



A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. WILLIS E BLACKSHEAR JR.**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 38

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**From the desk of Rep. Passer**

Dear Neighbor,

Happy August! As many of you know, Ohio is holding a special election on **August 8th**. Early voting started in July and will continue until August 6th at 5 pm. As Election Day approaches, make a plan to vote “NO” on Issue 1.

Issue 1 is an unpopular, and undemocratic attack on the people and our sacred constitution. It will shred our founding document, it will end majority rule in our state, and it will snuff out the principle of “one person, one vote.” We must defeat Issue 1 to protect our freedom to determine our future. Make sure your voice is heard and vote “NO” on Issue 1. #VoteNoInAugust

I want to remind everyone that Ohio's 2023 sales tax holiday weekend **starts at 12 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4, and ends at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6.** School supplies priced at \$20 per item or less; school instructional material at \$20 per item or less; and clothing priced at \$75 per item or less are all exempt from sales and use tax. Make sure to take advantage of these savings!

If there is anything my office can do please reach out to us by email at [Rep38@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep38@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-1607. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Willis E Blackshear Jr.

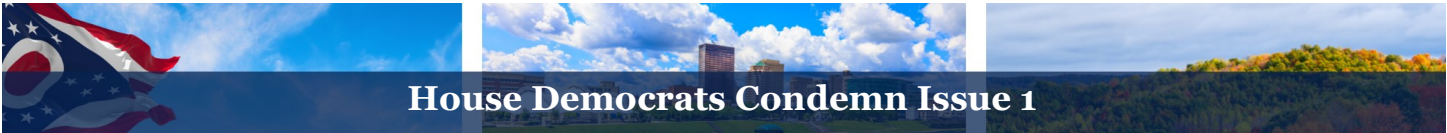


August 4th is the four-year anniversary of the Oregon District shooting that killed nine and injured 17 Ohioans. Everyone, no matter what they look like or where they come from, deserves to be safe in their community. House Democrats will always mourn the loss of our fellow Ohioans and continue to call for commonsense gun measures that will #DoSomething to keep our communities safe.



In 2021, over 5,000 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses. Today is Ohio #OverdoseAwarenessDay, a time to reflect on the national overdose epidemic that has a personal impact on Ohio communities. This is a serious crisis that will require years of hard work.

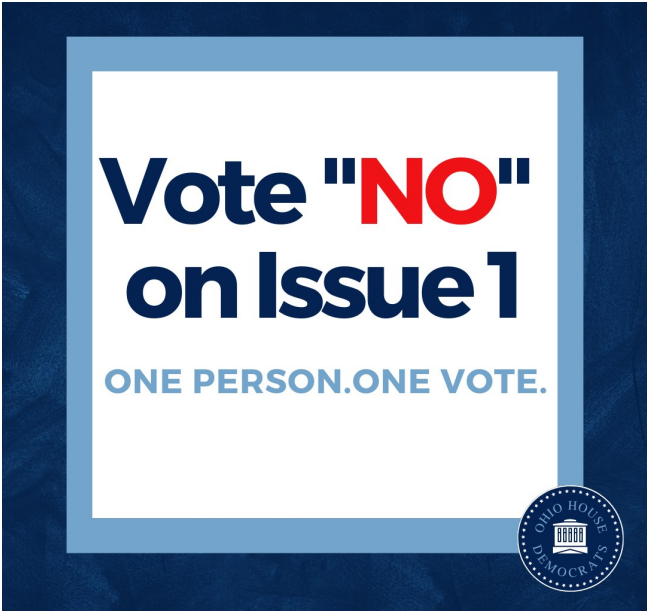
Learn what you can do in your community to fight this epidemic at: [OHagainstOD.ohio.gov](http://OHagainstOD.ohio.gov)



## House Democrats Condemn Issue 1

On August 8th, Ohio will be voting on Issue 1. When politicians fail us, ballot initiatives give us the freedom to make decisions that affect our lives. Issue 1 would destroy citizen-driven ballot initiatives as we know them, guaranteeing that only the wealthiest special interests could advance changes to our constitution.

We must protect our freedom to determine our future. We must protect our power as people. Make sure your voice is heard by voting “NO” to stop special interests from ending majority rule. Protect our rights and the sacred principle of “one person, one vote,” instead of handing power over to out-of-touch politicians.  
#VoteNoInAugust.



## August is national Black Business Month!



August is National Black Business Month, a time to bring attention to the wonderful and hardworking Black-owned businesses across the country.

Did you know Ohio is ranked the 12th best state for Black entrepreneurship? There are 4,000 Black-owned businesses with more than 50,000 employees and a combined payroll of over \$1.5 billion. I encourage you to support your local Black-owned businesses, not just this month, but at any chance you get!

For a list of Black-owned businesses in Dayton check out the Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau Website: <https://www.daytoncvb.com/black-owned-businesses/>