
BATHROOM POLICY**

A LOOK AT LEGISLATION I HAVE INTRODUCED

OHIO PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

Prime farm and pasture land is a precious commodity in Ohio. With agriculture the state's top driver of a \$698 billion economy, I began to take notice when Chinese-controlled businesses and the Chinese Community Party increased their purchase of prime farmland in the Midwest.

But not only does the sale of good agricultural ground worry me, but it is also that some of these purchases and attempted purchases just happen to be right next to military bases. Only six months ago, the Chinese government flew a spy balloon across the United States, including the Midwest, before being shot down off South Carolina's coast.

In North Dakota, Grand Forks City Council halted the progress of a corn mill after a Chinese-based food manufacturer purchased 300 acres of farmland just a handful of miles from Grand Forks Air Force Base.

A Chinese billionaire and former army officer has purchased 150,000 acres near Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas with the prospect of building a wind farm. In South Carolina, a Chinese biomedical company has a pending deal for 500 acres near the U.S. Army Cyber Command headquarters.

China's holdings of American agricultural land have been climbing at an astonishing rate in the past decade. From 2010 to 2020, the Chinese Communists Party increased its holdings by 5,300%, reaching more than 384,000 acres across the United States, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

In Ohio, more than half a million acres of farmland are owned by foreign investors, some of it in the hands of Chinese-based companies. Currently, no federal law prevents our nation's adversaries from buying American soil. It is up to each state to establish its own laws regarding foreign land investments.



Some states, like Oklahoma and Iowa, do not allow the ownership of land if you are not a U.S. citizen. Alabama prohibits foreign countries from purchasing land within 10 miles of military installations or critical infrastructure.

This uptick in land purchases by China has motivated me to protect Ohio's agricultural land and military installations with legislation I introduced recently, the **Ohio Property Protection Act**.

This legislation will prohibit the sale of real property to any individual or entity tied to a foreign adversary nation such as Iran, Cuba, North Korea, China, or Russia.

In western-central Ohio, agriculture is crucial to our livelihood and economic growth. Just south of the district is home to one of the U.S. Air Force's largest bases, Wright-Patterson. This base is also the home of the Air Force Research Laboratory, which is responsible for developing aerospace warfighting technology.

With a lack of laws in place in Ohio, our military sites, food, and economic security are at risk. Nearly half of all states have some type of restriction against foreign businesses or governments owning land. This legislation will also push Ohio into a shrinking number of states with land available to adversarial nations. We must act now to protect our national security and agricultural lands.



INSIDE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GIVING OHIOANS THE CHOICE

In early May I voted in support of Senate Joint Resolution 2 giving Ohioans the opportunity to protect our state's constitution during a special election in August with the passing of **Senate Joint Resolution 2**.

The Ohio Constitution is the foundational backbone of our state and in order to make large changes to it, the threshold should be higher than the current 50% plus one vote. This resolution will increase that threshold to 60% to make changes to our constitution. Now after the passage of SJR 2, we are asking Ohioans that same question...should the threshold be higher?

This isn't something that just we as legislators can decide, so now it will be presented to Ohio voters during a special election on Aug. 8. This legislation will still allow Ohioans to offer amendments to Ohio's Constitution. Instead, it just changes the process for getting those amendments on the ballot and ensures all such amendments have broad support from around the state in order to be adopted.

ESTABLISHING SCHOOL BATHROOM POLICY

Legislation has also been recently introduced to help schools navigate the **single-sex bathroom** question. This legislation will give guidance to schools for the creation of school policies addressing transgender students regarding restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, or shower rooms that are accessible by multiple students at the same time, whether it be in a school or a facility for school-sponsored activities.

This guidance will not allow a school to permit a member of the male biological sex to use a student restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room that has been designated by the school for the exclusive use of the female biological sex and vice versa.

This legislation will continue through committee in September.

CONTACT MY OFFICE



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