

A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. ANITA SOMANI**  
 HOUSE DISTRICT 11

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From the desk of Rep. Somani

Dear Neighbor,

Happy February! As we settle into 2024, I want to provide key updates in our district and around the statehouse. February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout our history. Ohio House Democrats and the Ohio Black Legislative Caucus will be discussing the importance of Black History Month and honoring historic Black Ohioans all month long! To learn more, follow @OHHouseDems on Instagram.

On Wednesday, [Governor DeWine announced a revised set of rules for OhioMHAS](#) regarding gender transition care. The rules now only apply to the care of minors, not adults, expand options for mental health providers, and remove the requirement of having a medical ethicist involved in treatment plans. These revised rules come after OhioMHAS received [3,900 public comments](#). While these rules, coupled with the implementation of House Bill 68, are still detrimental to trans youth, they show that public pressure and engagement works. Thank you to all who took the time to submit comments!

I am continuing to advocate for bipartisan legislation that benefits all Ohioans. If you have any questions, concerns, or legislation you would like to advocate for, please contact my office! I look forward to continuing to serve District 11.

Sincerely,

*Anita Somani*

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



As we enter the second half of the 135th General Assembly, my Democratic colleagues and I are recommitting to putting people first.

The People First agenda is built on three core values: freedom, dignity, and opportunity. It is centered around working together to pass legislation that helps all Ohioans, rather than focusing on issues meant to divide us. To learn more about what the People First Agenda is all about, watch this [video!](#)

**IMPORTANT MARCH PRIMARY ELECTION DATES**

- FEBRUARY 20 Voter Registration Deadline
- FEBRUARY 21 Absentee & Early In-Person Voting Begins
- MARCH 12 Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot
- MARCH 19 Election Day

VISIT [VOTEOHIO.GOV](http://VOTEOHIO.GOV) FOR MORE INFORMATION

The March 19th primary election is fast approaching! Make sure you and your loved ones have a plan to vote. Visit [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov) for more information and to update your registration.

District 11 Receives Investments

There are a lot of exciting investments happening in District 11! Infoverity, a professional services firm in Dublin specializing in data management services, received funding from the Ohio Tax Credit Authority to expand their location. The project is expected to create 65 new full-time positions and generate \$7 million in new annual payroll. This announcement is great for the local economy of Dublin, and we are looking forward to the expansion!

This week, Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Transportation announced that more than a dozen major local bridge projects will receive state funding to support rehabilitation and replacement work. The Trabue Road bridge was awarded \$843,079 to replace the deck and roadway surface, as well as to add new piers and new beam lines.

The Ohio House also passed [House Bill 2](#) this week, which appropriated \$2 billion in state funds for economic development and community investments

that will help drive economic growth and generate opportunities across our state. These one time funds came from left over federal dollars during the first few years of the pandemic.

Franklin County received \$42 million in funding, including \$8 million for the Heritage Trail Expansion Project. This project will connect trails in Downtown Hilliard to Downtown Columbus. It will be a two-lane, paved multi-use trail, perfect for running, biking, walking, and other recreational and active transportation uses!

The OTSCIF is different from the standard Capital Budget funding, which will be considered in the Senate over the next two months. If you have any funding requests, please reach out to the Ohio Senate! You can find your senator [here](#). In addition, if you support the funds allocated through House Bill 2, we also encourage you to reach out to [Senate President Matt Huffman](#) as the Senate begins considering the bill.

House Democrats Announce Inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit

On Thursday, February 15th, the House Minority Caucus will host the first ever Gun Violence Prevention Summit. Commonsense gun reform is supported by a majority of Ohioans.

The event will feature three panels made up of elected officials, law enforcement, and gun safety advocates with the goal of discussing solutions, legislation, and real world stories.

There will also be a resource fair featuring outside groups and initiatives whose common goal is addressing the gun violence epidemic.

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION Summit**

Let's unite for crucial discussions on responsible gun ownership, and anti-cop laws. Together, we can make a difference.

Thursday, February 15th  
 10AM-12:30PM  
 The Atrium at the Ohio Statehouse

Join Ohio House Democrats and additional stakeholders in being a part of the solution!

**RSVP NOW**

Presented By: Ohio House Democrats

Podcasts of the Month

**The Dean Obeidallah Show**

ANITA SOMANI  
 OHIO STATE REP DISTRICT 11  
 7:00PM ET

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS  
 VERMONT SENATOR  
 7:30PM ET

REP. MAXWELL FROST  
 DEMOCRAT FLORIDA 10TH  
 8:00PM ET

CRISTINA TZINÚN RAMIREZ  
 EXEC. DIRECTOR NEXTGEN AMERICA  
 8:30PM ET

**DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE**

A podcast by the Columbus Medical Association

I was honored to be back on the Dean Obeidallah Show last week! While on the air, we discussed how restrictive abortion laws in Republican states are effecting influencing access to abortions and the political divide that is happening here at the Ohio Statehouse.

It was incredible to be in the same lineup as Senator Bernie Sanders and Congressman Maxwell Frost ! Listen to the highlights [here](#) or the full version if you have Sirius XM Radio.

This month's episode of the Doctors in the House podcast from the Columbus Medical Association talks about what the Ohio Legislature is looking to prioritize and work on as we enter the second year of this general assembly.

We discuss what is moving, what we are expecting to see come forward, and what is stalling at the moment. Listen [here](#) for some general updates!

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