

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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Committees:

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*

Dear Neighbor,

The 135th General Assembly is well underway in Columbus. This month we received our committee assignments, allowing us to work on improving our state and communities. Work has begun on various bills that will be debated and voted on in committee as well as on the floor of the House.

We must continue to emphasize the need to improve the lives of all Ohioans. Recently, Governor DeWine gave his State of the State speech, including his priorities for Ohio. It is encouraging that his list included more to address Ohio's mental health crisis, including among our children. It is asserted that unsupervised access to social media is a contributing factor to the problem. A provision in the proposed budget would require parental consent for anyone under age 16 to access social media platforms. Preventing criminal firearms usage and assuring quality public education for all of Ohio's children should also be emphasized.

It is also encouraging to see the emphasis on career tech programs in the budget. The career tech sector is experiencing greater enrollment numbers in recent years. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, these programs can build Ohio's workforce by preparing students for careers in technology and trades that will place them in good-paying jobs, attract new businesses to Ohio, improve the state's economy, and many additional benefits, such as improved housing that more Ohioans can afford.

Black history is American history. February is Black History Month, a time to honor and celebrate Black voices, experiences, and people who have helped shape our state and country. We must all continue the struggle each day to build a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans, and commit ourselves to that "more perfect union" described in our U.S. Constitution that guarantees freedom, liberty, and equality for us all.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Yours in Service,

Richard Dell'Aquila

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Workforce Development Update

Late last month, I was privileged to announce recent funding approvals within Cuyahoga County to increase workforce development initiatives within our community. The \$10 million approval will go towards improving workforce participation, and expand apprenticeship opportunities within the construction sector—a win-win for our community and the employers that we seek to attract to build and grow economic opportunities within our region.

The legislation would set aside these funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and create approximately 3,000 jobs through Ohio Means Jobs. This is exactly the kind of priorities that our community needs—improving our infrastructure, law enforcement, and ensuring that our great state continues to provide the resources and opportunities for our families and friends to thrive.



District Maps and Redistricting

Within the past year, the lengthy proceedings of the Ohio Redistricting Commission resulted in a change in district maps between the 134th and 135th General Assemblies. For that reason, you may reside in an entirely different district without even knowing it, leading to potential confusion regarding the identity of your elected officials in Columbus and who to contact in the event you require assistance.

If you are unsure of your House, Senate, Congressional, or School District, feel free to use the following website to assist you: <https://findmydistrict.ohiosos.gov/>. Additionally, do not hesitate to reach out to my office for assistance if you have any questions with who your elected officials are.

Susan B. Anthony Day



Susan B. Anthony Day recognizes the life and career of Susan B. Anthony on her birthday, February 15. Anthony was a pioneer of women's suffrage and left a lasting legacy on the United States. She is an instrumental figure in Americans fight for equal rights. Anthony, and the women's suffrage movement, played an integral part in ensuring that the United States provides justice and liberty for all.



Across the District

BROOKLYN—Mayor Ron Van Kirk announced the city’s yearly earmarking of funds to repair city streets and complete asphalt overlays to start in Spring 2023.

The estimated \$2 million will aggressively target repairs that include resurfacing of parts of Archmere Avenue, West 66th Street, Southwood Drive, and Traymore Avenue.

[Click here](#) to read more about the project.



Archmere Avenue (Credit: John Benson/Cleveland.com)



Memphis Avenue Railroad Bridge (Credit: Representative Richard Dell’Aquila)

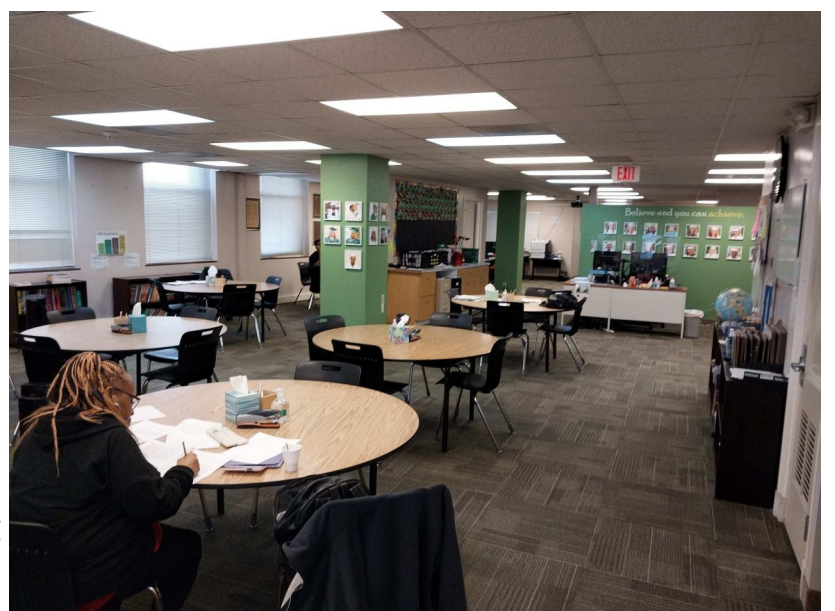
BROOKLYN—Efforts are underway to have the Memphis Avenue railroad bridge repaired. The poor condition of the bridge was recently brought to my attention by Mayor Van Kirk.

This photograph was taken on my visit to the site earlier this month. The recent derailment in East Palestine, Ohio is a reminder of the ever-present need for railroad safety. I am contacting the railroad and the Ohio Department of Transportation to request a meeting concerning the condition of this bridge.

NORTH ROYALTON—At the request of Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, I recently contacted the Ohio Department of Development for an update on the City’s request for HB 45 state funding assistance to repair and upgrade it’s wastewater management system. The department is currently analyzing the many requests it has received. Hopefully, there will be a response in the next few months.

CLEVELAND—I recently visited with some of the staff and students at Seeds of Literacy, a free program for students to attain their high school equivalency education. The school has been in existence for 25 years, offering educational counseling, GED preparation, one-to-one tutoring, and both on-site and virtual academic assistance.

This impressive program and the professionals who operate it are helping build brighter futures for their students, including collaboration with potential employers. For more information, their website is www.seedofliteracy.org.



Seeds of Literacy WEST location (Credit: Representative Richard Dell’Aquila)



Ohio's Operating and Transportation Budget

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter and earlier within this month's issue, the Governor's State of the State speech gave us a first-look at his proposed budget priorities for the people of Ohio. [Click here](#) to learn more, and [click here](#) and to see the specific budget proposals from the Governor's office.

As public servants, transparency to the people we serve is critical. As the legislature begins deliberations on the two upcoming budgets, finance committee meetings will be made publically available at www.ohiochannel.org so that all Ohioans have a seat at the table for these crucial funds.