

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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| July 2023

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

Dear District 14 Resident:

I have had many folks asking me lately about Issue 1 which will appear on the August 8 Special Election ballot. As I mentioned last month, I voted against placing this undemocratic issue on the ballot at a cost of \$20 million to hard working Ohio taxpayers. I am joined by an overwhelming number of bipartisan leaders from around the state who will be voting “NO” on Issue 1 on August 8.

Currently, it takes a majority (50% + 1) vote of the voters to change our state constitution. It has been this way for over 100 years and gives Ohio voters a voice when their state government does not listen to them. There are essentially two methods to place an amendment on the ballot. First, the Ohio General Assembly can vote to do so. The other method is known as resident initiative. In that case, supporters of an amendment need to collect over 400,000 signatures from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties. This is very difficult to do, which is why it does not happen very often.

Issue 1, which was placed on the ballot by a partisan vote of the Ohio General Assembly, will destroy majority voter rule in Ohio. For instance, if it passes, in order to get an amendment issue on the ballot, signatures equaling 5% of those who voted in the last election for governor in *all of Ohio's 88 counties* would have to be gathered. Folks, this would be a nearly impossible task. In fact, counties with small populations, such as Vinton County with only around 15,000 residents (many are Amish who do not vote), could prevent a very popular issue from making it to the ballot for voter approval.

Further, Issue 1, would require 60% voter approval for amendments. What that means is that 40% of Ohioans would now have more power than the majority when approving amendments. In other words, if you vote for Issue 1, you are voting to make your vote worth less. Do not be fooled by the misleading ballot language.

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 say no to allowing minority rule in Ohio.

Keep in mind that August special elections were virtually outlawed just back in December by the General Assembly 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.*

Further, 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, officially recognize women's right to vote, allow non-white people and women to serve in the National Guard, and approve the job creating Third Frontier Program and environmentally friendly Clean Ohio Fund, among other good measures.

In closing, I urge you to **vote “NO” on August 8** to protect the concept of “one person, one vote” in Ohio. It is truly an honor to be your voice at the Ohio Statehouse. Happy Independence Day!

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Brennan

State Representative, District 14

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ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan



I was honored recently when residents visited me at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus from the Parma Senior Center !

Brennan Fights Powerful Utilities to Save Ohioans Over \$1 Billion on Electric Bills

Statehouse legislators need to stop making ratepayers subsidize costly coal-burning power plants: Editorial

Updated: Jun. 25, 2023, 9:47 a.m. | Published: Jun. 25, 2023, 6:00 a.m.

By Editorial board, cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer

Using a procedural maneuver, Republican leaders in the Ohio House of Representatives last week stalled a bill to stop electric utilities from forcing Ohio consumers to bail out two costly coal-burning power plants, one of them in Indiana.

This parliamentary sleight of hand needs to be reversed.

According to the Office of Consumers' Counsel, which represents residential utility ratepayers, Ohio electricity customers have so far paid almost \$164 million in subsidies for the two historically money-losing generating stations.

The Ohio coal-burning plant, Kyger Creek, is in Cheshire, Gallia County, in the district of Republican House Speaker Jason Stephens of Kitts Hill. The other coal-burning plant, Clifty Creek, is in southeastern Indiana.

The plants were opened in 1955. Among multiple owners, the single largest is Columbus-based American Electric Power Co. (which fields 14 Statehouse lobbyists.) The two coal-burning plants were built to provide electricity for the federal government's former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Southern Ohio, which enriched uranium for use in nuclear weapons.

At issue at the Statehouse is House Bill 120, whose prime sponsors are Democratic Reps. Casey Weinstein of Hudson and Sean Brennan of Parma.

The Weinstein-Brennan bill would end the coal-plant bailout; and refund to Ohio electricity consumers what they've paid in subsidies so far; and forbid any revival of the subsidy by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The subsidies were required by House Bill 6 of 2019, whose aims and passage formed part of the biggest public corruption scandal in Ohio's 220 years of statehood. As a result of his efforts to pass HB 6, former House Speaker Larry Householder, a Perry County Republican, was convicted on federal charges and will be sentenced Thursday (June 29).

The House's GOP-ruled Rules and Reference Committee, which Speaker Stephens chairs, at least temporarily stalled a potential House floor vote on the Weinstein-Brennan refund bill.

The Weinstein-Brennan bill had been stuck in the House's utility friendly Public Utilities Committee since March 22. But the bill's backers have been circulating a "discharge petition" to free the bill from the committee and send the measure directly to the House floor for an up or down vote.

Then, last Tuesday, with 22 of the required 50 House members' petition signatures gathered, Stephens and the Rules and Reference panel, which he chairs, pulled the Weinstein-Brennan bill from Public Utilities and consigned it to Rules and Reference.

That will likely slow, for at least 30 days, any further action on repeal.

True, as a consequence of gyrations in fuel markets, Ohio's coal-plant subsidies have, in the last year, let utilities give Ohio consumers tiny credits on their bills. "For now, customers are getting credit for a few cents per month," Kathiann Kowalski of Energy News Network reported in October.

Supporters of the subsidy say that's exactly how the coal-plant subsidy was supposed to work. Historically, though, the plants have been money-losers. So, Kowalski also reported, ratepayer subsidies for the coal plants will resume in July, with charges of 15 or 16 cents a month for AEP, AES Ohio and Duke residential ratepayers, and 4 cents a month for FirstEnergy residential consumers.

There's no reason to think the thirst for subsidies will change, especially given the plants' ages; that big electricity customers are increasingly seeking green energy; and that without subsidies, the two Ohio Valley Electric Corp. plants likely would have shut down already -- as they should have. The fact is that OVEC's owners made a bad bet and sought (and got) a bailout when Householder ruled the House.

The Weinstein-Brennan bill deserves a fair vote, and not procedural game-playing by the House's GOP leaders. The OVEC subsidies violate the very free-market tenets that Statehouse Republicans say they support. Moreover, the OVEC subsidies were folded into HB 6 not because they are good policy but because they likely would gain support from other utilities for a bill that mainly benefited FirstEnergy.

This vestige of HB 6 needs to go.

Now.

And it will, if GOP leaders let the House, then the Senate, fairly and freely vote on Weinstein and Brennan's proposal.



[Read and Watch More About How Rep. Brennan is Fighting for You](https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus/bipartisan-push-at-ohio-statehouse-to-undo-bailout-law/)

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<https://ohiochannel.org/video/the-state-of-ohio-3-17-2023-hb6-scandal-fallout-fbi-informant-speaks>

An Accessible Public Servant Working Hard in the District and in Columbus

During the month of June, I worked hard getting to all three cities in the district, as well as working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in Columbus to make policies to make life better for all Ohioans.

- 1 - Presenting a 60th anniversary commendation to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Parma Heights Library to branch manager Krista Tokarz.
- 2 - Standing proudly with Parma's best
- 3 - An eye-opening ride along during a shift with the Parma Fire and EMS Department
- 4 - Held two town halls with my colleagues Rep. Brewer (Cleveland) and Rep. Dell'Aquila (Seven Hills)
- 5 - Greeting residents at one of the town hall meetings
- 6 - Discussing policy with Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in Columbus
- 7 - Pictured with Parma residents Janet and Andy Zubricki who attended my hike and chat at West Creek Reservation in Parma
- 8 - Several residents pictured with me at my walk and chat at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus
- 9 - On my walk and chat in West Park's Alger Cemetery on Juneteenth, we found the grave of former slave Henry Wright who lived a fascinating life
- 10 - Republican colleague Rep. Bird and I are collaborating on two bills together

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WE NEED **YOU** TO JOIN US FOR AN
URGENT LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

On the current state of play in Ohio's 135th General Assembly,
the upcoming August Special Election & How we must
preserve majority rule for all Ohioans!



WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Sean P. Brennan, OH District 14

Darnell T. Brewer, OH District 18

& Richard Dell'Aquila,
OH District 15



**THURSDAY,
JULY 13TH @ 7PM**

**Cuyahoga Public Library,
Parma-Snow Branch**

2121 Snow Rd, Parma, OH 44134

light refreshments provided, a Q&A session with the
Representatives to follow the legislative update

**PLEASE RSVP TO ERIN FISHER AT
ERIN@KPAOHIO.COM OR (216)386-4021**

Free Books for Children



When I was a child my mom did not have a lot, so we spent a lot of time at the library where you could open a book and leave all of life's stresses behind. No doubt, one of mom's plans was to make sure I became a good reader. Thanks mom;-)

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio mails kids one free book each month until his or her 5th birthday. Any child in Ohio between birth and age 5 is eligible for the program, which is available at no cost to families.

To find out more and to apply visit:

<https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/>