

March 2024 Legislative Update from
STATE REP. VERONICA SIMS

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From the Office of Rep. Sims
HOUSE DISTRICT 33

Dear Community,

It is my honor to welcome you to the first edition of my official newsletter as your new State Representative for Ohio's 33rd district in the House of Representatives. It is truly a great honor to step into this office to continue the work of championing the needs of the people of District 33.

March is Women's History Month and I am so very grateful for the opportunity to illuminate and say thank you to the many trailblazing change makers in Summit County and beyond. Women that have and continue to work tirelessly to dismantle oppressive structural, economic and social barriers for Women, many that unfortunately continue on today. There is no question we have made great strides yet there still remains much work to do.

We are once again in the midst of a Primary Election and I urge you to get out and vote. Early voting has commenced and Election Day is Tuesday, March 19th. Make a plan and include family and friends. Please spread the word!



Rep. Sims in The Community

Rep. Sims speaking at the Youth Empowerment Summit



Rep. Sims attending the Gun Violence Prevention Summit



Helpful Contacts

Public Safety: www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

Highway Patrol 877-7-PATROL

DUI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI

Taxation: www.tax.ohio.gov

Form Requests 800-282-1782

Taxpayer Assistance 800-282-1780

Jobs and Family Services:
www.jfs.ohio.gov

Veteran Services 888-296-7541

Unemployment 877-644-6562

Bureau of Motor Vehicles:

www.bmv.ohio.gov

Information 800-589-TAGS

I am thrilled to announce that we have successfully secured funding for a series of critical community projects in our District. This funding, totaling \$15 million, will be allocated towards a diverse range of initiatives that address key priorities identified by our residents and local stakeholders.

From improving our infrastructure to enhancing education, healthcare, and environmental conservation, these projects are aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all residents while promoting sustainable development in our community.

Additionally, the Ohio Department of Transportation has approved an additional \$7,310,701 million in funding to address Summit County's critical infrastructure needs.

Project	Amount
Akron-Canton Airport West Side Development for Aeronautic Activity	\$2,500,000
Cascade Plaza	\$2,500,000
Akron Art Museum – Center for Digital Discovery	\$2,000,000
Akron Zoo Veterinary Hospital	\$1,750,000
Cuyahoga Falls Regional Fire Training Complex	\$1,500,000
Akron Community Health Center Addiction One Campus Expansion	\$1,250,000
Barberton City Hall and Justice Center	\$1,000,000
Middle School Trades Education Center in Summit County	\$750,000
Summit County Fairgrounds New Agriculture Center	\$600,000
Hudson Inclusive Playground	\$500,000
Child Guidance and Family Solutions – Multi-Campus	\$450,000
G.A.R. Hall Rehabilitation	\$150,000
Boston Township Hall ADA Upgrades	\$50,000



Department of
Transportation

LOCAL MAJOR BRIDGE PROGRAM

Project Information

Project Sponsor	County	Project Name	Project Description	SFY	Requested Funds
City of Akron	Summit	High & Main Major Preventative Maintenance	Rehabilitate the High & Main piers.	2027	\$808,319
City of Akron	Summit	University Avenue Major Preventative Maintenance	Rehabilitate University Avenue bridge by replacing the deck overlay, expansion joints, and approach slabs, as well as upgrading the sidewalk.	2027	\$1,502,382
Summit County	Summit	North Main Street Bridge	Funding to design the bridge replacement of the North Main Street bridge. Construction is	2025	\$5,000,000

Voting Schedule

- **Mar. 12st** --- Vote by Mail Ends
- **Mar. 17th** --- Early In-Person Voting Ends
- **Mar. 19th** --- Election Day

Early Voting Accepted ID's:

U.S. Passport	State of Ohio ID	Ohio Driver's License
Passport Card	US Military ID	Ohio interim ID

Issue 2 created the Division of Cannabis Control (DCC) within the Department of Commerce, and tasked the DCC with developing rules for implementing the Cannabis Social Equity and Jobs Program (CSEJ). The DCC submitted rules for distributing non-medical cannabis dispensary 10(B) licenses to the CSI to determine whether the rules are so onerous that they might hinder or impede the creation of jobs with the CSEJ program. The DCC also provided an opportunity for the general public to submit questions and comments until Tuesday, March 13th.

For more information about when and how non-medical cannabis dispensary licenses will be distributed, please visit the [Division of Cannabis Control's website](#).



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. The [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) (HB 112), [HB 6 Repeal and Repay Act](#) (HB 120), the [PUCO Nomination Reform Act](#) (HB 363) and the strives to weed out corruption, strengthen ethics, protect against and correct wrongs created by the First Energy scandal, the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.
- The economic impact of government corruption on families and taxpayers has been enormous. Through increased electric bills and fee hikes approved with criminal acts, taxpayers and Ohio families will pay over one-billion dollars, [or \\$500k a day](#)
- Despite these crimes and the economic hit to Ohio families, small businesses, and consumers, not one reform has been passed or fully endorsed by Republicans over the past five years.
- Please be sure to reference this message and [the letter to the U.S. Attorney](#) for the latest context and language to use when communicating the growing economic costs of corruption in Ohio.



- The **PUCO Consumer Refund Act** (Rep. Baker) would require PUCO to order refunds to consumers in the event that a utility charges are unlawful by the Ohio Supreme Court. Upon determination that utility charges are unlawful, full refunds would be required to be issued.