



A legislative update from
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Dear Neighbor,

Happy November! On November 7th Ohioans head to the ballot box to vote on issues that will redefine Ohio's future, possibly even the country's. If you want to be part of the movement, then have a plan to vote on or before Election Day. Make sure you tell your friends and family members about this, because when we vote to change the future in Ohio, you're going to want to be part of the process.

Questions on voting or ID? Visit ohiovoterguide.org.

November is National Epilepsy Month, where we push for more awareness, funding, and research to improve outcomes. House Democrats are proud to support **HB 229 - the Brenna Brossard SUDEP Awareness Act**- that raises awareness and educates the general public about epilepsy.

This month we will be celebrating Veterans Day. I am grateful to each and every Ohioan who has served our state and nation. We can never fully repay our veterans and their families for their commitment to defending our freedoms.

I hope you and your family have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving! Before getting together this year, make sure you are up-to-date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/> to find a vaccine provider near you. Enjoy this time with friends, family and great food! I am proud to be your state representative.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Willis E Blackshear Jr.



Happy Veterans Day! I am grateful to each and every Ohioan who has served our state and nation. We can never fully repay our veterans for their commitment to defending our freedoms. House Democrats will continue to advocate for legislation that supports our veterans and their families.



Recently Rep. Blackshear passed out candy for the annual Jefferson Township "Trunk or Treat" event.



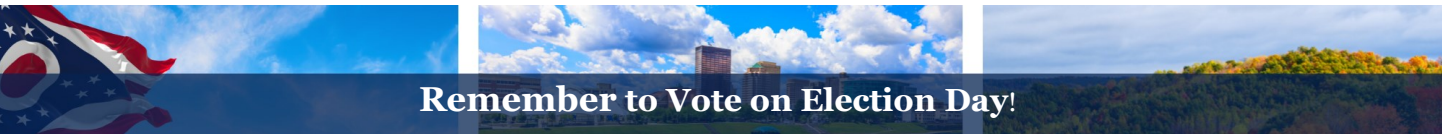
House Democrats Introduce Marriage Equality Act

House Democrats were proud to introduce the Marriage Equality Act in October, which would codify marriage equality for all Ohioans. Marriage for all Ohioans, regardless of gender, race, or sexuality, should be protected. A marriage represents a special commitment, symbolizing a devotion for another human; a right that should never be denied.

So far in 2023, there have been over [500](#) anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in states across the US. This is just one of many factors prompting the Human Rights Campaign to declare a "[State of Emergency](#)" for LGBTQ+ Americans. Ohio is no stranger to this frightening trend. Extremists in this General Assembly have introduced several bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community's freedoms at schools and universities, in sports, at the doctor's office and beyond.

Ohio is home to people from all corners of the globe. They have chosen to reside here, to raise their families, in the hope that Ohio would be a place of acceptance, regardless of one's

appearance. All Ohioans, without exception, deserve the fundamental right to love, to marry, and to build a family with whomever their heart chooses.



Remember to Vote on Election Day!

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights that we have. Make sure you have a plan to vote in this upcoming November election, where we will vote to determine our future. Make your voice heard! The last day to early vote for the November 7th election is November 5th between 1:00pm-5:00pm.

Here are some additional dates that might be helpful:

- **October 11:** Early in-person & absentee voting begins
- **November 5:** Early in-person voting ends
- **November 6:** Absentee ballot applications must be postmarked by this date
- **November 7: Election Day** (Polls open 6:30 am-7:30 pm)

Need to register or check your status? Register at: vote.ohio.gov.

