



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ASHLEY BRYANT BAILEY
newsletter

JUNE 2026

Dear Neighbor,

June is a month of recognition and reflection. We celebrate Pride Month, honoring the dignity and resilience of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and the ongoing fight for equality. We observe Gun Violence Prevention Month, holding space for the lives lost and recommitting to the work of keeping our communities safe. And we celebrate Juneteenth, a reminder that freedom is not given; it is fought for, and that the story of Black Liberation is inseparable from the story of America itself. While we mark these important moments, the work in Columbus continues, and there is too much at stake to look away.

Several proposals moving through the Statehouse demand our attention, but two rise to the top: Ohio Republicans are pushing H.J.R. 9 to permanently enshrine the state's photo ID voting requirements in the Ohio Constitution. This proposal does nothing to make elections more secure or make it easier for Ohioans to vote. What it does do is lock in barriers without a single protection for voters, no safeguard for early voting, no help for older adults, rural Ohioans, or college students who struggle to access what they need to cast a ballot.

I am also watching HB 795 closely, legislation that goes far beyond addressing fraud and would destabilize the Medicaid home and community-based services that older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers depend on to live independently. The proposed cuts would destabilize the home and community-based services that allow vulnerable Ohioans to live independently and with dignity. We need to be people-centered legislators. These are not just budget decisions; these changes could mean the difference between life and death for many of our residents.

In Service,

Ashley Bryant Bailey
State Representative
Ohio House District 26

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ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: COUNCIL ON AGING

Rep. Bryant Bailey recently had the opportunity to attend the Council on Aging's 2026 Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration. Founded in 1971, the Council on Aging (COA) is a nonprofit Area Agency on Aging serving older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. COA connects individuals and families to services they need to remain in their homes with dignity and independence. As a caretaker of an aging parent, Rep. Bryant Bailey knows firsthand the value of COA's services.

The services COA provides do not exist in a vacuum. They are made possible in large part by Medicaid, the program that allows vulnerable Ohioans to access home and community-based care without being forced into institutions. Legislation like HB 795 threatens to dismantle that foundation. Cuts to Medicaid are not just budget decisions; they directly impact whether an older adult can stay in their home, whether a caregiver gets the support they need, and whether organizations like COA can continue doing the work our communities depend on.



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BILLS TO WATCH

H.J.R 9 – VOTER ID CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Ohio Republicans are pushing to permanently enshrine the state's strict photo ID voting requirement in the Ohio Constitution. However, the proposal contains no provisions to protect individuals from the costs associated with obtaining the documents required to vote. Rather than addressing affordability or access concerns, this would lock the existing voter ID laws into the Constitution.

HB 577 – REQUIRE PHOTO ID FOR ABSENT VOTING

This bill would require anyone voting by mail to include a physical photocopy of their photo ID with their returned ballot. Older Ohioans are the largest users of absentee voting by mail, and for many seniors without access to a printer, that requirement is the difference between voting and not voting. The bill also tightens name-matching standards, putting voters at risk of having their ballot rejected over a single discrepancy between their registration and their BMV or Social Security record.

HB 795 – MEDICAID CUTS

HB 795 could significantly impact access to behavioral health care across Ohio. The proposed legislation would require prior authorization for all therapeutic behavioral health services provided through Medicaid managed care plans, creating new administrative barriers, delays in care, and additional strain on an already overwhelmed workforce.

HB 537 – REGULATE MIDWIFERY, BIRTH CENTERS: DESIGNATE MIDWIFE DAY

This bill would create regulations for midwifery, including licensing and practice standards for licensed and certified midwives. Including informed consent, homebirth, reporting, and liability protections. It also adds requirements for birth centers and designates May 5th as "Day of the Midwife."

SB 127 – ALLOWS THE STATE TO CLOSE CERTAIN SCHOOLS

This bill prohibits the Department of Education and Workforce from considering report cards issued before the 2024-2025 school year in determining whether a school is ordered to close or is subject to remedial actions.



BILLS I INTRODUCED

HB 867 - ESTABLISHING MINIMUM JAIL AND STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION STANDARDS

This bill establishes minimum standards for inmates in jails and state correctional institutions. It requires at least three hot meals per day, access to basic necessities, and the ability to practice religion. This ensures that inmates' fundamental rights and quality of life are protected.

HB 888 - MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR INFERTILITY SERVICES

This bill calls for Medicaid coverage of certain infertility services. This includes coverage for exploratory and diagnostic procedures related to infertility, as well as surgical procedures to treat medically diagnosed infertility conditions. This bill ensures that women are able to receive infertility-related care without financial barriers.

HB 903 - MAKE THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PARTIALLY REFUNDABLE

This bill modifies the structure of the state earned income tax credit by lowering the nonrefundable credit and establishing a 10% refundable credit. This allows eligible individuals to receive a portion of their earned income tax credit as a refund.

HB 767 - THE OHIO MENOPAUSE & HORMONE THERAPY ACT

This bill would align Ohio's insurance standards with updated federal guidance and current clinical evidence regarding menopausal hormone therapy. It expands access to care and ensures patients can work with their doctors to make informed, individualized decisions about their health, without worrying about unaffordable out-of-pocket costs.

HB 768 - CHILD CARE FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS

HB 768 would help childcare workers access publicly funded childcare by allowing counties to exclude a worker's family income from the eligibility calculation. Childcare professionals make it possible for families across Ohio to work, yet many earn too little to afford care for their own children. This legislation helps strengthen the childcare workforce and improve stability for providers and working families.

HB 804 - THE CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT ACT

HB 804 would create a refundable state tax credit to help families offset the rising cost of childcare. Families with children under age five could receive up to \$2,000 for one child or \$4,000 for two or more children to help cover qualifying childcare expenses. By easing the financial burden of childcare, this bill helps families remain financially stable during their children's earliest years.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month – a month-long observance dedicated to the celebration of LGBTQIA+ Pride. Recognizing the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer culture and community.

Check out events hosted in the Cincinnati area, from a parade, after party, and a long list of events hosted by businesses and organizations:

- **SingOUT Cincy Festival Salon Series at Contemporary Arts Center**
 - June 5 & June 13 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
 - Free admission
- **Over-the-Rhine Pride Visibility Kickoff at Findlay Market**
 - June 5-7
 - Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Free admission
- **Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival at Sawyer Point & Yeatman’s Cove**
 - June 27 at 11 a.m.
 - Free admission
- **Cincy Vogue: Day at the Museum Party & Ball at Taft Museum**
 - June 28 from noon to 5 p.m.
 - Tickets: \$20 (early) or \$25 (day of)



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GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month! Every day, more than 300 people are directly impacted by Gun Violence in the United States. Cincinnati is expanding its Summer in Cincy violence reduction programming. Specifically among youth, to proactively address gun violence in Cincinnati this summer. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Parks, and Cincinnati Police are working to positively engage with kids of all ages and provide fun, safe spaces.



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39th ANNUAL JUNETEENTH IN EDEN PARK

Juneteenth is an occasion to celebrate one of the most important events in American history: the end of slavery. For many freed people, Juneteenth held far greater significance than the Fourth of July and was celebrated with community picnics and festivals. Cincinnati’s Juneteenth tradition began in 1988 as a neighborhood festival in Kennedy Heights! The tradition of celebrating continues this year in Eden Park as a Neighborhood Festival presented by Juneteenth Cincinnati.



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

4TH GRADE HISTORY PASS

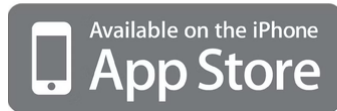
When: Now - August 31

Where: Any Participating History Museum & Historic Site

The 4th Grade History Pass gives Ohio 4th-grade students free general admission to participating history museums and historic sites when accompanied by a paid adult. Choose a site, download the pass, go with an adult, and show the pass. To learn more or find participating sites, click the link below.



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ROAD READY OHIO

Inexperience is the #1 reason why new drivers crash - and the only way to gain experience is through supervised practice! Ohio's new phone app, RoadReady Ohio, provides tools to log the required practice hours for new drivers, as well as real-time telematics feedback and tips. The app requires both a student driver account and a supervisor account.

Available for both IOS and Android devices.

OHIO ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Starting April 6th, Ohio's Energy Assistance Programs will be administered by the Dept of Job and Family Services
- Three ways to apply: Online, Appointment, or by Mail
 - Visit energyhelp.ohio.gov
 - Find your local Energy Assistance Provider
 - P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio, 43216
- For more information:
 - Call (800) 282-0880 or 711 for hearing-impaired.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



OHIO DIRECT ADMISSION

- The Ohio Direct Admission program expands college access for Ohio students starting with the class of 2027.
- **Expanded opportunities:** The Ohio Direct Admission program removes barriers faced in the traditional application process, helping students discover opportunities they might not have otherwise explored.

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WALNUT HILLS GRADUATION



This month, I had the honor of delivering the commencement address at Walnut Hills High School's graduation ceremony. As a proud Eagle myself, standing before that graduating class meant more than I can put into words. I told them what I wish someone had told me at graduation: you are enough, right now, exactly as you are. I spoke about staying open to unexpected paths, trusting the things about yourself that don't quite fit in, and choosing to be a good person over an impressive one. Watching those graduates walk across that stage reminded me exactly why this work matters and truly brought my own path full circle.

REP. BRYANT BAILEY IN THE DISTRICT



STAY IN TOUCH

Are you, a family member, or a neighbor in need of assistance? My office is here to support you with a wide range of needs, from navigating state programs and agencies to resolving issues with unemployment benefits. If you have an issue you are passionate about, share it with us! Want to celebrate an outstanding accomplishment? Please email my office, and we are happy to recognize leaders in our community.

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