

# State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

## Ohio House District 15

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| February 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,

I hope you are all continuing to check off your New Year's resolutions as we continue into this new month of 2024. While here at the Statehouse I have been working on my own goals and efforts to better serve you, and I hope to highlight legislation of importance as well as legislation of concern that I would like to make you all aware of as we begin to have more regular committee meetings and Sessions.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the East Palestine train derailment that occurred last February, and how it has already been one year on the 3rd since the catastrophic incident created both an environmental disaster as well as unknown long-term health impacts on their community. While I am proud of the work that the Ohio legislature has done to [increase rail safety measures within the state](#), more must be done at the federal level to be proactive and ensure that such catastrophes never occur again.

Additionally, I want to highlight Black History Month and recognize the importance of the socioeconomic and racial justice factors that continue to permeate in our country. While we have come a long way as a nation, more work is to be done.

There are several more advocacy and legislative items that I hope you familiarize yourself with, especially as Ohio's legislature begins to pick up the pace with passing bills and holding hearings, I would hope you all continue to be acutely aware of the legislation and priorities that this body chooses to focus on.

Please – as always—do not hesitate to reach out should I ever be of assistance. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve you, and I welcome any and all questions or concerns you may have.

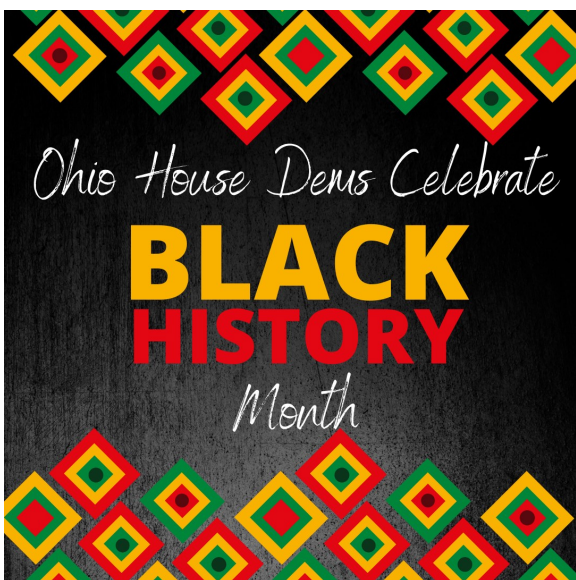
Sincerely,

*Richard Dell'Aquila*

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



## Advocacy Updates



Happy Black History Month! Ohio House Democrats are fighting for equality and justice across the state. It is our mission to ensure that all Ohioans are treated with respect and have access to the tools needed to succeed and flourish to their fullest potential.

Black Ohioans are disproportionately affected by inequalities in our nation. We must re-commit to advancing a state that can better provide for all of our residents. This commitment is not limited to justice but extends to ensuring fair access to economic opportunities, housing, healthcare, safe communities, and transportation. Democrats are fighting to make Ohio a welcoming, safe, and prosperous state for everyone.

House Democrats are proud to announce the inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit. Join us in fostering discussions on crucial commonsense policies supported by a bipartisan majority of Ohioans on **February 15, 2024 at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.**

The event will consist of three panels featuring elected officials, law enforcement officers and gun safety advocates to address solutions, legislation and real-world stories that put us closer to stemming the tide of gun violence in Ohio.

The panels are as follows:

- Taking Guns out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals
- Promoting Responsible Gun Ownership
- Defeating Pro-gun Crime, Anti-cop Laws

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION Summit**

Let's unite for crucial discussions on responsible gun ownership, and anti-cop laws. Together, we can make a difference.

Thursday, February 15th  
10AM-12:30PM  
The Atrium at the Ohio Statehouse

Join Ohio House Democrats and additional stakeholders in being a part of the solution!

**RSVP NOW**

Presented By: Ohio House Democrats

**AUTO SEAR LEGISLATION:** Also, we are still awaiting a first committee hearing on my legislation ([HB 346](#)) to prohibit the manufacture (i.e. 3D printing) of dangerous auto-sears. These illegal devices are capable of firing 30 rounds in 2 seconds with one pull of the trigger, according to ATF; and law enforcement is encountering these devices more often. Again, this legislation is intended to close a loophole and is **NOT** a 2nd Amendment issue, since machine guns are already illegal without a special license.



On January 30th, the House Minority Caucus held a press conference unveiling the first step in our Cost of Corruption legislation package. House Democrats introduced multiple pieces of legislation aimed at weeding out corruption, strengthening ethics, protecting against and correcting wrongs created by the First Energy scandal, the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.

- The [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) (House Bill 112, Reps. Miranda/Sweeney) would require dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending.
- The [HB 6 Repeal and Repay Act](#) (House Bill 120, Reps. Weinstein/Brennan) would fully repeal and refund subsidies established in HB 6 during the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly that are still being paid by Ohioans to bail out two Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) coal-fired power plants—one of which is located in Indiana.
- The [PUCO Nomination Reform Act](#) (House Bill 363, Rep. Troy) would adjust the broken nomination process involving the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), by preventing officials from accepting anything of value in exchange for assisting the utilities they regulate to conduct improper activities.



## Legislative Updates

**“SUPER SPEEDERS”**—As I am sure you are all aware, Ohio is experiencing an increase in reckless drivers who operate their vehicles at highly excessive speeds, rather than observing posted speed limits. Considering that speed is the highest-contributing factor to vehicular accidents within the state of Ohio, more must be done to “pump the brakes” on these recklessly speeding drivers who endanger the lives of others as well as their own lives.

For these reasons, I am working on legislation similar to statutes enacted in other states, called “Super Speeder” laws.

This legislation would impose a fine, in addition to existing penalties, for drivers convicted of operating their vehicle at a certain speed far in excess of the posted limit. Failure to pay this additional fine would result in a suspension of the offender’s license and driving privileges. As I continue to discuss this bill idea with stakeholders and law enforcement, we must all become more aware of the absolute requirement for safe operation of our vehicles and that we not endanger the safety of others around us as we travel the Ohio’s roads.



LET'S MAKE APRIL  
ARAB AMERICAN HISTORY  
MONTH

**ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**—We in the House are dedicated to fostering a representative and supportive Ohio that values and respects everyone. Several months ago, I proposed House Bill 204, which is receiving bipartisan support to establish April as “Arab American History Month.” This legislation, if approved, will provide an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Arab Americans in Ohio, demonstrating our ongoing support for the rich history and culture of our Arab communities. To learn more about the status of this bill and its co-sponsors, [click here](#).

**EAST PALESTINE DERAILMENT UPDATES**— In reflection of the one-year anniversary of the devastating train derailment in East Palestine that posed an immediate threat to the community’s safety and has left lingering environmental damage, I would like to underscore some of the ongoing efforts to address long-term concerns and rail safety here in Ohio. It has been about a year since an impromptu bipartisan House delegation I proposed visited the derailment site. We must not forget the suffering of this community!

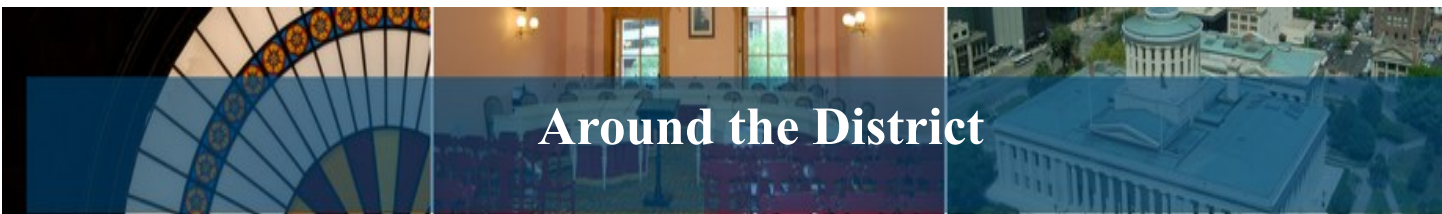


The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has collaborated closely with local Ohio agencies, issuing comprehensive policies to guide and supervise the cleanup being led by Norfolk Southern. For the latest information on the cleaning processes in East Palestine and the surrounding area, [click here](#).

Regulation of railroad operations has been mostly preempted by federal law, but there are areas in which the state can legislate; and we have done so. The Federal Railroad Association has conducted focused inspections of thousands of freight cars and tracks, equipment and procedures since the incident. These inspections have generated thou-

sands of reports in Ohio alone, leading to the development of House Bill 33. HB 33 allocated \$100 million to support Ohio communities in implementing corrective measures to enhance railroad safety. For more details on the program, [click here](#).

While substantial efforts have been made to rectify the causes of the derailment and clean up after it, there remains substantial unfinished work at both the state and federal levels to prevent such destructive incidents in the future. It is crucial that we persist in supporting railroad safety acts and securing essential funding to safeguard our communities’ environments.



## Around the District

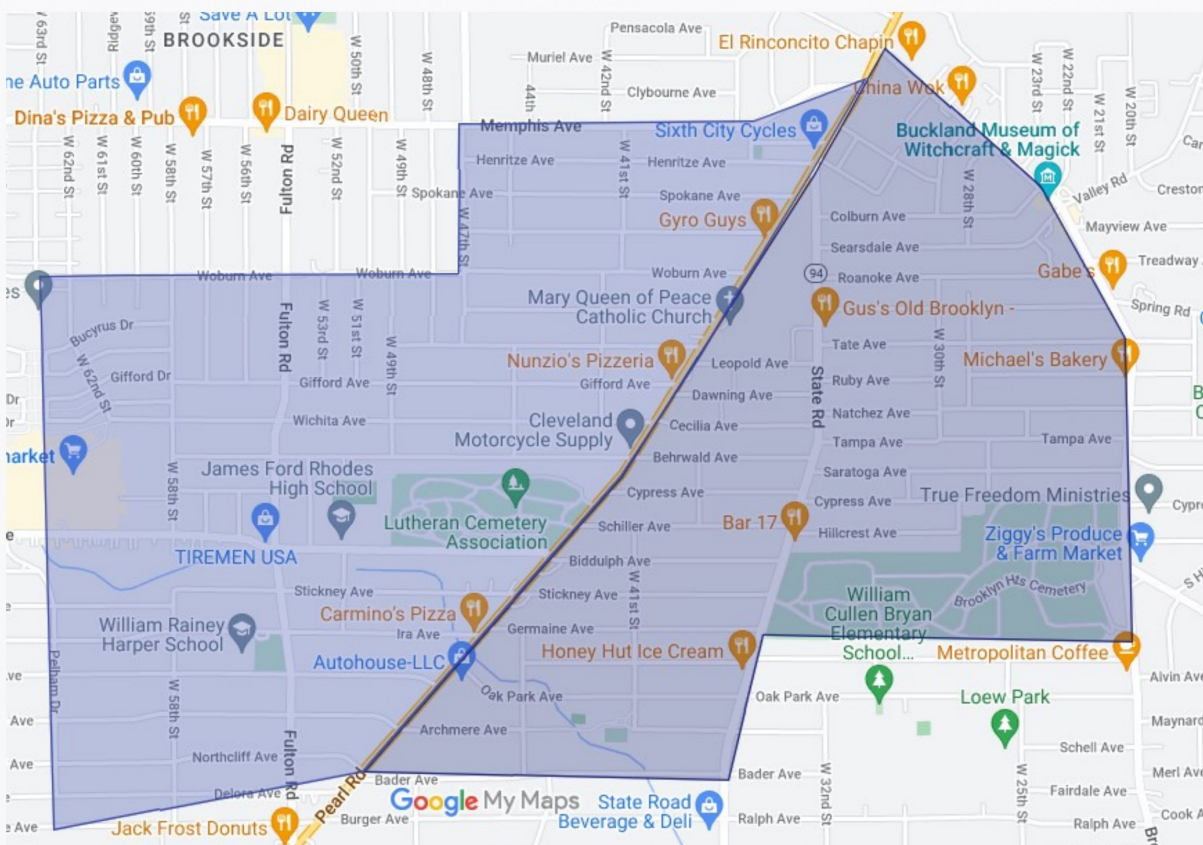
**NORTH ROYALTON**—This year marks the fourth annual Hometown Hero Banner Program, where the City of North Royalton continues to honor those who served and sacrificed greatly for our community and our nation.

Each banner lists the specific person who has ties to North Royalton, and will be displayed on Royalton Road from Memorial Day through Veteran’s Day. Banners will be displayed for a two-year cycle, after which the banners are returned to the sponsor.

Applications are due March 1st to City Hall with a \$100 payment and an 8x10 hard-copy photo (all photos will be returned). If you have any questions, please contact the Mayor’s office at 440-237-5686. [Click here for the application.](#)



Do you live in an area highlighted below?  
Sign up for a **free tree** + **free planting!**



Scan the QR code  
with your phone to learn more!

We are planting all across the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, with a specific focus on the areas outlined on the map.

Each tree will be professionally and responsibly planted by a planting team throughout 2024.

Visit [www.oldbrooklyn.com/tree](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/tree) or contact Hope at [HopeF@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:HopeF@oldbrooklyn.com) or **216-459-1000 x206** to learn more about the Old Brooklyn Tree Planting Program.

## Around the District (continued)

### CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON EVENTS CALENDAR



## 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

**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 [cuyahoga-county.gov/treasury](http://cuyahoga-county.gov/treasury).

**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:** Cuyahoga County Treasurer Brad Cromes will host a live event on the County’s Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) pages to address questions from taxpayers regarding property taxes.

Taxpayers can send questions in advance to [communications@cuyahogacounty.gov](mailto:communications@cuyahogacounty.gov), or ask in the comments during the event.

**Who:**

Cuyahoga County Treasurer Brad Cromes

**What:**

“Ask the Treasurer” your property tax questions

**Where:**

Cuyahoga County Social Media

**When:**

Thursday, February 8, 11:30 a.m.