



A legislative update from
STATE REP. WILLIS E BLACKSHEAR JR.
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Dear Neighbor,

We are already more than half way through the 135th General Assembly! It has been an honor serving you thus far and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to put people first.

This past month the Republicans overrode the governor's veto of **HB 68**, something that the House Democratic Caucus stands firmly against. Once again, the Supermajority is disregarding the voice of the people. These matters should be left to families and doctors, not politicians. House Democrats will always stand with the LGBTQ+ community, championing legislation that protects their rights and recognizes them as vital members of our communities.

On the 15th of February, the House Minority Caucus will be hosting the Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This pioneering event will gather stakeholders from around the country and Ohio to the Statehouse in an effort to push dialogue on stemming the tide of gun violence in the state. More info is on the second page of this newsletter!

February is Black History Month! Black history is American history and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting and impactful change.

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

Sincerely,

Willis E Blackshear Jr.



This month is a time to celebrate and recognize the rich contributions, achievements, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. It serves as a crucial reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the Black community, highlighting the impact on culture, science, politics, and every facet of society. It encourages dialogue and a collective reflection on the ongoing journey toward racial equality.

March Primary Reminders!

- February 20th → Registration deadline
- February 21st → Early voting begins
- March 19th → Election Day!



Representative Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.
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The deadline to register to vote for the March Primary Election is fast approaching. Make sure your registration is up-to-date so that your voice is heard this election!

House Democrats Announce Inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit

House Democrats are proud to announce the inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit. Join us in fostering discussions on crucial commonsense policies supported by a bipartisan majority of Ohioans on **February 15, 2024 at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.**

The event will consist of three panels featuring elected officials, law enforcement officers and gun safety advocates to address solutions, legislation and real-world stories that put us closer to stemming the tide of gun violence in Ohio. **Rep. Blackshear will be a featured panelist for “Defeating Pro-gun crime, Anti-cop Laws**

The panels are as follows:

- Taking Guns out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals
- Promoting Responsible Gun Ownership
- **Defeating Pro-gun Crime, Anti-cop Laws**

Additionally, there will be a resource fair showcasing outside groups and initiatives that align with our commitment to address gun violence.

Interested in joining us? [RSVP here.](#)

Rep. Blackshear Honors Local High School Basketball Players

Recently Rep. Blackshear had the chance to honor 3 high school basketball players that surpassed 1,000 career points:



Zhieyah Rolack Meadowdale HS



Ma’Kayla Williams Thurgood Marshall HS (left)

Morganne Postell Thurgood Marshall HS (right)

Congratulations Zhieyah, Ma’Kayla, and Morganne! As a reminder if you or someone you know has accomplished something recently please contact our office as we would love to prepare a commendation for you!