

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

(614) 466-3100 | rep15@ohiohouse.gov | [@RickDellAquila](https://twitter.com/RickDellAquila) | facebook.com/RepDellAquila



| **October 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,

Fall is officially here, and both the Ohio House and Senate are back underway in Columbus. Whether you and your family have resumed a busy season with school, sports, or simply getting out to enjoy the beautiful weather, there is much I would like to share and make you all aware of.

In this month's newsletter, I will discuss the status of Ohio's redistricting efforts. If you have been following the many mapmaking cycles that have previously occurred or are unfamiliar with Ohio Redistricting Commission and the historical changes to how Ohio's representation has occurred. The likely new map for District 15 will be dramatically changed after the unanimous Commission vote taken on September 26th.

Additionally, there are several advocacy updates I wish to share. I had the immense pleasure of meeting with several organizations that have been doing important work within our communities. Notably, I was able to visit Step Forward—a Head Start preschool program that has served Greater Cleveland for over 55 years. We should all be so appreciative of the work that our childcare professionals do, and understand the need for increased and more accessible early childcare within the county and across the state. So many of these children are going without this care due to a lack of funding and availability of enough educators and caregivers.

I hope you will enjoy and find useful information in this month's newsletter. As always, please reach out should my officer be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Office: (614) 466-3100





Advocacy Updates

HEAD START—Earlier this month, I had the privilege of visiting one of our district’s preschool programs. Head Start has seven different centers and has been serving our community for over 55 years, helping students and families navigate the challenges and difficulties that come with affordable and accessible pre-school education and childcare.

The most formative years of development are within the first two years of life, and ensuring that our children are getting the



education and programming necessary for their growth is critical. Head Start assists families with children as young as six weeks to promote kindergarten readiness and to ensure that vulnerable children have a strong foundation for success in both school and in life.

Step Forward’s Head Start enrolls children year-round. It is provided at no cost to income-eligible families in Cuyahoga County, foster children and those who are homeless. The program welcomes children of all backgrounds and abilities. By offering vital educational and support services, Head Start plays a crucial role in addressing educational disparities and promoting equal opportunities for children from underserved communities.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to see firsthand the incredible work that they along with other childcare professionals do on a daily basis. To learn more about Step Forward and how they can assist you and your family, I would encourage you to visit www.stepforwardtoday.org.

TEAM NEO—Another recent meeting that I attended was with Team NEO—a non-profit organization that promotes Northeast Ohio partnerships to advance regional and economic competitiveness within an 18 county region and to increase the equity and growth of our area economies.

If you have been reading my newsletters for a while, you might have picked up on my passion for finding ways to better develop and promote our workforce through policy and programming. College should not be the sole driver in one’s career pathway—apprenticeship and training programs that mutually benefit workers as well as the employers that can sponsor their workers should also be considered a means for professional development.

While the process is ongoing to develop legislation that could uplift and empower our workforce through such opportunities, I greatly appreciated the discussion and perspective of Team NEO representatives, Natasha Cresap and Kendra Cundiff, and their work. If you would like to learn more about Team NEO organization, please visit this link: www.northeastohioregion.com.

EAST PALESTINE—I mentioned in last month’s newsletter that there would be a U.S. Congressional Committee field hearing in East Palestine on September 22nd. Unfortunately, that hearing was postponed due to the Congress members’ need to remain in Washington while they were working on appropriations necessary to avoid a government shutdown. When a revised date is set, I will be sure to share that with you all.



Advocacy Updates (continued)

REDISTRICTING—For those new to the process, redistricting is the process by which our state’s congressional and state legislative district boundaries are drawn. Each district is required by state and federal law to have nearly equal resident number and cannot discriminate on the basis of race and ethnicity. The current process was chosen when Ohio voters in 2015 approved a constitutional amendment to require a bipartisan state legislative redistricting commission to oversee the mapmaking process, in hopes that such a commission would act dutifully and honestly.

Last year, the Ohio Redistricting Commission—a seven-person panel that includes the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and individual appointed by the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader—voted 5-2 along party lines to approve a redrawn map. This map was subsequently deemed unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court, yet was used and enacted by federal court order, due to the then fast approaching 2022 elections.

Now, after over a year of inaction, the Ohio Redistricting Commission has reconstituted to redraw these maps. However, the current set of maps tentatively to be used are skewed to disproportionately favor Republican-held seats similarly to the current maps that were already deemed unconstitutional. Now, after a unanimous vote on September 26th to create yet another new set of maps, the impact for our District 15 will, unfortunately, be dramatic.

It is my hope that in the future, Ohio can establish an independent commission that can establish maps and adjust districts in a timely manner with ample public input, and serve with impartiality. To learn more, [click here](#).

RTA—The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority was recently awarded a \$130 million federal grant to help replace its light and heavy railcars. With additional funding, this will allow operation on any of RTA's rail lines, eliminating the need to maintain two separate fleets — heavy cars on the Red Line and light rail cars on the Green and Blue lines. I also had the opportunity to attend the ribbon cutting and re-opening of the Regional Transit Authority Waterfront Line—this access point is crucial to connect our commercial and residential communities, and will be used extensively during the Cleveland Browns’ 2023 football season. Go Browns!



ODOT—I recently met with and had a productive conversation with engineers and planners from the Ohio Department of Transportation; notably, it was encouraging to hear of their district plans and scheduling for repairs in District 15, especially the long-needed repairs on Broadview Road in Seven Hills and Parma that are slated to begin in 2026.

UAW STRIKE — Having been a union member, raised in a UAW family, and later serving as an attorney for the UAW legal services, I see several important facets in the current strike, such as the growing disparity between corporate profits and the declining income of employees in relation to increasing costs of living. After consenting to so many givebacks during the last economic crisis, coupled the development of electric vehicles which require fewer parts and thus fewer employees, and jobs moving offshore or to “right to work” states, it is easy to see why union workers have grown so frustrated. Continued and serious negotiations over the concerns of both sides are absolutely necessary to protect this historically critical U.S. industry and the rights of union employees who keep it viable.

ESInet —I am regularly asked about the ESInet Steering Committee I sit on. This committee is responsible for recommending policies, procedures, and statutory or regulatory authority to effectively govern a statewide emergency services internet protocol network and oversight for Ohio’s 911 emergency call systems. Specifically, Emergency Services Internet Protocol Networks (ESINets) are an important development toward next-generation 911 operations. They are broadband-enabled to allow for video, images, and other bandwidth-intensive data files that would choke narrowband systems, thereby enhancing the delivery of critical public health and safety responses. For more information on the ESInet Committee, please follow this link:

<https://das.ohio.gov/technology-and-strategy/911-home-program-office/-esinet>



- As mentioned last month, I am co-sponsoring **bipartisan** legislation to increase the penalty for repeat offenders illegally possessing or using firearms, helping to remove repeat offenders from the streets without affecting the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. Additionally, I am also working on legislation to prohibit the manufacture of “**auto-sears**,” small devices used to convert semiautomatic weapons to fully automatic. While illegal under both state and federal law, these devices can be made at home on a 3D printer. This prohibition can **also** be instituted without diminishing 2nd Amendment rights. We have received quite a few questions on what specifically an auto sear does or how it impacts semi-automatic weapons, so below is a short video that demonstrates how these auto sears can so dangerously change the rate at which they are fired and handled: <https://youtu.be/tsZzg3-uAVI?si=XhfTRzpOadItIo15>
- I have also signed onto several other bills as a co-sponsor, including the following (and others):
 - Allow Ohio to rejoin the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact—a group of states to promote improvements and development of interstate rail access, and
 - Improve the effectiveness of the Lead Abatement Tax Credit.
- In the House Ways and Means Committee, we have worked on several pieces of legislation to assist and safeguard the 2nd Amendment rights of Ohioans as well as the expansion of Homestead Exemption benefits. I also hope that my bipartisan legislation ([HB 274](#)) in that committee to increase the Homestead Exemption will go even further to help Ohioans retain their homes during this time of rising property values.





NEXT WEEK
(FINAL MARKET)
September 30,
2023 (10am-1pm)

<p>VENDORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Anna Farms • Buttery Bee Bakery • FrankieLynn Hot Dogs • Hiveworks Honey Co. • Red Bird Farms & Gardens • Aunt Margie's Garden <p>LIVE ART</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gizelle Kepler 	<p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBCDC Tree Stewards <p>AFTER MARKET DRAG SHOW BINGO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opal on Pearl • 2:30-4:00pm • Tickets \$12- Online and At Door
---	---

4200 PEARL ROAD, CLEVELAND



The final Brooklyn farmers market will be this upcoming Saturday, September 30th. Come visit the local vendors and enjoy the live music!

OLD BROOKLYN—Volunteer to plant a tree at Goudreau Park on October 14! To learn more and sign up, visit www.oldbrooklyn.com/planting.



Around the District (Continued)

OLD BROOKLYN SOCIAL

**POP UP
SHOP**

SHOP FROM LOCAL VENDORS

SATURDAY | SEPT, 30
11 AM - 4 PM
FREE EVENT TO ATTEND

COME ENJOY A FREE CUP OF COFFEE OR FREE CUP LEMONADE

4904 PEARL RD CLEVELAND, OH 44109

FOR MORE INFO
216-224-6304

OLD BROOKLYN—Come shop from local vendors this Saturday at the attached address! The pop up shop is free to attend and attendees can receive a free cup of coffee or lemonade.

WARD 13—Ward 13 will be having a Community Meeting on Wednesday, October 10th at 8:00pm. Meetings are held at 4771 Broadview Rd at Oak Park.