

*Legislative update from*  
**Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio**

District 4  
House Minority Whip



Dear Neighbor,

On July 4th, we celebrated the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence. Even though Independence Day has passed, America 250 celebrations will continue throughout the year as we celebrate the founding of this wonderful nation and our home state. The United States was founded upon the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice, values that we should all embrace and celebrate.



This month's America 250 Ohio celebration is named Ohio Gathers: Ohio's Homecoming & Picnic. This month is an opportunity for communities across Ohio to gather for food, fun, and friendship to celebrate our freedom, honor our nation's history, and observe Ohio's contributions to America over these past 250 years and beyond.

July is also National Parks and Recreation month! More than 200M people across the United States live within a 10-minute walk of at least one park or trail. During Parks and Recreation Month, we celebrate the many ways park and recreation professionals across the country foster a sense of belonging in their community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connections. We have many wonderful Parks and Recreation departments within our district! Visit <https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/> to learn more.

If there is anything my office can do, or if you have any questions, comments or concerns please reach out to us by email at [Rep04@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep04@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-4847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beryl Brown Piccolantonio".

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio  
State Representative  
House District 4

**Are you or your business or organization celebrating a milestone event? Do you know of a remarkable achievement by a member of our community? Please contact my office to let us know so that we may acknowledge and celebrate with you.**

### **District 4 Office Hours**

Have a question, concern, or just want an opportunity to speak with your state representative? You are invited to join me for my next District 4 Office Hours:

Friday, August 7

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

SGT Coffee

140 N. High St, Gahanna, OH 43230

Please contact my office if you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting, or if you would like to meet at a different time or location that is more convenient for you.

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### **Back to School Tax Free Weekend**

Mark your calendars for back-to-school shopping in early August! In 2026, Ohio will host the standard back-to-school sales tax holiday of three days, starting 12:00 a.m. Friday, August 7th until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 9th. The exemption will apply to all items of clothing priced at \$75 or less, school supplies priced at \$20 or less, and school instructional materials priced at \$20 or less. This weekend will give all Ohio families an opportunity to have access to more affordable school supplies and materials for back-to-school season. See <https://tax.ohio.gov/business/sales-and-use-tax/sales-tax-holiday> for more information.

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### **Capital Budget Update**

In June, the Ohio House passed Senate Bill 450, the state's biennial capital appropriations budget. The bill allocates nearly \$4B for the maintenance, renovation, and construction of state-owned infrastructure, including colleges, universities, school districts, and other community projects.

The capital budget is the mechanism by which the state funds its brick-and-mortar needs. This ranges from the construction and renovation of K-12 public schools and higher education facilities to public works programs and mental health treatment centers, as well as funding local community projects. It includes funding for projects that expand access to healthcare, strengthen local economies, preserve cultural institutions, improve public infrastructure, and enhance quality of life for residents across the region. I helped to secure **over \$22 million for Franklin County** through this budget. These community projects will enhance the quality of life for all residents of House District 4 and make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Approximately **\$2.6 Million** will be distributed within HD 4:

- **\$1,500,000 to the Ohio Life Sciences Institute Training Center (New Albany)** *This purpose-built training center will strengthen Ohio's advanced manufacturing workforce infrastructure and position the state to compete for high-wage pharmaceutical and biologics manufacturing investment. It will expand access to STEM career pathways for those already employed in the field as well as K–12 students and adult learners.*
  - **\$450,000 to Healthy New Albany for food pantry expansion** *In 2025, the HNA Food Pantry provided 248,760 meals to more than 1,500 individuals—37% of whom were children—supported by over 5,700 volunteer hours. Over the past year, the number of new families visiting the pantry has grown by 55%, reflecting the increasing pressures of housing and food costs across central Ohio. The new building will more than double the current pantry capacity and ensure the pantry is fully accessible for all clients, volunteers and staff.*
  - **\$200,000 to Dreams on Horseback (Blacklick)** *Dreams serves more than 2,4000 students, children, veterans, and cancer patients through therapeutic riding programs, which actively support social-emotional, behavioral, and educational development.*
  - **\$200,000 to Life Town Village of Life (New Albany)** *The Village of Life is a simulated village where children with special needs practice life skills and learn resilience. This project will expand capacity for this safe, nurturing educational environment serving students of all grade levels.*
  - **\$150,000 to Jefferson Township for Community Facility Expansion** *The upgraded space will provide safer, more accessible, and more functional accommodations for residents conducting business with the Township and attending public meetings. Expanded and improved meeting areas will also support community engagement and coordination of services that benefit Jefferson Township and the surrounding area.*
  - **\$100,000 to the City of Gahanna for Creekside Park** *The Creekside District is the heart of Gahanna's downtown, serves thousands of visitors annually, and functions as the community's primary gathering space. This revitalization project will transform the Plaza into a safer, more accessible, and more usable space that is open and welcoming year-round, while expanding opportunities for community engagement and informal recreation for residents and visitors.*
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### Recent Events

*Gahanna Juneteenth ~ Speaking to AFL-CIO ~ Unyielding ART of DRAG at Otterbein ~ July 4 in Gahanna (above)*



## **July 2026 Dates of Note**

July 1 - National Postal Workers Day

July 2 - Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act

July 4 - Independence Day

July 12 - Malala Day

July 19 - Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention

July 21 - National Black Women's Equal Pay Day

July 25 - National Hire a Veteran Day

July 30 - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Corn Month

Disability Pride Month

Parks and Recreation Month

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<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/beryl-brown-piccolantonio>