



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

As April comes to a close and we begin May, I want to take a moment to reflect on the work my colleagues and I have been doing in the Statehouse and what's to come.

In this month's newsletter you will find important upcoming dates, updates from the Ohio Jewish Caucus, and the budget.

Whether in committee rooms or back home in the district, the goal remains the same: to listen, to lead, and to advocate for the people we serve.

Thank you for staying engaged and informed. Here's a look at some of the highlights from April.

Sincerely,



Eric Synenberg
State Representative, District 21

**Ohio
REAL IDs
Required
for Air
Travel**

Beginning on **May 7th**, federal law will require individuals to have a federally compliant REAL ID for domestic air travel. For more information on how to get a REAL ID you can visit bmvo.ohio.gov

SAVE THE DATE

Don't forget, **May 6** is Ohio's primary election day. I would encourage you to visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov to check your voting location, polling hours, or for any additional information.

**APRIL 8-
MAY 4**

Early in-person voting

APRIL 29

Last day to request an absentee ballot

MAY 5

Last day to mail an absentee ballot

MAY 6

Election Day
(polls open 6:30am-7:30pm)

VOTE OHIO.GOV



UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS

Thursday, May 8, 5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.
South Euclid-Lyndhurst Public Library
1876 S Green Rd, South Euclid, OH 44121

Thursday, May 22, 10:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Beachwood Public Library
25501 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood, OH 44122

Please join me at my upcoming office hours on **May 8 and May 22**. I welcome you to take this opportunity to stop by, ask questions, give feedback, and learn what our office can do to assist you.



614-644-5079



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LEGISLATION UPDATE: OPERATING BUDGET

Our office has received hundreds of emails with concerns about Ohio's recently proposed operating budget, so I wanted to give you a quick update on where things stand. As you may know, the House recently passed **House Bill (HB) 96**, the state operating budget. My Democratic colleagues and I unanimously **voted NO** because the bill recklessly cuts critical programs and fails to meet the real needs of everyday Ohioans.

This budget includes harmful provisions such as:

- **Dismantling the Fair School Funding Plan:** undoing a bipartisan, expert-driven formula that ensures Ohio's public schools receive equitable and constitutional funding. Nearly 90 percent of Ohio students attend their local public schools;
- **Offering No Real Property Tax Relief:** Failing to provide real property tax relief for the thousands of Ohioans who have reached out to their lawmakers asking them to act. Instead, Republicans have put forward a fake and unvetted plan that very well may raise Ohioans property tax bills and punish public schools for responsible financial planning, forcing more levies at a time when homeowners' tax bills are already too high;
- **Risking Medicaid Expansion for Nearly 800,000 Ohioans:** by including a trigger that would end Medicaid expansion if there is even a one-dollar decrease in the federal funding share. This puts healthcare access and rural hospitals at serious risk;
- **Cutting Library Funding:** Reduces public library funding from what libraries currently receive in State funding by \$40M in FY '26 when compared to projected FY '25. The current budget risks nearly a \$100 million funding cut compared to the Governor's proposal, and eliminates the long-standing Public Library Fund, which has provided stable support for Ohio's libraries for nearly a century;
- **Cutting Funding for Clean Water Programs:** cuts nearly \$120 million (nearly 45% of funding) from the H2Ohio program. This program is essential for addressing algal blooms, lead contamination, and other threats to safe drinking water;
- **Attacking Collective Bargaining and Organized Labor:** Attacks unions and collective bargaining by prohibiting workers from negotiating about their working location assignments both in an education setting and as a state employee.

I voted no, not for politics, but because Ohioans deserve a budget that invests in public education, health care, childcare, and strong communities. You can still make your voice heard as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call the Senate President Rob McColley at **(614) 466-8150** or mccolley@ohiosenate.gov and Finance Chairman Jerry Cirino at **(614) 644-7718** or cirino@ohiosenate.gov and tell them that this budget does NOT support Ohioans.

Ohio Jewish Caucus

April was both a meaningful and busy month for the Ohio Jewish Caucus. We came together to celebrate Passover and share in the tradition of the annual Statehouse Seder, a time to reflect on the values of freedom, resilience, and community that are at the heart of the holiday and our work. We also marked Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, taking time to honor the six million Jews who were lost and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting antisemitism and preserving the lessons of history. These moments of remembrance and reflection remind us both of the history we carry and the responsibility we share to continue educating our future generations. Thank you to all who participated in the events and conversations that made this month so impactful.



As we look to May, I want to proudly recognize Jewish American Heritage Month. This month and every month we should take the time to celebrate the rich history, culture, and enduring contributions of Jewish Americans and how they have shaped our communities and strengthened our democracy. This year, our reflections come at a time of deep pain and



concern for the global Jewish community. As war continues in Israel, we stand in solidarity with our ally, and we reaffirm our commitment to Israel's right to exist and defend itself. Now more than ever, it is vital to speak out against antisemitism, support our Jewish neighbors, and honor the values of freedom and security for all.



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