



Dear Neighbor,

Happy March! We began last month by passing **House Bill (HB) 2**, appropriating \$2B of state funds for economic development and community investments that will help drive economic growth and generate opportunities across Ohio. **HB 2** includes half of the \$700M from the One Time Strategic Community Investments Fund (OTSCIF), funding that was set aside in the most recent state operating budget. The bill now awaits further consideration in the Senate.

March is Women's History Month! We celebrate and honor the women who fight for equality. From Susan B. Anthony to Harriet Tubman, American history is full of inspiring women who fought to create a more equitable America. Today, we continue to fight for Women's rights by protecting reproductive freedoms and closing the gender wage gap.

House Democrats also unveiled our Cost of Corruption campaign that better protects taxpayers from future public corruption scandals. Despite a \$1.3B dollar bailout, \$60M in bribes, and unaccountable damage to the people's trust in government, zero laws have been passed following Larry Householder and FirstEnergy crimes. Ohio's most valuable resource is our people, which is why I am focused on putting people over politics by introducing legislation that will restore democracy and return dignity to our state government.

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

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 4

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## Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly Open Office Hours

### March Office Hours

Saturday, March 23

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

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2  
200 Market St, New Albany, OH 43054

### April Office Hours

Sunday, April 14

Jefferson Township Community Room

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

6767 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick, OH 43004

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

## Legislative Update

On Wednesday, February 28, I filed my first bill! House Bill 436 would support students who are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and those receiving the Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship to continue to have the option to receive virtual intervention services. I am working with Rep. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton) on this bill. If you would like more information about this bill, please contact my office or check back for updates in future newsletters.

## House Bill 2 includes \$42,000,000 in State Funds for Franklin County

I am proud to announce that the Ohio House of Representatives passed [House Bill \(HB\) 2](#), appropriating \$2B of state funds for economic development and community investments that will help drive economic growth and generate opportunities across Ohio.

**HB 2** includes half of the \$700M from the One Time Strategic Community Investments Fund (OTSCIF), funding that was set aside in the most recent state operating budget. I am excited to announce Franklin County will receive \$42,000,000.

The \$42,000,000 of OTSCIF funds will be distributed to several local entities, including:

- \$10,000,000 for The Ohio Center for Advanced Technologies
- \$500,000 for Elevate Northland
- \$10,000,000 for the Downtown Columbus Capital Line
- \$10,000,000 for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra – Music for All

The bill now heads to the Ohio Senate for further consideration. Community projects will have additional funding opportunities from the traditional capital budget and the remaining one-time funds.

## Women's History Month



Happy Women's History Month! This month we honor and support the amazing women who have shaped our state and country. From Florence Ellinwood Allen, the first woman to serve on a state supreme court anywhere in the United States, to Toni Morrison, a renowned African-American author, to Judith Resnick, a NASA astronaut aboard the Space Shuttles Discovery and Challenger.

I am committed to advancing women's rights and creating a more equal state. Equal pay, reproductive rights, and quality maternal health are at the forefront of my priorities. I am working hard to ensure that our state is equitable and welcoming to everyone.

## House Democrats Continue Fight Against Corruption in Ohio

Despite a \$1.3B bailout, \$60M in bribes, multiple arrests, and unmeasurable damage to people's trust in our state's government, not one bill has been passed that would prevent another HB 6 scandal from happening again. It's important to fight for real solutions to prevent corruption and undo the economic damage to Ohioans.

House Democrats have introduced several pieces of legislation aimed at weeding out corruption, strengthening ethics, and correcting wrongs created by the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.

- The [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) (House Bill 112, 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, 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, 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 Utility Charge Refund Act](#) (House Bill 393, Baker) would require the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to order refunds to consumers if a utility charge is deemed to be unlawful by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Many of us work hard to make a living and pay our utility rates. It's time we finally close this dark chapter in Ohio's history, undo the economic damage of corruption to Ohioans, and ensure corruption is never commonplace in our state government—no matter who is in charge.

## Recent Events



*Gun Violence Prevention Summit*



*Ribbon Cutting for AMGEN in New Albany*



*Speaking with students visiting the Statehouse for Youth In Government*



*Ribbon cutting for The Refuge, which provides residential recovery for men in central Ohio*



*Ribbon Cutting for the Starbucks on Market Street in New Albany*



*Cost of Corruption Press Conference*



*Gahanna Gala*



*Meeting with OSBA President Sally Green*



*Galentine's Day at the Hayley Gallery in New Albany*

### **March 2024 Dates of Note**

#### **Women's History Month: March**

During Women's History Month, let's honor the countless contributions, achievements, and resilience of women throughout history. From trailblazers who shattered glass ceilings to everyday heroes making a difference, we celebrate your strength, courage, and unwavering spirit. Here's to lifting each other up and continuing to write history together.

#### **Social Work Month - March**

Happy Social Work Month! Did you know that by 2030 there will be more than 782K social workers in the United States? This month we celebrate all social workers who have led the way in serving those in need. Thank you for all you do!

#### **Civics Learning Week: March 11-14**

Civic Learning Week is hosted annually by [iCivics](https://www.civiclearningweek.org), and is a chance to highlight the importance of civic education in sustaining and strengthening constitutional democracy in the United States. Whether you are an educator, parent, student or activist you can support civic learning to: Empower Young Citizens, Strengthen our Democratic Society and Address Contemporary Challenges. Please visit [civiclearningweek.org](https://www.civiclearningweek.org) to learn more!

#### **Ohio Agriculture Week: March 17-23**

The second full week of March is Ohio Agriculture Week. We appreciate and support Ohio's agricultural workers who keep our state fed and healthy. Ensuring our state can grow nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food will allow us to remain competitive in the future.

#### **Ohio's 221st Anniversary: March 1**

March first marked Ohio's 221st anniversary! Join my office in celebrating our great state by fighting for legislation to make Ohio a better place for everyone, no matter who you are. Here's to another 221 fantastic years.

#### **International Women's Day: March 8**

Happy International Women's Day! Today, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women worldwide. Let's continue to empower, support, and uplift each other as we strive for equality and justice. Here's to breaking barriers and creating a more inclusive Ohio for all!

#### **Daylight Savings Day: March 10**

Springing forward on Daylight Savings Day! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead and enjoy that extra hour of daylight!

**Harriet Tubman Day: March 10**

March 10th is Harriet Tubman Day, a celebration of the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman. After Tubman escaped from slavery, she bravely returned to Maryland to lead enslaved people to freedom. Over the course of about 13 trips, she was able to free around 70 people from enslavement. She is an American hero whose bravery should be honored and remembered.

**Ramadan: March 10 (starts at sundown)**

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink from sunrise to sunset as a means of drawing closer to Allah and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan Mubarak!

**National Equal Pay Day: March 12**

March 12 is Equal Pay Day, a symbolic date representing how long a woman would have to work into 2024 to equal what a man was paid in 2023. All Ohioans should receive equal pay for equal work, which is why I am committed to creating a state that welcomes and supports everyone.

**St. Patrick's Day: March 17**

Happy St Patrick's Day!

**Spring Equinox: March 20**

Hello, Spring! Today marks the Spring Equinox, where day and night share equal time before days grow longer. Here's to longer days, blooming flowers, and the promise of new beginnings!

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: March 21**

Today, on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, let's reaffirm our commitment to justice, equality, and unity. Together, House Dems stand against racism in all its forms, and strive to create a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, no matter who you are.

**Holi: March 25**

Happy Holi! Let the colors of joy, love, and unity fill our hearts and homes. Wishing you all a day filled with laughter, sweets, and unforgettable memories.

**Vietnam Veterans Day: March 29**

On March 29, we honor the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War. We must ensure that our Vietnam War veterans, and all veterans, are cared for and supported here in Ohio.

**Easter: March 31**

Happy Easter!

**Trans Day of Visibility: March 31**

Today and every day, we celebrate the beauty, strength, and resilience of the transgender community. On Trans Day of Visibility, let's uplift trans voices, affirm identities, and work towards a world where everyone can live authentically and without fear.