

April 2022 Legislative Update From

STATE REP. JUANITA BRENT

HOUSE DISTRICT 12

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From the Desk of Representative Brent

Dear Neighbor,

The end of March and beginning of April have been busy at the statehouse, with House session, committee meetings, the State of the State address, and Capital Budget projects due. The Capital Budget is an opportunity for community organizations or state agencies to receive state funding for infrastructure projects. The Capital Budget bill then goes through the legislative process and must pass through the House and the Senate to determine which projects will be funded. We look forward to seeing the bill passed later this spring.

April brings the holidays of Easter, Passover, Ramadan, and Yom Hashoah; I hope celebrations are filled with joy and reflection for all who observe. We also celebrate Black Maternal Health Week, Black Labor week, and Minority Health Month. This provides us with an opportunity to talk about the unique health and workplace needs of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and other minorities.

Finally, I urge you to complete your taxes by the federal deadline, on April 18th. You can file online for free through a few different sites, which will be highlighted further on in this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with legislative concerns in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Juanita O. Brent
State Representative
Ohio House District 12



Upcoming Office Hours

Monday, April 25 at 4:00PM

This is a time for you to talk with Rep. Brent and share your questions, comments or concerns!

All office hours will be held via LIVE on Facebook at fb.com/JuanitaOBrent and Instagram @Juanita_Brent.

Bills to Watch

HB 512, Increase employer contributions to Police and Fire Pension Fund

- Increases, incrementally over a five-year period, the contribution amounts that employers of full-time fire-fighters and full-time municipal police officers must make to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.
- Increases Police officer employer contribution rate from 19.5% to 26.5%
- Increases Firefighter employer contribution rate from 24.0% to 26.5%

HB 466, Establish requirements for health care staffing agencies

- Caps nurses wages at staffing agencies
- Could drive staffing agencies out of business
- Opposed by the Ohio Nursing Association
- Harsh state regulations for staffing agencies

Free Tax Preparation Services

Online Services	No Cost Option Features and Eligibility
IRS Free File	Filer must have Adjusted Gross Income of \$73,000 or less.
H&R Block	Simple tax returns only, option to claim dependents. Filers must only have W-2 income and/or unemployment and/or social security income and rent their home. Includes both federal and state options.
Turbo Tax	Simple tax returns only. Capability to import from accounting program QuickBooks.
Jackson Hewitt	Free state and federal options for people with no dependents, less than \$100,000 of income, only W-2 income, interest income, and unemployment income, and standard deduction.
Credit Karma/Cash App Taxes	Free state and federal taxes via Credit Karma App.

In Person Tax Assistance

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) are two programs that offer free, reliable, and trusted tax filing preparation and help. Both programs are available for Cuyahoga County residents. Individuals or families who make less than \$58,000 a year, are limited English speakers, or people with disabilities are eligible for the VITA program. Individuals who are 60 years of age or older are eligible for the TCE program, which serves unique senior retirement and pension-related tax needs. To find a VITA or TCE site near you call 800-906-9887 or search online for the VITA/TCE Locator Tool. For other tax preparation help and resources, or to schedule an appointment, call the United Way help line at **216-436-2000** and choose option 2.



Local VITA Sites

(Call 216-436-2000 to schedule)

Warrensville Heights Library

4415 Northfield Rd.

Cleveland, OH 44128

Offered until April 13 2022 –By appointment only

Mt Pleasant

13815 Kinsman Rd.

Cleveland OH 44128

Offered until April 16 2022 –By appointment only

Notre Dame College

1857 South Green Rd.

South Euclid OH 44121

Offered until April 16 2022 –By appointment only

Thea Bowman Center

11901 Oakfield Ave.

Cleveland OH 44120

Offered until April 14 2022 –By appointment only

Redistricting Updates

Last month, the majority of Commissioners on the Ohio Redistricting Commission subverted the bipartisan, transparent map-drawing process ordered by the Ohio Supreme Court, instead introducing and adopting a set of state legislative maps that were drawn in secret by majority commissioners.

In its March 16 ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court ordered the Commission to draw an “entirely new” set of state legislative maps. The independent mapmakers drew several versions of constitutional, proportional maps that uphold the Supreme Court’s rulings. However, at the eleventh hour, Republican commissioners chose to abandon the bipartisan, transparent work of the independent map drawing process in favor of their partisan plan – with only minor revisions to their most recently invalidated maps adopted Feb. 24.



H.B. 60



Representative Brent preparing to testify for HB 60 in front of the Senate Health Committee

Office of State Rep. Juanita O. Brent

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