

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

(614) 466-3485 | [rep14@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep14@ohiohouse.gov)



| June 2023

*Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and  
Cleveland's West Park Neighborhood!*

Dear District 14 Resident:

Recently, I voted with all of my Democratic colleagues, along with five Republican colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives against Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR 2). Although we lost the vote and the resolution passed, our bipartisan group agreed with four former Ohio Governors (Republicans John Kasich and Bob Taft and Democrats Ted Strickland and Dick Celeste), five former Ohio Attorney Generals (Republicans Jim Petro and Betty Montgomery and Democrats Richard Cordray, Lee Fisher, and Nancy Rogers), and a multitude of state organizations from throughout the political spectrum to say no to allowing minority rule in Ohio.

Currently, the Ohio constitution requires a vote of 50%-plus one (a simple majority) of voters to approve an amendment to that document. This has been the law in Ohio since the people voted back in 1912 to approve various measures to give more of a voice to the people, due to the fact that the state government was not properly addressing their concerns.

Amendments to the state constitution can be placed on the ballot in two ways under current law. First, the Ohio General Assembly can vote to do so. The other method is for residents of Ohio to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures with a certain percentage required from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties.

SJR 2 places on the August 8 ballot an amendment to our state constitution that, if passed, would require a certain percentage of signatures gathered from all 88 counties in order to place future amendments on the ballot. Further, future amendments would require a 60% super majority vote of the people to be approved.

The reason for my no vote has multiple dimensions, some of which I will outline. First, it wastes \$20,000,000 (yes, twenty million dollars!) of your taxpayer funds on an unnecessary August special election. As a fiscal conservative, I view this as squandering the hard-earned dollars of single moms (like my mom was), the General Motors worker, the nurse at UH, and all other Ohio taxpayers. Keep in mind that August special elections were virtually outlawed just back in December as a waste of taxpayer dollars and the fact that few people vote in them *by many of the same folks who voted to place this issue on the ballot this August*.

Next, it gives a minority of Ohioans the power to stop a change to our state constitution that most Ohioans support. What other election do we vote in that requires more than a simple majority? Not only that, but this very important issue will be decided in an August election where voter turnout is historically extremely low. Relatedly, the new signature requirement means that a single county could prevent an issue from ever going to the ballot.

Further, although it is rarely used, allowing the people to vote to change our state constitution has resulted in positive changes in our state. For instance, the people voted to eliminate taxes on food, adopt a minimum wage, create legislative term limits, and approve the job creating Third Frontier Program and environmentally friendly Clean Ohio Fund, among other good measures.

In closing, although I cannot encourage you here to vote yes or no on this issue on your August 8 ballot, my personal stance is very clear. It is truly an honor to be your voice at the Ohio Statehouse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean".

**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Website:

[ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan](http://ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan)

As a public school teacher for 30 years, I relish the chance of reading to our youngsters as their State Representative!





## August 8 Special Election Important Dates and Deadlines

### JUNE

June 23: Military and Overseas Absentee Voting begins

### JULY

July 10: Deadline to Register to Vote

July 11: Absentee Voting by Mail begins (ends August 7)

July 11: Early In-Person Voting begins

August 1: Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.

### EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING HOURS FOR JULY & AUGUST

July 11-14: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 17-21: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 24-28: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 31: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

August 1: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

August 2-4: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

August 5: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August 6: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Call or visit their website to find your voting location, check your voter registration, register to vote, update your voter registration, request an absentee ballot, etc.

(216) 443-8683 (VOTE)

[boe.cuyahogacounty.gov](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov)

### AUGUST

August 7: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date.

August 8: Special Election: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

August 8: Absentee Ballots may be returned by mail or personally delivered to your county board of elections. If not returned by mail, absentee ballots must be received by your board of elections by 7:30 p.m.

August 12: Last day for boards to receive absentee ballots that have been postmarked on or before August 7.



## Brennan Sets In-District "Office Hours"

As a public servant I want to be accessible to my constituents. Knowing what is on people's minds helps me represent them better at the Statehouse. I hope folks will join me for my open office hours. There is no RSVP required. Please contact my office at 614-466-3485 or [Rep14@OhioHouse.gov](mailto:Rep14@OhioHouse.gov), if you would prefer a private meeting or if you require immediate assistance with a state issue. With the beautiful weather here, I thought we would get out and get active, so I am changing it up this month.

### Friday, June 16 (7:30 am - 9:00 am) - Walk and chat with Rep. Brennan

Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus (11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma)

Meet in the theater entrance off of West Pleasant Valley Road

We will walk outside if the weather permits, otherwise we will walk in the building.

### Monday, June 19 (11:30 am - 1:00 pm) - Walk and chat with Rep. Brennan

Alger Cemetery (16710 Bradgate Avenue, Cleveland)

Meet at the entrance of the cemetery

We will walk through the cemetery. Canceled if weather is inclement.

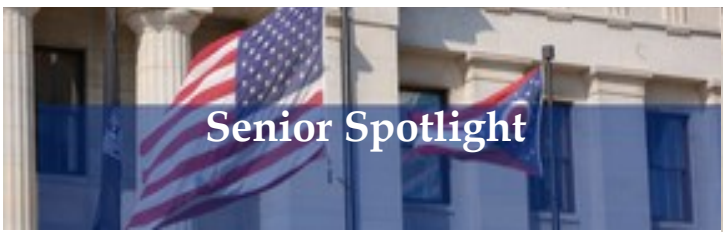
### Monday, June 26 (6:30 pm - 8:00 pm) - Hike and chat with Rep. Brennan

West Creek Reservation (2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma)

Meet at the Watershed Stewardship Center

We will hike through the park. Canceled if weather is inclement.





### Senior Spotlight

Happy birthday to Mrs. Jeanette M. Garcia who turned 101 in May. I had the distinct honor of meeting her at her home in Parma Heights right before her birthday. No doubt, her wonderful personality is one of her secrets to longevity! She made my day when she took time to chat when I brought her a resolution on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives. If you or someone you love is about to celebrate something big, please contact my office for an honor from the state of Ohio.



### District Spotlight

My in-district office hours have been very successful. I have enjoyed the talks with the residents who have taken the time come by and chat. Special thanks to Murray Evans from Cleveland who stopped by P.J. McIntyre's and Melissa Baker from Parma who visited me at Starbucks. Talks with residents help make me a better representative.



### Statehouse Spotlight

Recently in Columbus, I had the honor of meeting and speaking with members of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (O.A.P.F.F.), along with several of my colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives. Thanks to Jerry Miluk from the Parma Heights Fire Department for arranging these important two days of talks. We are working together to improve the safety of our communities.

