

Committees

Community Revitalization
Public Safety



Committees:

Children and Human Services
Small Business

Darnell T. Brewer

State Representative, Ohio House District 22

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike DeWine,
Governor of the State of Ohio
Vern Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Governor DeWine,

I am writing to respectfully request state-level disaster actions in response to two significant events that have severely impacted communities within Cuyahoga County, including several municipalities in Ohio House District 22:

- Severe flooding affecting the Cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, and Garfield Heights, and
- Severe storms on April 15–16, which caused substantial damage across Cuyahoga County, with particularly acute impacts in Bedford Heights.

Both events have resulted in widespread damage to homes, essential household systems, and personal property, leaving many residents with uninsured essential losses that exceed the capacity of local governments and voluntary agencies to address.

These communities have experienced extensive flooding that has damaged residences, displaced families, and created significant financial hardship for homeowners and renters. Many affected residents lack adequate insurance coverage, and the scale of the damage clearly meets the threshold for a State Disaster Declaration.

The State Individual Assistance (IA) Program, established by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in 2000 and authorized by the General Assembly in the 2002–2003 budget, provides critical support for uninsured essential losses, including:

- Real Property: Damage to owner-occupied residences
- Personal Property: Essential appliances and necessary household items for homeowners and renters

The IA Program fills the gap for residents whose needs are not met by insurance, the SBA, or other state and voluntary agencies. Should a State Disaster Declaration be issued, residents would be able to pursue the required SBA disaster loan process and, if determined ineligible, access the State IA Program for essential unmet needs. This pathway is vital for households that cannot recover without state support.

Local officials in the affected cities are prepared to issue the required local disaster declarations.

The storms brought heavy winds, rain, hail, extended power outages, transportation disruptions, and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure across Cuyahoga County.

Local emergency management agencies have reported:

- Prolonged power outages affecting medically vulnerable residents
- Roof and structural damage to homes
- Unsafe travel conditions and blocked roadways
- Strain on local emergency response resources
- Losses not fully covered by insurance or other assistance programs

Given the scale of these impacts, many households now face uninsured essential losses that exceed local capacity. To support immediate recovery efforts, I respectfully request authorization of the State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) specifically for Cuyahoga County.

The SDRP would allow the State of Ohio to:

- Assist families with essential home repairs and emergency needs
- Support renters and homeowners facing uninsured losses
- Provide relief to communities with limited local resources
- Ensure a coordinated response to this county-wide weather emergency

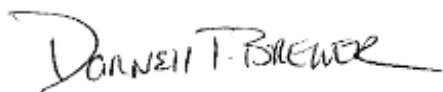
Given the severity of both events and the urgent needs of affected residents, I respectfully request that your office:

- Declare the Cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, and Garfield Heights as State Disaster Areas, and
- Authorize activation of the State Individual Assistance Program for residents impacted by the flooding, and
- Authorize the State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) for Cuyahoga County, with emphasis on the communities most affected by the April 15–16 storms.

These actions would provide immediate relief and a clear recovery pathway for families who are currently displaced, financially strained, or living in unsafe conditions due to these disasters.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your prompt consideration of these requests. My office stands ready to assist the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and your administration in coordinating next steps to ensure that affected residents receive timely and effective support.

Sincerely,



Representative Darnell T. Brewer
Ohio House District 22