



*A legislative update from*  
**State Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio**  
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Dear Neighbor,

It has been almost a month since I took office, and the 135th General Assembly is already more than halfway through! 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, legislation that I firmly oppose. Once again, the Supermajority is disregarding the voice of the people. These matters should be left to families and doctors, not politicians. I will always stand with the LGTBQ+ 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. Space is limited, so if you would like to attend the summit, please RSVP at this link: <https://bit.ly/GVPSummit24>

February is Black History Month! Black history is American history and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. I am fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. I am committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. 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,



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## Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly Open Office Hours

### **Monday, February 5**

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Gahanna Library Meeting Room 3

310 Granville St, Gahanna, OH 43230

### **Saturday, March 23**

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2

200 Market St, New Albany, OH 43054

Please contact my office if you would prefer to schedule a private meeting.

## 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. 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](#).

## House Democrats Fight Against Corruption in Ohio

On January 30th the House Minority Caucus held a press conference unveiling the first step in our Cost of Corruption legislation package. House Democrats introduced multiple pieces of legislation aimed at weeding out corruption, strengthening ethics, protecting against and correcting wrongs created by the First Energy scandal, the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.

- The [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) (House Bill 112, Reps. Miranda/Sweeney) would require dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending.
- The [HB 6 Repeal and Repay Act](#) (House Bill 120, Reps. Weinstein/Brennan) would fully repeal and refund subsidies established in HB 6 during the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly that are still being paid by Ohioans to bail out two Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) coal-fired power plants—one of which is located in Indiana.
- The [PUCO Nomination Reform Act](#) (House Bill 363, Rep. Troy) would adjust the broken nomination process involving the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), preventing individuals like Sam Randazzo, the former chair of the PUCO, who was indicted for taking \$4.3 million in bribes in exchange for helping FirstEnergy conduct nefarious activities.
- The PUCO Consumer Refund Act (Rep. Baker) would require PUCO to order refunds to consumers if a utility charge is deemed to be unlawful by the Ohio Supreme Court. Upon determination that utility charges are unlawful, full refunds would be required to be issued within 120 days.

## Recent Events



*Attending the Westerville Area Chamber Annual Meeting, Awards, and Innovation Showcase*



*Ribbon Cutting for Rasa Yoga in Gahanna*



*Herbert Weyl Jewish Business network lunch featuring Cardale Jones*



*Gahanna Lincoln High School performance of Little Shop of Horrors*



*Recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Red Roof*

## February 2024 Dates of Note



### **Black History Month**

February 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.

### **American Heart Month**

As the leading cause of death in the United States, heart diseases impact millions of lives each year. This designated month is an opportunity to educate the public about risk factors, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection of heart-related issues.

### **February 3: One year since the East Palestine Train Derailment**

It has been a year since the catastrophic Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The derailment is an environmental disaster; the true magnitude and long-term impacts of which remain uncertain. I am committed to pursue lasting reforms that improve railway safety and instill public confidence in the state's commitment to preventing future railway catastrophes.

### **February 10: Lunar New Year**

Across the globe, around 2 billion people celebrate the Lunar New Year. Also known as the Spring Festival, this holiday is a festival that marks the beginning of the lunar calendar. The celebration is meant to let go of the past and bring in the present. May the Year of the Dragon give you peace, love, and transformation.

### **February 12: NAACP Day**

February 12 marks the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded exactly 100 years after Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the NAACP advocates for civil rights and justice for all. I will always fight for equality for all.

### **February 14: National Donor Day**

National Donor Day is on February 14 and focuses on the great significance that organ, eye, tissue, and blood donors have on others. You have the power to save a life today by donating.

### **February 14: Valentine's Day**

Happy Valentine's Day! This is a special day dedicated to recognizing our love for others. It is a time for people to express their feelings of love, friendship, and appreciation for one another.

### **February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day**

Susan B. Anthony Day recognizes the life and career of the pioneer on her birthday, February 15. Anthony was a champion of women's suffrage and left a lasting legacy on the United States. She is an instrumental figure in Americans' fight for equal rights. Anthony, and the women's suffrage movement, played an integral part in ensuring that the United States provides justice and liberty for all.

### **February 19: Presidents' Day**

This federal holiday recognizes both Abraham Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays. It also brings to light the importance of understanding this country's history and the democratic values we have fostered, or need to improve. I am committed to creating an Ohio that works for all of us.

### **February 20: National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants**

February 20 is the National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Immigrants. I support our Muslim, Arab, and South Asian friends, many of whom have found a home in Ohio. We must make Ohio a welcoming state where immigrants can live in peace, security, and prosperity.