



# DISTRICT 26 newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

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@AshleyForOhio On All Socials

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the Ohio House of Representatives. As someone who grew up in this district, I carry with me the values our neighborhoods taught me; looking out for one another, speaking up for what's right, and making sure every family has the chance to thrive. Those lessons are at the center of everything I work on for our 26th District.

Over my first few months in office, my focus has been clear: protecting and expanding opportunity, strengthening our children and families, and ensuring the Statehouse is responding to the real needs of our communities; not partisan politics. You can expect transparency, consistent communication, and a Representative who fights for practical, people-centered solutions.

My office is here for you. Whether you need help navigating state services, want to share concerns, or have ideas that could improve life in our district, please reach out. Your voice guides my work, and this newsletter is just one way I'm committed to keeping you informed, engaged, and connected to what's happening at the Statehouse.

Happy Holidays,

State Rep. Ashley Bryant Bailey  
Ohio House District 26

## HOW WE CAN HELP

If you need assistance, want to share an issue, or hope to invite me to a community event, please use my constituent services form linked [here](#). I also welcome recommendations for individuals or organizations deserving recognition; to request a commendation or memorial, please submit a request using the following [link](#).



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# State Rep. Bryant Bailey In District:



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# State Rep. Bryant Bailey In the News:



[Watch Here: Cincinnati Issues w/ Lincoln Ware](#)



[Watch Here: WCPO 9 Joined for Friendsgiving](#)



[Click Here to Read Press Releases](#)

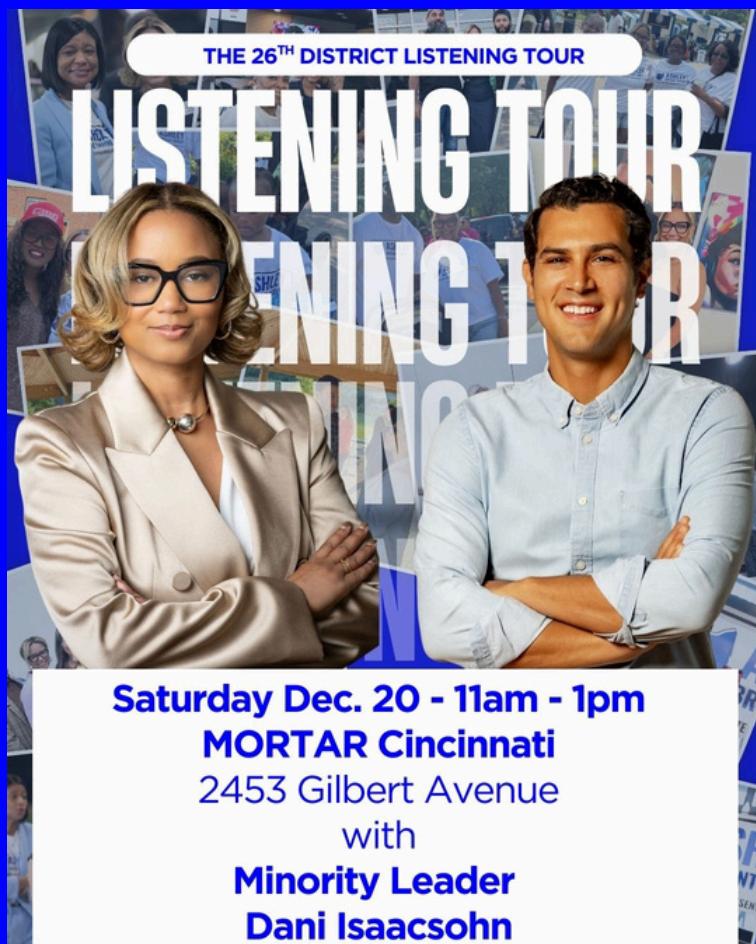
# Upcoming Events

Last month State Rep. Bryant Bailey announced her Listening Tour in the 26<sup>th</sup> District, where she will be meeting residents to hear about their needs, and priorities while providing an update from the Statehouse.

Along with the Listening Tour, you can catch State Rep. Bryant Bailey at events all around the city in the coming months.



**Wednesday Dec. 17 - 5p - 7p**  
**Norwood Welcome Center**  
4218 Montgomery Road  
with  
**Norwood City Councilwoman,  
At-Large  
Susan Hoover**



**Saturday Dec. 20 - 11am - 1pm**  
**MORTAR Cincinnati**  
2453 Gilbert Avenue  
with  
**Minority Leader  
Dani Isaacsohn**

***Want Rep. Bryant Bailey at your upcoming event?  
Email us: Rep26@ohiohouse.gov***

# Bills to Watch

## Senate Bill 56

- Bans intoxicating hemp products unless sold through a licensed marijuana dispensary.
- Allows 5 mg THC beverages to be sold legally until December 31, 2026.
- Lowers THC limits in adult-use marijuana products, including extracts and flower.
- Prohibits smoking marijuana in most public places.
- Creates a 90-day transition period before hemp restrictions take effect.
- Sends \$96.5M to communities over the next two years

## Senate Bill 293

- Eliminates Ohio's four-day grace period for mailed absentee ballots, requiring all non-military ballots to arrive by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, a change that would have invalidated over 9,500 ballots in 2024.
- Expands and codifies continuous cross-checking of voter data with BMV, Social Security, and federal databases, allowing voter registrations to be cancelled if discrepancies are not resolved before or during provisional-ballot curing.
- Aligns with federal pressure under the Trump administration to restrict absentee voting and accelerate citizenship reviews, leading to about wrongful purges, bureaucratic barriers, and disenfranchisement of seniors, rural voters, and newly naturalized citizens.

### **Urge Governor DeWine to Veto SB 293**

Call the Governor's office at 614-644-4357

Email the Governor through his [website](#).

Send a letter to his office: Riffe Center, 30th floor, 77 South High St., Columbus, OH.

## **Senate Bill 56 Passed - Contact the Governor**

***Call on Governor DeWine to issue line-item vetoes on the sections below that create new penalties and roll back voter-approved protections.***

The Senate approved SB 56, adding new criminal penalties and restrictions to Ohio's voter-approved cannabis law. The final bill expands public use bans, adds trunk-only transportation rules for products and paraphernalia, removes several Issue 2 protections, and restricts voter-approved home grow options.

# Grant Opportunities

## Hamilton County Home Improvement Program (HIP)

**Funding:** Loans up to \$50,000 at interest rates 3 percent below market, 5-year term

**Applicants:** Homeowners in any Hamilton County community

**Purpose:** Provide low-interest financing for home repairs, upgrades, and code-compliance improvements.

**How to Apply:**

Contact North Side Bank at 513.542.7800 (ask for Jeremy, Tiffany, or Ciara).

They will take your application and submit it to Hamilton County for approval.

## Communities First – Down Payment Assistance

**Funding:** 3, 4, or 5 percent down payment/closing cost assistance (grant, not a loan)

**Applicants:** Eligible Ohio homebuyers applying through participating lenders

**Purpose:** Provide grant-based down payment and closing cost assistance to increase homeownership opportunities across Ohio.

**Eligibility:**

- Apply through a participating lender
- Meet standard industry guidelines
- Borrower income under program maximum
- Minimum 620 FICO
- Must occupy the property as a primary residence within 60 days

**Contact:** <https://cincinnatiport.org> or 513.621.3000

## OCJS Violent Crime Reduction Grant

**Funding:** \$3.4M total

**Applicants:** Local law enforcement

**Purpose:** Support evidence-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

**Priorities:**

- High-crime communities
- Cold case work using forensic genetic genealogy
- Drug- and firearm-related violence reductions with multijurisdictional task forces

**Eligible Costs:** Tech, equipment, training, analytics, overtime

**Contact:** [vaparks@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:vaparks@dps.ohio.gov) or 614.466.7782

## Artist Opportunities Grant

**Funding:** \$500 (emerging) or up to \$2,500 (professional)

**Applicants:** Ohio artists of any discipline

**Purpose:** Support career-advancing opportunities or community-impact art projects.

**Notes:**

- No match required
- One application per year

**Application Window:** Nov 7, 2025 – May 1, 2026

**Contact:** [chaz.oneil@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:chaz.oneil@oac.ohio.gov) or 614.728.4421

# Winter Assistance



A graphic for Cincinnati Recreation Commission Warming Centers. It features a large blue thermometer on the left with a blue liquid level. To the right of the thermometer, the text "Cincinnati Recreation Commission" is written in a stylized font. Below this, the words "WARMING CENTERS" are written in large, bold, yellow and orange letters. At the bottom, the text "CincyRec Centers provide a warm, safe spot to escape the cold. Membership NOT required." is displayed. The background is dark blue with white snowflake icons.

CincyRec Centers provide a warm, safe spot to escape the cold.  
**Membership NOT required.**

@cincyrec cincyrec.org Cincinnati Recreation Commission City of CINCINNATI

## Winter Crisis Program

Effective November 1st, income-eligible Ohioans can receive one-time assistance with their home energy bill through the Department of Development's Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program.

Schedule an appointment at CAA by calling:

Option #1

- **28 Day Appointment**
  - (513) 685-4478
  -

Option #2

- **Same Day Appointment**
  - (513) 685-4478

*Phone lines are open Monday through Thursday, 9 –11 am, to receive an appointment between 1:30 -3:45 pm.*

## IF YOU ARE IN NEED:



CALL:  
**UNITED WAY: 211**  
**FREESTORE FOODBANK: (513) 357-4600**  
**MEALS ON WHEELS SW OH & NKY:**  
**(513) 721-1025**

OR VISIT:  
**513 RELIEF BUS: [513RELIEF.ORG](http://513RELIEF.ORG)**



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ASHLEY BRYANT BAILEY  
CALL: 614-466-1308  
EMAIL: [REP26@OHIOHOUSE.GOV](mailto:REP26@OHIOHOUSE.GOV)



The Ohio House of Representatives seal is circular with a gold background. It features a landscape with a rising sun and mountains, surrounded by the text "THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" and a star at the bottom.

# Committee Updates:

## Children & Human Services Committee

### **HB 450 – Accessible Parking Placards for Pregnant Women**

- Support continues for expanding parking access, but disability advocates warn about limited accessible spaces and enforcement issues.
- What to watch: Further amendments expected to balance expanded eligibility with protecting disabled parking access.

### **HB 472 – Waiving ID & Birth Certificate Fees for Homeless Residents**

- The committee adopted an amendment limiting waivers to once per year and requiring statewide reporting.
- Service providers stressed that IDs are essential for reentry, employment, and stability.
- What to watch: Bill was reported out – House floor vote expected soon. **(Bryant Bailey Voted Yes)**

## Technology & Innovation Committee

### **HB 392 – "Ohio Right to Compute Act"**

- Opponents warned the bill could restrict local authority over data centers and create risks for water resources and cybersecurity.
- Experts urged stronger AI risk-management standards and the removal of exemptions for specific AI tools.
- What to watch: Further amendments expected to clarify government oversight and local control.

### **HB 469 – AI Nonsentience & Legal Personhood**

- Proponents say the bill establishes clear guardrails by affirming that AI systems cannot hold rights or legal status.
- Opponents caution that the language is overly broad and could slow innovation without tighter definitions or standards.
- What to watch: Revisions likely to narrow scope and align with federal AI frameworks.

## General Government Committee

### **HB 454 – State Government Efficiency Commission**

- Sponsors propose a new commission to identify redundant regulations and streamline state agencies.
- Members raised concerns that the new entity could duplicate existing oversight or add bureaucracy.
- What to watch: Discussions on whether existing review processes already address these goals.

### **HB 554 – Cash Acceptance Requirements**

- Would require businesses and government offices to accept cash at one register per location.
- Supporters say this protects consumer choice; opponents warn of burdens on small businesses and security concerns.
- What to watch: Clarification of exemptions and business impacts.

# Updates from Last Session

## **HB 114 - Kindergarten Age Requirements**

- Standardizes kindergarten eligibility statewide by requiring districts to admit children who turn five by the first day of instruction, eliminating local August 1 cutoffs.
- Adds a Senate fix requiring the state to correct scoring errors on the 2024–25 biology exam and award students appropriate diploma seals.

**Vote: 87–0 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## **HB 88 - Regards drug trafficking, human trafficking, and fentanyl**

- Significantly increases drug-trafficking penalties and removes several safeguards, including the requirement to prove a person knew a drug contained fentanyl.

**Vote: 71–18 (Bryant Bailey: No)**

## **HB 59 - Revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations**

- Updates Ohio's six-year review of licensing boards and streamlines licensing processes to reduce fees and entry barriers across multiple professions.
- Adjusts requirements and fees for home inspectors, environmental health specialists, athletic commission functions, and several medical licensing categories.

**Vote: 91–0 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## **HB 102 – Sex Offender Residency Protections**

- Prohibits registered sex offenders and child-victim offenders from living within 2,000 feet or loitering within 1,000 feet of their victim's residence.
- Allows landlords, prosecutors, and property owners to seek court injunctions and expands eviction authority when offenders violate restrictions.

**Vote: 89–2 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## **HB 303 – Community Energy Pilot Program**

- Authorizes a statewide 1,500-MW community energy (community solar) pilot, allowing individuals to subscribe to shared clean-energy projects.
- Requires PUCO to implement the pilot, protect non-participating ratepayers, and ensure local zoning control, including for projects on distressed sites.

**Vote: 77–8 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## **HB 324 – Patient Protection Act (Targeting Abortion Medication)**

- Allows ODH to restrict prescribing of drugs it labels as having “severe adverse effects,” and is designed to limit access to mifepristone.
- Requires in-person exams, disclosures, and follow-up appointments before prescribing listed drugs, creating new barriers to reproductive and gender-affirming care.

**Vote: 60–28 (Bryant Bailey: No)**

# Updates from Last Session

## HB 338 – Andy’s Law (Corrections Officer Safety)

- Expands mandatory prison terms and sentencing enhancements for assaults and other offenses committed against corrections staff, contractors, and visitors.
- Requires substantial new DRC procedures, including staffing standards, mandatory K-9 units, visitor screening, and public reporting of inmate violations.

**Vote: 82–3 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## HB 455 – Public School Operations & DEW Updates

- Reduces administrative burdens on schools, updates graduation readiness measures, and expands eligibility for Early Childhood Education grants.
- Eliminates outdated programs and reporting requirements while improving transparency in DPIA funding and board vacancy procedures.

**Vote: 87–0 (Bryant Bailey: Yes)**

## HB 492 – Interfering with Motor-Vehicle Arrests

- Expands the offense of interfering with arrests to cover all motor-vehicle-related laws and increases penalties for obstruction.
- Requires drivers – and, in some cases, passengers – to provide basic identifying information when lawfully requested during a motor-vehicle stop.

**Vote: 59–21 (Bryant Bailey: No)**

## HB 485 – “Baby Olivia Act” K-12 Curriculum Mandate

- Mandates that all public schools show the “Baby Olivia” video or a similar early fetal-development video, plus a three-minute ultrasound, in grades 5–12.
- Requires DEW to provide approved curriculum materials, conduct annual audits, and allow parents to opt out.

**Vote: 59–27 (Bryant Bailey: No)**

## HB 486 – Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act

- Allows teachers to provide instruction on the “positive impact” of religion, especially Christianity, on American history and culture.
- Raises concerns about academic neutrality, as the bill imposes a one-sided and legislated religious interpretation in public education.

**Vote: 62–27 (Bryant Bailey: No)**

Watch the Full Session [Here](#)