



Dear Neighbor,

Happy August!

I am fighting to lower your property taxes. A handful of special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community—making you pay more locally so the state can pay less. It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities. Continue reading to learn more about proposed legislation to address this issue.

Have you checked your voter registration? Voting is one of the most sacred fundamental freedoms we have. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Make sure your voice is heard and check your voter registration here: <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

If there is anything my office can do, please reach out to us by email at rep04@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at (614) 466-4847. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

To unsubscribe please email rep04@ohiohouse.gov

Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly District 4 Open Office Hours.

Office Hours

Tuesday, August 27

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Westerville Public Library, Purple Study Room

126 S State St.

Westerville, OH 43081

Please pre-register to reserve your meeting time here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4AAC82FA4FCC25-50564155-rep>

Please contact my office if you would prefer to schedule a meeting at a time or location that is more convenient for you.

Back-to-School Tax-Free Holiday continues through August 8

The expanded, back-to-school Ohio sales tax holiday continues through Thursday, August 8th. During the tax-free holiday, there will be no state or local sales or use tax on all tangible personal property that is \$500 or less.

The expanded tax-free holiday is a reprieve from rising prices, especially for Ohioans preparing to return to school. personal property items under \$500 purchased in store and online will be tax free through August 8.

In 2018, state lawmakers passed legislation making this three-day, back-to-school sales tax holiday a recurring holiday each year. Last year, [Am. Sub. House Bill \(HB\) 33](#) further expanded the sales tax holiday each year if a budget surplus exists.

For more information, please visit the Ohio Department of Taxation's website here: <https://tax.ohio.gov/help-center/faqs/sales-and-use-tax-sales-tax-holiday/sales%20and-use-tax-sales-tax-holiday>

Check your Voter Registration

Are you a recent graduate? Have you recently moved? Need to register to vote? Check or update your voter registration at voteohio.gov to make your voice heard in the next upcoming election!

Fighting to Lower Property Taxes for Ohioans

As we all know, the rising cost of property taxes is a critical economic issue for Ohioans. Homeowners are searching for answers and are rightfully frustrated feeling the squeeze of higher property tax bills.

A handful of extreme lawmakers and special interests have rigged Ohio's tax code in favor of the wealthiest few, hurting Ohio homeowners and shifting the state's tax responsibility onto local communities, senior citizens, and middle-class families. This isn't cutting taxes. It's shifting taxes in our community— making you pay more locally so the state can pay less.

No one wants to pay more than their fair share in taxes. That's why tax-shifting is unfair. It funds giveaways for the wealthiest few, and cuts to local communities, shifting taxes away from the state onto local homeowners.

It doesn't have to be this way! Together, we can support policies and leaders to unrig Ohio's tax system, so the state stops shifting the tax responsibility onto homeowners and local communities.

There are several bills which I support to help lower your property taxes:

- [HB 60](#) (Troy) - Increases the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain surviving spouses

- [HB 263](#) (Isaacsohn/Hall) - Freezes property taxes for qualified homeowners
- [HB 274](#) (Dell'Aquila/Matthews) - For individuals who qualify and have owned their homes for more than 20 years, this bill increases the exemption from \$26,200 to \$50,000. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform - This committee, proposed by Rep. Troy, with the intent of examining and identifying solutions to address some of the concerns with Ohio's property tax laws.
- [HB 645](#) (Isaacsohn) - Legislation authorizing a property tax circuit breaker benefit for eligible homeowners and renters whose property taxes, or portion of rent attributable to property taxes, exceeds 5% of their income.

Women's Equality Day

On August 26, we celebrate Women's Equality Day! This day commemorates the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits the states and federal government from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex.

While we celebrate that the 19th Amendment was a critical step towards gaining equal voting rights, we must also acknowledge that equality on paper is not the same as equality in practice. Black women would continue to struggle and fight to receive the same rights at the ballot box for another 40 years until the 1965 Voting Rights Act was passed.

Today, there are still issues such as socioeconomic adversity and gerrymandering that prevent disenfranchised communities from voting and being properly represented in our state.

At the Ohio House, I will continue to fight against these barriers until we ensure everyone has the same opportunities to make their voice heard.

LEAP Initiative Re-Affirms K-12 Education as a Democratic Priority

In June, I joined members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee to introduce the Learning & Education Advancement Package (LEAP) Initiative, legislation to reaffirm K-12 education as a priority, setting goals and standards for our education system going into the new school year for for-profit charter school oversight, private school vouchers accountability, investing in early childhood education, and supporting public schools, educators, and students.

Some of the K-12 education House bills being highlighted include charter school oversight, private school voucher accountability, public school support and funding, student support, and teacher support.

As part of its People First agenda, House Democrats are committed to creating a state that works for and supports all Ohio children's education, regardless of race, gender, income, and zip code.

Issue 1 Special Election: One Year Later

One year ago on August 8th, Ohio defeated Issue 1, a monumental step on the way to codifying reproductive rights in Ohio's constitution.

Wherever you come from and whatever your background, as Americans, we know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care. Partisan politicians have no place interfering in someone else's healthcare decisions.

The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 7th. Make sure your voice continues to be heard and check your voter registration here: <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

Recent Events



Meeting with high school students attending TECH CORPS Camp



Attending my first Bill Signing for the CAMPUS Act



Ribbon Cutting for the Schoolhouse in New Albany



Ribbon Cutting for Uptown Nutrition in Westerville



Childhood League Center Roundtable Shedding Light on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Early Intervention and Education Realities

August 2024 Dates of Note

National Black Business Month

August is National Black Business Month, a time to celebrate and support Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. This month encourages consumers to patronize Black-owned businesses, fosters networking among Black entrepreneurs, and raises awareness about the challenges and successes within the Black business community. I encourage you to support your local Black-owned businesses, not just this month, but at any chance you get!

National Water Quality Month

August is National Water Quality Month. This month, we are reminded to look at ways our household and community are preserving and keeping our water safe to drink. All Ohioans deserve clean water.

Ohio Military Family Month

During Military Family Month, we honor and celebrate our military families who do so much to uplift the men and women of our armed forces. Whether at home or abroad, the members of the United States military rely on their families for love and support. I honor our men and women in uniform and thank their families for their selfless sacrifice to our nation.

Fifth Anniversary of the Dayton Shooting (August 4)

August 4th was the five-year anniversary of the Dayton shooting that killed nine and injured 17 Ohioans. Everyone, no matter what they look like or where they come from, deserves to be safe in their community. I continue to mourn the loss of our fellow Ohioans and renew the call for commonsense gun measures that will Do Something to keep our communities safe.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People (August 9)

There are an estimated 476M indigenous peoples in the world living across 90 countries. August 9th commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982. I will continue to recognize and support indigenous identities and their way of life.

World Humanitarian Day (August 19)

Over 20.7M people need humanitarian assistance around the world. On this World Humanitarian Day, we reaffirm our commitment to the values and principles that guide us and show that we stand shoulder to shoulder with disadvantaged communities, no matter who you are or where you come from.

Senior Citizen's Day (August 21)

On August 21st, National Senior Citizens Day recognizes the achievements of our senior citizens. The day provides an opportunity to show our appreciation for their dedication, accomplishments, and services they give throughout their lives. Our senior citizens are pioneers of science, medicine, psychology, civil rights and so much more. I will continue to support our elderly citizens, ensuring they have the ability to thrive here in Ohio.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (August 23)

August 23rd is a day to reflect on the tragedy of the slave trade, which has a continuing impact on our world. Today offers an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of slavery. Additionally, today honors great abolitionists such as John Brown, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman. I will continue to stand united against racism and together build a society based on dignity, equality and opportunity for all.

Women's Equality Day (August 26)

National Women's Equality Day celebrates the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women in the U.S. the right to vote. The adoption of the 19th Amendment brought America closer to the promise of equality for all. While we are still working towards a society where we are all equal, days like today remind us of the progress we've made.

Anniversary of the March on Washington (August 28)

Sixty-one years ago, Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., along with 250K people, marched on Washington to demand equal rights and opportunities. The march culminated in Dr. King's famous "I have a Dream" speech, a crucial moment that would help facilitate the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I will honor and continue to fight for Dr. King's dream of equality & justice for all.

Ohio Overdose Awareness Day (August 31)

In 2022, almost 5,000 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses. August 31 is Ohio Overdose Awareness Day, a time to reflect on the national overdose epidemic that has a personal impact on Ohio communities. This is a serious crisis that will require years of hard work. I am committed to policies that will save lives and end the opioid epidemic in Ohio. Learn what you can do in your community to fight this epidemic at: OHagainstOD.ohio.gov