

TRACY RICHARDSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



DEAR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS,

Welcome to fall! The Ohio House of Representatives fell back into action at the Ohio Statehouse following a brief, productive summer break in district. Committees and session returned in late summer and I am excited to continue working on legislation that aims to make our great state even better.

As always, I desire to be an active voice for the people of the 86th House District by remaining connected to you, your views/ideas, and your concerns. Ensuring your quality of life by focusing on common sense decision making, remaining fiscally responsible, and protecting residents are some of my conservative priorities that are detailed in legislation highlighted below.

If you have any questions, need assistance with state agencies, or would like to schedule an appointment during my monthly in-district hours, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at rep86@ohiohouse.gov. I sincerely enjoy meeting with residents and hearing from you because it allows me to understand your concerns and champion meaningful policy.

Hoping you enjoy the fall festivities, football, and of course Thanksgiving with your family!

PROPERTY TAX UPDATE

Rising property taxes are an issue across the state, and as appraisals go up, so are my concerns. During this General Assembly, I am working with my colleagues to find a meaningful solution to keeping vulnerable Ohioans in their homes. To help reform our current law, I am one of few State Representatives who has been **appointed to the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform**. My goal on the committee will be to voice the concerns I've heard and to thoroughly consider all possible solutions, such as the ones highlighted below:

House Bill (HB) 187, which recently passed out of the Ohio House, is a key piece of legislation that will require the tax commissioner to work with local elected officials and weigh the past three years of sales data equally to determine a property's value as opposed to the most recent year's data. This proposal will help shield homeowners from potential large tax increases because of the property valuation adjustments. **HB 263** aims to protect Ohio's senior population by freezing property taxes for individuals if they are seventy years of age or older, their income does not exceed seventy thousand dollars, and they have owned their home for at least ten years. Additionally, my own bill, **HB 254** would increase and expand the homestead exemption for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses with an emphasis on 100% disabled veterans.

RICHARDSON'S LEGISLATION

House Bill 103, The Americanism Act – This bill provides a means to review Ohio's K-12 social studies standards. As directed by HB 103, a 9-member task force will use "American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards," as a guide to review our standards. The goal is to ensure that Ohio's social studies standards are clear and will teach our children essential fundamentals of Americanism.

House Bill 250, Revise the Military Enlistment Diploma Seal – Recently and unanimously passed out of the Ohio House, HB 250 is truly straightforward. It expands eligibility for the Military Enlistment Seal to ensure that every high school graduate who is willing to serve our nation can receive this honor on their diploma. This is an important bill that corrects an oversight and ensures parity for the graduates entering United States Military Service Academies including the Army, Air Force, Navy, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard Academies. All university or college ROTC scholarship recipients will also be eligible.



RICHARDSON'S LEGISLATION CONT.

House Bill 254, Expanded and Enhanced Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans – As property values continue to rise across the state, it is crucial that we act now to protect the veterans who have invested in our communities and our country. The “enhanced” homestead exemption is a property tax reduction available to veterans who have a total disability rating. Currently, those eligible may exempt \$50,000 of their home’s true value. HB 254 seeks to increase the exemption to 100% of the home’s true value. Additionally, this legislation expands eligibility for an exemption to veterans with disability ratings of 50% or greater.



LEGISLATION TRACKER

House Bill 8, The Parents’ Bill of Rights – The Ohio House passed HB 8, the Parents’ Bill of Rights, to protect a parent’s ability to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor child. This is a commonsense bill that acknowledges the fundamental role that parents play in the life of their children.

House Bill 51, The Second Amendment Preservation Act – The Second Amendment Preservation Act is fundamental to ensuring our rights cannot be infringed upon. HB 51 makes it so that Ohio law enforcement agencies cannot be compelled to enforce unconstitutional federal gun-control laws, executive orders, or agency rule interpretations. There is additional work to be done on this bill with a goal of protecting 2A rights while strengthening law enforcement authority.

House Bill 258, Increased Penalties for Underage Sales – Protecting our children is a top priority, that is why I co-sponsored HB 258. This bill focuses on preventing and decreasing youth tobacco use by

increasing fines for repeatedly selling tobacco products to minors. It will also ensure that the public nuisance law applies to any place that continuously and repeatedly violates these laws.

House Bill 6 & House Bill 68, The Save Women’s Sports Act & SAFE Act – Passed by the Ohio House, HB 68 encompasses the SAFE Act and the Save Women’s Sports Act (HB 6). It is a key piece of legislation that will provide protection for children by preventing irreversible risks and making life altering decisions at a young age. It will also ensure young women can fairly compete against those of the same biological sex and help women build confidence.

House Bill 230, Saving Ohio Communities Act – This bill addresses two prominent crises here in Ohio – drug and human trafficking. HB 230 will increase drug trafficking charges for cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine. It expands the definition of human trafficking to combat the dangerous criminals bringing these drugs into our great state and establishes a mandatory prison term of 5 years if an individual is convicted or pleads guilty of a fentanyl related death.

PROUDLY SERVING YOU



As I continue my work in the state legislature, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you need assistance with a state issue or would like to share your thoughts with me. I also encourage you to follow my social media for updates on what's happening in Columbus and our community.



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