



A legislative update from
STATE REP. WILLIS BLACKSHEAR JR.
HOUSE DISTRICT 39

(614) 466-1607 | rep39@ohiohouse.gov

 @OHHouseDems

 fb.com/OhioHouseDems



Dear Neighbor,

The first quarter of this 134th General Assembly has been a productive and busy period for our office, both in Columbus and in the 39th District.

March marked a very eventful time for the legislature and for Ohio residents at large. This past month the legislature worked towards finalizing a comprehensive state budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal years. March marked the anniversary of one year since the first COVID case was discovered in Ohio. This month also marked significant vaccination efforts across the state. As of March 29, all Ohioans ages 16 and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Getting a vaccine is quick, painless and one of the best tools we have to eradicating this virus. For more information about the vaccine please visit phdmc.org. To sign-up for a vaccination visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

This past month I joint sponsored a bill with my colleague Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D- Cleveland) designating March 29th as Ohio Tuskegee Airmen Day. We were proud to present testimony on this bill as it moved through the State and Local Government Committee in the legislature. I am also proud to have co-sponsored a number of different pieces of legislation this month, including the H.B.232 which calls for Ohio to enact the Equal Pay Act, H.C.R 6 which declares racism a public health crisis, and H.B. 144 which mandates fuel quality testing in the state of Ohio.

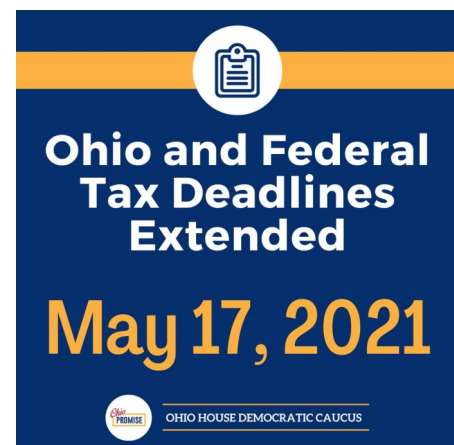
In April, I will be hosting socially-distanced, in-person district office hours. Please sign up for a one-on-one appointment at the link [here](#). Sign-up for one of the dates and time slots below.

- April 13th: Dayton Metro Library—Main Branch—1 PM—3 PM
- April 27th : Dixon United Methodist Church—5 PM—7 PM

This is the people’s house, and I would like to remind not to hesitate to reach out to our office with any of your questions or concerns. Please contact me at Rep39@ohiohouse.gov or 614.466.1607. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Willis Blackshear Jr.



House Dems calls GOP veto override vote dangerous for Ohioans

Rep. Blackshear joined House Democrats on March 24 to vote in opposition to a motion to override the governor's veto of Senate Bill (SB) 22, controversial Republican legislation that would threaten the health and safety of Ohioans by curbing authority from the governor and health director during public health crises.

"This is a irresponsible bill that takes power away from the Governor, Ohio's Department of Health, and local health departments. In times of emergency we need to be listening to the experts, not conspiracy theories online. A public health issue that has taken the lives of many, has turned into a political circus." said Rep. Blackshear.

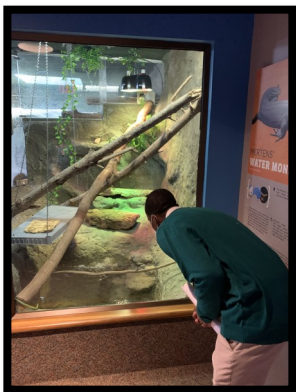
Democrats voted in unison against SB 22 on the floor and sent the governor a letter urging his veto. A number of Democratic lawmakers issued statements applauding the governor's veto.

Proponents of SB 22 made a number of false, inaccurate and misleading claims about the virus and the state's response.

Similarly, YouTube pulled down a recording of testimony from a Feb. 17 House committee hearing on House Bill (HB) 90, legislation that mirrors many of the same provisions of SB 22, for violating the site's terms of service for spreading COVID-19 misinformation.

Opponents of both SB 22 and HB 90 include top state public health officials, who said the effort to roll back health orders would slow the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Statehouse researchers also called into question the constitutionality of the effort to strip executive authority from the governor.

First Quarter Highlights



Rep. Blackshear on a site visit at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.



Rep. Blackshear visiting the staff at Dunbar High School in honor of Public Schools Week.



Rep. Blackshear reading to students on National Read Across America Day.

Office of State Rep. Willis Blackshear Jr.

(614) 466-1607 | rep39@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

