

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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| July 2023

Committees:

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*
- *Emergency Services Internet Protocol (ESINet) Steering Committee*

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you all had time to reflect and celebrate a safe and enjoyable **Independence Day** holiday.

Ohio's \$86.1 billion, two-year Operating Budget has been finalized and signed by Governor DeWine, who made 44 line item vetoes in doing so. Although the state legislature passed the budget at the June 30th deadline, extensive negotiating and concessions were required to ensure that we do right by all Ohioans and our communities. The House and Senate versions contained almost 900 differences between the two, such as funding for education, tax cuts, public assistance programs and a variety of policy measures defining the operation of K-12 education and public universities. I voted to pass the budget. Although the final version did not meet all our expectations, it did contain much of what we fought for. Among the more notable items in the finalized budget are:

- Almost \$3 billion in income tax cuts, and reducing the current 4 tax brackets down to 2 brackets,
- A \$2 billion universal school voucher program phased in over the coming 2 years,
- Elimination of a sales tax on certain baby care products,
- Removing obstacles to obtain SNAP benefits and increased food bank funding,
- Requiring parental consent for children under 16 to access social media platforms,
- Creation of a low income housing tax program and support for single-family affordable housing,
- An increase of \$5,000 in teachers' annual base salaries and a small hourly increase for Medicaid in-home health care workers, and much more.

But the budget also included millions of dollars in funding for the upcoming August Special Election.

Please remember to vote on or before the August 8th Special Election. It is important now, more than ever, to remain informed about Issue 1 and critical to cast your vote this coming August 8th, as 110 years of majority rule and our "one person, one vote" system is at stake.

As always, I hope you will find the contents of this newsletter informative and helpful. Please feel free to reach out to me or my Legislative Aide, Cole Weidman, with anything we can assist you with. Additionally, feel free to follow me at the above social media accounts along the header if you would like to stay more regularly updated with me as we head into Summer Recess and into Fall legislative Sessions.

And as always, **Thank You** for the opportunity and honor to represent you and all of District 15 in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215





Legislative Updates

The main legislative measure that all 99 House members have been focused on has been the State Operating Budget—**House Bill 33**. This legislation provides \$86.1 billion to fund and maintain many of the important systems and operations that Ohioans rely on each and every day.

As mentioned on the front page, there have been extensive negotiations at play between the Ohio House and Senate regarding this massive amount of funding. While I was proud to vote for the budget on the House floor, there were several problematic pieces that unfortunately remained in the budget, including **Senate Bill 1**—a bill I have mentioned previously that transfers more power away from the people, and gives it to the government, removing public voices in the power and appointment of the State Board of Education.



While our legislative recess will last into August, I am still hard at work for our constituents and communities. As I mentioned last month, I will soon be introducing legislation to expand the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000 for eligible Ohioans who have lived in their homes for 20 years or longer. This is just one of many crucial steps that this legislative body should take to provide and care for our older residents. Of course, as always, the challenge will be the revenue lost by this change in the tax law.

Additionally, [recent news regarding auto sears](#)—miniscule devices that can turn legal firearms into illegal fully-automatic machine guns—have been cropping up at alarming rates across the state and country. Although the devices have been illegal for many years, it has become considerably easier to obtain such devices—an insult to the vast majority of responsible Ohio gun owners and the proper exercise of their 2nd amendment rights. I am working on possible legislation to address the proliferation of illegal and dangerous auto-sears.



Around the District

PARMA—On Thursday, July 13th, State Representatives Brennan, Brewer and I will conduct the third in our series of well-received town hall meetings regarding Issue 1, the August 8th Special Election, and various statehouse happenings in the 135th General Assembly.

Since 1912, the amendment of Ohio’s Constitution by citizen petition and ballot initiative has required a simple majority vote (50% plus 1), **fair and square, one person, one vote**. If passed, Issue 1 would allow a minority of 40% of the voters to reject any such amendment. It would also require a certain number of petition signatures in **all 88 Ohio counties**, instead of the current 44 county requirement. These are major reasons, among others, that so many former Ohio governors and attorneys general, and others, **of both parties**, have so strongly opposed this bad policy.

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

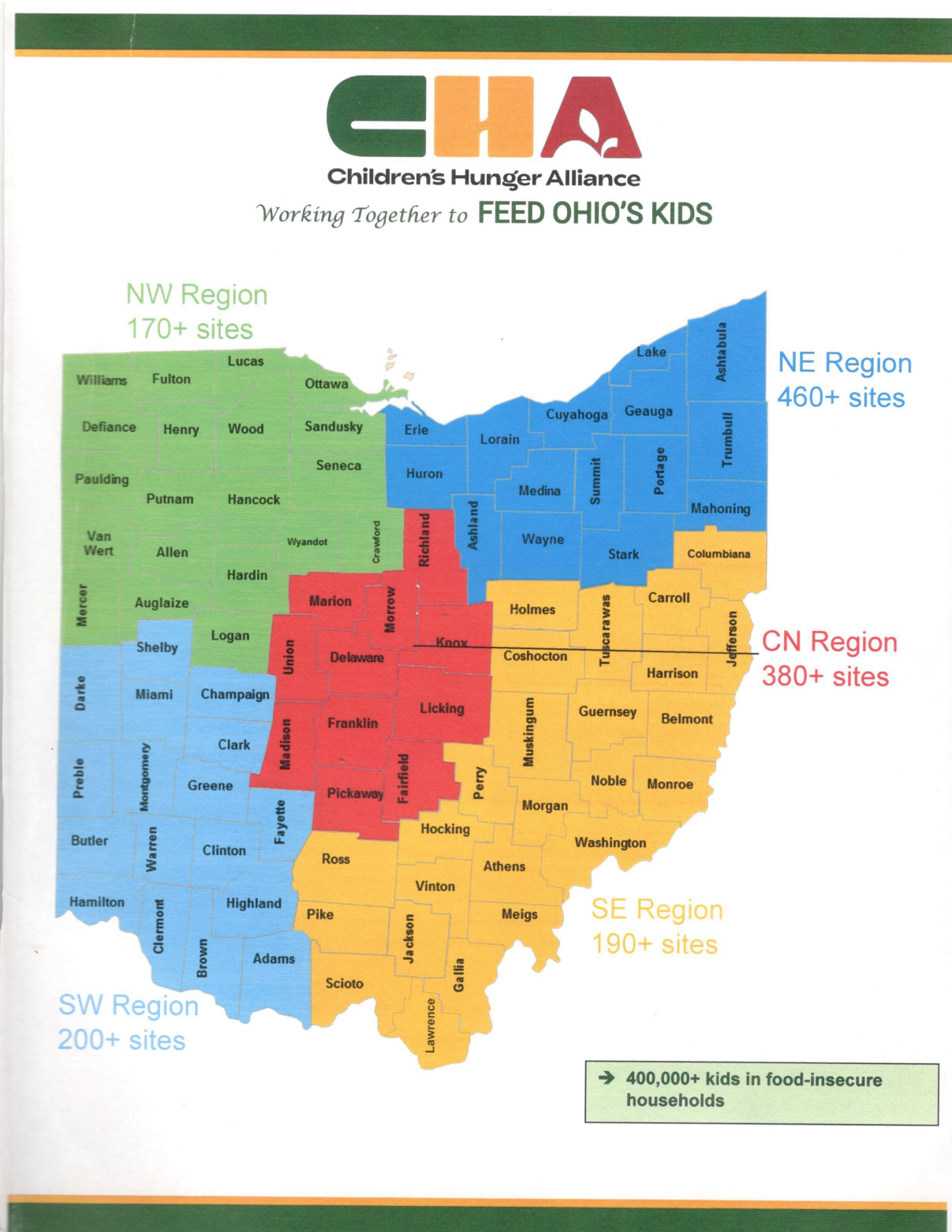
PLEASE RSVP TO ERIN FISHER AT ERIN@KPAOHIO.COM OR (216)386-4021

Around the District (continued)

CLEVELAND—I had the immense pleasure of meeting with **Scott Neely**, *Senior Director, Government Affairs* (pictured with me to the right) and **Laura C. Cordero**, *Afterschool and Summer Specialist*, and their staff and some of the children participating in the Children’s Hunger Alliance. My tour of the facilities allowed me to learn more about their work to address the **400,000 children in our state— 1 in 5 Ohio children**—that face food insecurity at any given moment.



Simply put, the organization is dedicated to ending childhood hunger and to teach nutrition education to the children they serve throughout the state of Ohio (as shown on the map below). It was truly an honor to learn more about their programming and crucial services within our state. I encourage you all to learn more about this important work and to volunteer if your time permits. I was proud to support their funding request during this recent Operating Budget vote, and look forward to seeing how CHA and other organizations across our communities continue to lift up and support our families and neighbors. To learn more, visit www.childrenshungeralliance.org.



Around the District (continued)



SEVEN HILLS– The Farmers' Market there re-opened for the season on **Thursday July 6th**, and will be open on each Thursday through September 28th, all from 4pm to 7pm at the corner of **Broadview Road and Hillside Road**. I am proud that the Seven Hills Farmers' Market began during my time as Mayor, with the guidance of my Executive Assistant, Kathy Biskup, and pleased to report that Mayor Anthony Biasiotta has continued and even expanded the program.

Also, please mark your calendars for **Seven Hills Home Days**, on the weekend of **July 21-23** behind city hall! This is always a well-attended family-oriented event. For more information and a schedule of events, visit www.visitsevenhills.com.



You're invited, Ward 12!

Community Meeting: Grass & Lot Mowing

Polish American
Cultural Center
6501 Lansing Avenue

Wednesday, June 21
6:00pm-7:30pm

Hear from Ward 12 Councilwoman
Rebecca Maurer and city officials
about how we maintain vacant
lots in Cleveland. Q&A to follow.



Community Meeting: Road Repaving

Pearl Road United
Methodist Church
4200 Pearl Road

Thursday, July 27
6:00pm-7:30pm

Hear from Ward 12 Councilwoman
Rebecca Maurer and city officials
about how road repaving works in
Cleveland. Q&A to follow.



CLEVELAND WARD 12—Councilmember Rebecca Maurer is looking to provide input in community meetings to discuss how the city mows and paves lots. Old Brooklyn residents are welcome to attend to learn more. While the 21st has already passed regarding grass and lot mowing, **July 27th** will be an opportunity to see how road repaving works within the county.



NORTH ROYALTON—On Friday, **July 14th** at **7:00pm**, North Royalton will be having a second movie night at **Memorial Park!**

[Click here to learn more](#) and to see more of North Royalton's Summer event schedule.



Advocacy Updates: June 2023

July 11th was the first day of early voting for the August 8th Special Election.

Additionally, **your polling location may have changed this upcoming election.** To check your voting information, visit these links below:

[Checking Your Voting Registration](#)
[Early Voting and Information Link](#)



Early Voting Starts **Tuesday,** **July 11th**

August 8th Special Election



For more information please visit:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/>



Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

July 2, 2023

On July 2, 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, and sex within the United States.

The Civil Rights Act was a crucial step forward towards equality and justice for all, and we continue to work toward the freedom and dignity for each American and Ohioan to thrive.

July 25th is National Hire a Veteran Day; today, there are over 600,000 veterans who live within our state. Veterans bring leadership, a high work-ethic, teamwork, and a determination to succeed that are highly sought-after within today's workforce.



NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY

Ohio House Democrats

