

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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| January 2024

Committees:

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*
- *9-1-1 Steering Committee*

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season as we in the state legislature commence our work in 2024. While December saw a conclusion to several matters of importance, January has had no shortage of important pieces of legislation that concern all Ohioans.

First, I'm sure many of you have heard about the passage in December of HB 68 and Governor DeWine's subsequent veto of the bill. I will discuss in more detail the House's decision to override his veto, as HB 68 now heads to the Senate, as well as Gov. DeWine's executive order that may further complicate the issue at hand.

I would also like to share information with you all regarding proposed legislation which is receiving bipartisan support, and I will soon introduce to assist caregivers of disabled and elderly loved ones at home. In 2024, we should not expect caregivers to sacrifice countless hours, drain their savings, and compromise their work and livelihood to provide their family members with the necessary care they deserve. This being said, allowing more flexibility to provide homecare will, in many cases, also reduce taxpayer expense for such care.

Also, for those interested in the work of the 9-1-1 Steering Committee, on which I serve, [here is a link to the state website describing the work being done to upgrade Ohio's 9-1-1 system](#). There will be more to come on this subject as the planning moves forward.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you throughout 2023 and into 2024. Please – as always—do not hesitate to reach out should I ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

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Legislative Updates

House Bill 68:

HB68 is a combination of two separate bills: one which prohibits transgender medical care for minors and another which would require that transgender individuals not participate in competitive sports activities unless they do so as a member of same gender as assigned at birth. According to testimony by major medical providers in the state, gender re-assignment is not being performed on minors here, and as a legal matter, the consent of a parent or guardian is normally required to provide non-emergency medical care to minors. Further, only a very small number of transgender athletes is competing in organized sports in Ohio (As of Spring 2023, [only six transgender girls](#) play sports in Ohio).

The combined legislation was passed along party lines in December, but was vetoed by Governor DeWine. He later issued an Executive Order addressing the transgender medical care issue, and there has since been a vote in the House of Representatives to override the Governor's veto in its entirety.

As the legislation moves now to the Senate to consider an override there, a serious question was raised on the floor by **Representative Richard Brown** (D-Canal Winchester) regarding a possible violation of the Ohio Constitution "One Subject Rule," set forth in Article II, §15 of the Ohio Constitution which requires that:

“(D) No bill shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.”

HB68 began as two separate bills, one regarding transgender medical treatment, and the other regarding transgender sports competition—two separate subjects. Regardless whether one agrees with the substance of HB68, the procedure by which it is being enacted is Constitutionally flawed and will only lead to litigation, presuming that the Senate will also override the Governor's veto.

The House Democratic caucus voted to NOT override the Governor's veto, after previously voting against HB68. Thereafter, House Democrats wrote to the Governor asking that he veto the bill as an extreme solution in search of a problem. Unfortunately, this is yet another example of the “culture war” issues brought before the House this Session.

Caregiver Tax Credit:

I will soon introduce legislation to help our Ohio families that are facing extreme economic, financial, and personal hardship through supporting their disabled loved ones who are unable to care for themselves.

This bill, which is receiving bipartisan support, would create a single tax credit not to exceed \$5,000, to help with residential modifications, respite care, or other necessities to improve the quality of life of disabled Ohioans--allowing for more time at home rather than relocation to an outside care facility, as well as alleviating the stressors on caregivers to manage their work and personal finances to care for their family members.

As a former caregiver myself, I can personally attest that no choice is more difficult than having to balance our personal responsibilities with the difficulties of management of the health and end-of-life care of loved ones. This bill will significantly assist Ohioans facing this difficult reality every single day.





Legislative Updates (continued)

Capital Budget Request Senate Deadline:

Although the deadline for submission of capital budget funding requests in the House passed on December 18th, the deadline for submissions to the Senate is **April 8, 2024**.

Child Protection/Human trafficking:



Last April, I introduced HB148 to amend ORC 2905.05, to strengthen our state's child-enticement law by closing a loophole in a section of law declared unconstitutional nearly a decade ago by the Ohio Supreme Court as "overbroad" because it could be interpreted as prohibiting otherwise legal activities. Law enforcement needs clarity and power to go after dangerous child predators. This bill has not yet received a hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

Now, another similar bill has been introduced which I also support, entitled the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act," which would increase certain penalties related to human trafficking, kidnapping, and abduction. The increasing number of homeless individuals and migrants has dramatically worsened this problem.

The sponsors indicate that as of 2022, Ohio ranked 4th in the nation in human trafficking cases. This bill would increase certain penalties relating to human trafficking, kidnapping, and abduction. This will assist prosecutors in bringing to justice those individuals who "recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain, or recklessly attempt to recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain another person" for the purpose of human trafficking.

Assuming that this bill is also assigned to the Criminal Justice Committee, I look forward to the committee hopefully considering both bills in the coming year.

Property Tax Reform:

As a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, one of my most important initiatives has been to reduce the burden of property taxes upon seniors and disabled individuals, including an increase of Ohio's Homestead Exemption. I am pleased to report that this issue is garnering interest and support in both houses of the legislature.

As this newsletter is being written, a joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform has been established and has held its first meeting on January 10, 2024, for the purpose of considering what can be done to help Ohioans meet the ever-increasing burden of their property tax obligations.





Legislative Updates (continued)

Two Federal Court Decisions:

A federal judge this week ruled that an election reform bill, 134-HB458, provides a minimal burden to Ohio voters and found that this election reform bill is constitutionally compliant. Also, in another federal action, a U.S. District Court issued a temporary restraining order to block enforcement of a state law set to take effect this month that would require parental consent for those under 16 to create social media accounts.

Gun Violence:

As you may recall, I recently introduced legislation to prohibit the manufacture (i.e. by 3D printing) of dangerous and illegal auto-sears that convert a small semi-automatic pistol into a **fully automatic machine gun** capable of firing 30 rounds in two seconds, according to ATF. There are several videos online which document how dangerous these devices are. Clearly, this is **NOT a 2nd Amendment issue**, as machine guns are already illegal without special licensing.

Now, Ohio House Democrats will host an inaugural gun violence prevention summit aimed at fostering discussions on policies supported by a bipartisan majority of Ohioans to address the scourge of violent gun crimes in our state. The summit will take place February 15, 2024, at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 AM to 12:30 pm, and will consist of three panels featuring elected officials, law enforcement officers and public safety and health stakeholders to address solutions, legislation and real-world stories that put us closer to stemming the tide of gun violence in Ohio.

What is a “Kidfluencer?”

It seems like we learn new words every day. This time, the new word is “Kidfluencer.” Legislation has been introduced in the House to regulate the commercialization of “Kidfluencers,”—children who have created a profitable social media presence with accounts managed by their parents.

There is a concern that some parents may be “monetizing” their children to support themselves, and that these children could see no earnings on the content they are part and the center of.

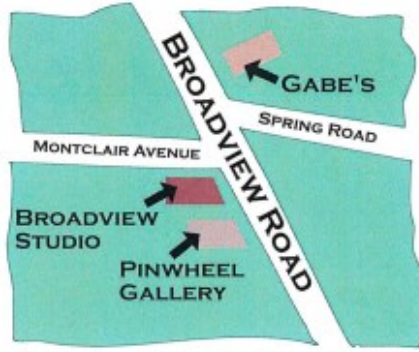
The Kidfluencer Protection Act seeks to prevent adults from turning unregulated child labor into profit that does not go to the benefit of the children within their care. It would require that parents or guardians of such a minor child establish a trust to set aside for the benefit of the child a proportionate share of earnings derived from the minor child’s social media presence.





Around the District

OLD BROOKLYN—
Stop by the Art Corner in Old Brooklyn and mark your calendars for the attached viewing hours for gallery events!



Art Corner Old Brooklyn

Broadview Studio/Gallery

2023 Broadview Road
www.broadviewgallery.com
broadviewroadstudio@gmail.com

Hours:
5pm-8pm First Friday of the month
2pm-5pm First Saturday of the month
Or by Appointment

New show every 2 months

- Paintings
- Drawings
- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Photography

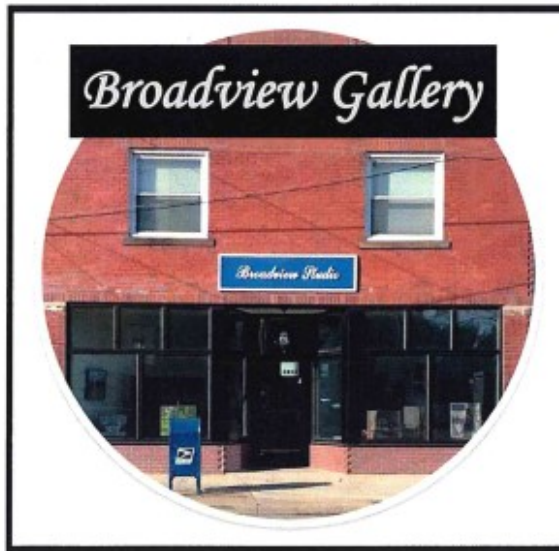


Pinwheel Gallery

2019 Broadview Road
www.pinwheelgallery.com
information@pinwheelgallery.com

Hours:
2pm-6pm Wednesday thru Saturday
5pm-9pm First Friday of the month
(Invitation-only reception, contact gallery to be added to the guest list)

New Show every One or Two Months



2024 Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME
March 24	Lions Easter Egg Hunt	1-2 pm
April 8	Solar Eclipse Bash	1-4 pm
May 11	Shred Day	9-noon
May 18	Fire Safety Fair	10-2 pm
May 27	Memorial Day Ceremony	9 am
June 7	Modock's Fishing Derby	9-1 pm
June 14	Movie Night	7 pm
June 22	Parkapalooza	5-9 pm
July 19	Movie Night	7 pm
July 28	Pet Carnival	1-4 pm
Aug. 6	Touch-a-Truck/National Police Night Out	6-8 pm
Aug. 10	Community Car Show	4-7 pm
Aug. 23-25	Community Festival	
Aug. 24	Community Festival Fireworks	dusk
Aug. 25	Community Festival Parade	3 pm
Sept. 14	Shred Day	9-noon
Sept. 21	New Parkapalooza 2	6-10 pm
Oct. 19	Halloween Madness	2-5 pm
Oct. 31	Trick or Treat	6-8 pm
Nov. 2	Health Expo/Bear Run/Turkey Trot	8-noon
Dec. 1	Holiday Lighting Ceremony	4-7 pm

NORTH ROYALTON: The people have spoken! Recently, the city released an updated schedule for 2024 events, including moving the Community Festival Fireworks to Saturday and leaving the Parade on Sunday, 8/25. Mark your calendars!



Around the District

CUYAHOGA COUNTY: Recently, Cuyahoga County created Scam Squad to unite local, state, and federal law enforcement to local service agencies to assist with fighting scams and reporting them to the authorities.

If you would like to report a scam or learn more, [click here](#). To call an investigator directly, dial (216) - 443-SCAM (7226).



CUYAHOGA COUNTY: Notice to all property owners—Cuyahoga County property taxes are due **February 15, 2024!** Taxes can be paid online, in person, or by mail but **MUST** be postmarked by 2/15. Bills can now be paid online on the [County website](#) and via [Point & Pay](#).

If you wish to receive a courtesy copy of your physical tax bill early, you can call the County Treasurer's Office at 216-443-7400 (option 1). For more information, please visit cuyahogacounty.gov/treasury.