



Dear Neighbor,

Happy October! The House has finally come back from recess to vote on and discuss important legislation for all Ohioans, including property tax relief.

I co-sponsored **House Bill 263, the “70 Under 70”** legislation. This would freeze property taxes at current levels for Ohioans over the age of 70 with household incomes less than \$70,000 annually. Seniors must own their homes for 10 or more years. I believe this is one way to help lower the burden on our seniors.



Ohio House Democrats, along with Equality Ohio and Civil Rights Activist Jim Obergefell, hosted a press conference to introduce the **Marriage Equality Act**. This would codify the right to interracial and same-sex marriages in the Ohio Constitution.

I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation to ensure all Ohioans have the same rights and when it comes to who they choose to love. I was honored to meet Jim Obergefell who has championed this issue.



As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions on legislation or concerns that you may have. I love to hear from you all!

Sincerely,

Anita Somani

Anita Somani, M.D.
State Representative
Ohio House District 11

Updates Ahead of the November 7 General Election

With less than one month until the November 7 General Election, Ohio Republican lawmakers continue to spread misinformation about the upcoming ballot initiatives. Voters will be faced with two major issues on the ballot.

Issue 1 will enshrine the right to reproductive freedom in the Ohio Constitution, guaranteeing the right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive healthcare decisions.

Unfortunately, the [Ohio Ballot Board’s approved language](#) is extremely biased and does not reflect what is actually in the amendment. [The full text of the proposed amendment](#) was rejected, and the approved language ignores official medical terminology. There are several problems with this biased language that will appear on the ballot.

First, the language uses the phrase “unborn child”, rather than “fetus”. The language misleadingly refers to abortions as “decisions”, rather than “medical treatment”. It even goes as far as to not include the fact that the amendment protects **all reproductive rights, including contraception, abortion, infertility, and the right to continue a pregnancy.**

In addition, the original language talks about viability, which is left out in the ballot language. The ballot language also discusses abortions at term, known as “Late-term abortions”. This is not medically possible, and it is called delivery.

If you have any questions about the language created by the Ohio Ballot Board, please reach out to our office, and we will clarify it.

[Issue 2](#) will legalize recreational marijuana use for adults 21 and over. They may buy and possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana and can grow the plants at home. The language states that there will be a 10% tax on the purchases. This will go towards the administrative costs, addiction treatment programs, municipalities with dispensaries, and a new cannabis social equity and jobs program.

Make sure you and your family and friends have a plan to vote. Here are a list of important dates leading up to the election:

- **October 11th:** Early voting & absentee voting began. Find the hours [here](#).
- **October 31st:** Absentee ballots must be received by the Boards of Election by 8:30 P.M.
- **November 6th:** Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date.
- **November 7th:** Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Democratic Legislatures Seek to Protect Mifepristone Access

I joined over 600 Democratic legislators from 49 states in signing [onto an amicus brief](#) to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the appellate court decision to roll back access to Mifepristone. This ruling could strike down the FDA rules to expand access to Mifepristone, a drug that has been approved by the FDA for 23 years.

Back in May, I joined the [Suburban Women Problem podcast](#) to talk about why this ban is dangerous, the safety and effectiveness of Mifepristone, and how we can fight the misinformation surrounding the drug.



Podcast of the Month: Doctors in the House

This month, I checked back in with Malcom Porter, host of the Doctors in the House podcast. [In Episode 12](#), we discussed a recent Washington Post article that talked about how red states, including Ohio, have lower life expectancies. This is mainly due to their state and local public health policies like tobacco taxes or seat-belt regulations.

The article dives into Ashtabula, Ohio, finding that their residents are much more likely to die young compared to similar counties in Pennsylvania and New York. The biggest factors are smoking, diabetes-related problems, and car accidents.

Dan Skinner, host of Prognosis Ohio, [dives into this more on his podcast](#).

We also discussed **House Bill 99**, which would prevent insurance companies from denying

claims are emergent, unnecessary laws restricting abortion access in Ohio, and redistricting in Ohio.

The Doctors in the House podcast is produced by the Columbus Medical Association and checks in with Representative Dr. Beth Liston and I to provide updates around the Ohio Statehouse!



Office Hours Updates

Thank you to all who came out to our office hours this month.

We discussed important things like redistricting, property tax relief, and making sure all Ohioan’s voices are heard. Stay tuned for November office hour dates.

To stay updated on all official statements and news from our district office, visit <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/anita-somani/news>.

