

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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



| April 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 all had a great start to your Spring! As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming solar eclipse, this once-in-a-lifetime celestial event will hopefully remind us of our common humanity and interests on this small planet and in this huge universe, and help bring us closer together.

With the arrival of April, the coming month heralds the beginning of another busy season, with House vote meetings resuming and the work in House committee meetings continuing. In this newsletter, I will be sharing information on current legislation, along with updates on various initiatives and activities throughout the district that may be of interest, such as:

- Brooklyn Library Renovation (Cleveland)
- April 8th Eclipse Information
- Request for Federal Drone Program Funding
- Veterans Memorial Bridge Update
- Local Government Assistant Funds for Next Generation 9-1-1
- Caregiver Assistance (HB 405)
- Digital Parking Meter Legislation

Be sure not to miss out on the important information about the upcoming eclipse included in this newsletter, including essential safety tips provided by the Ohio Optometric Association.

“Shout Out” (and Love) to my British cousins, Maria, Liz and Gina, who have been receiving my newsletters in Exeter, Devon, England—and I’m told they enjoy reading them!

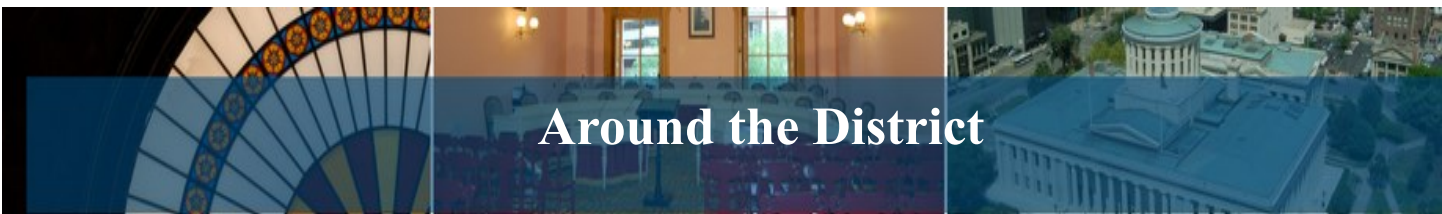
Please – as always—do not hesitate to reach out should I ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

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





Around the District

CLEVELAND—Last month, I was honored to attend the grand opening of the new Brooklyn Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (Old Brooklyn).

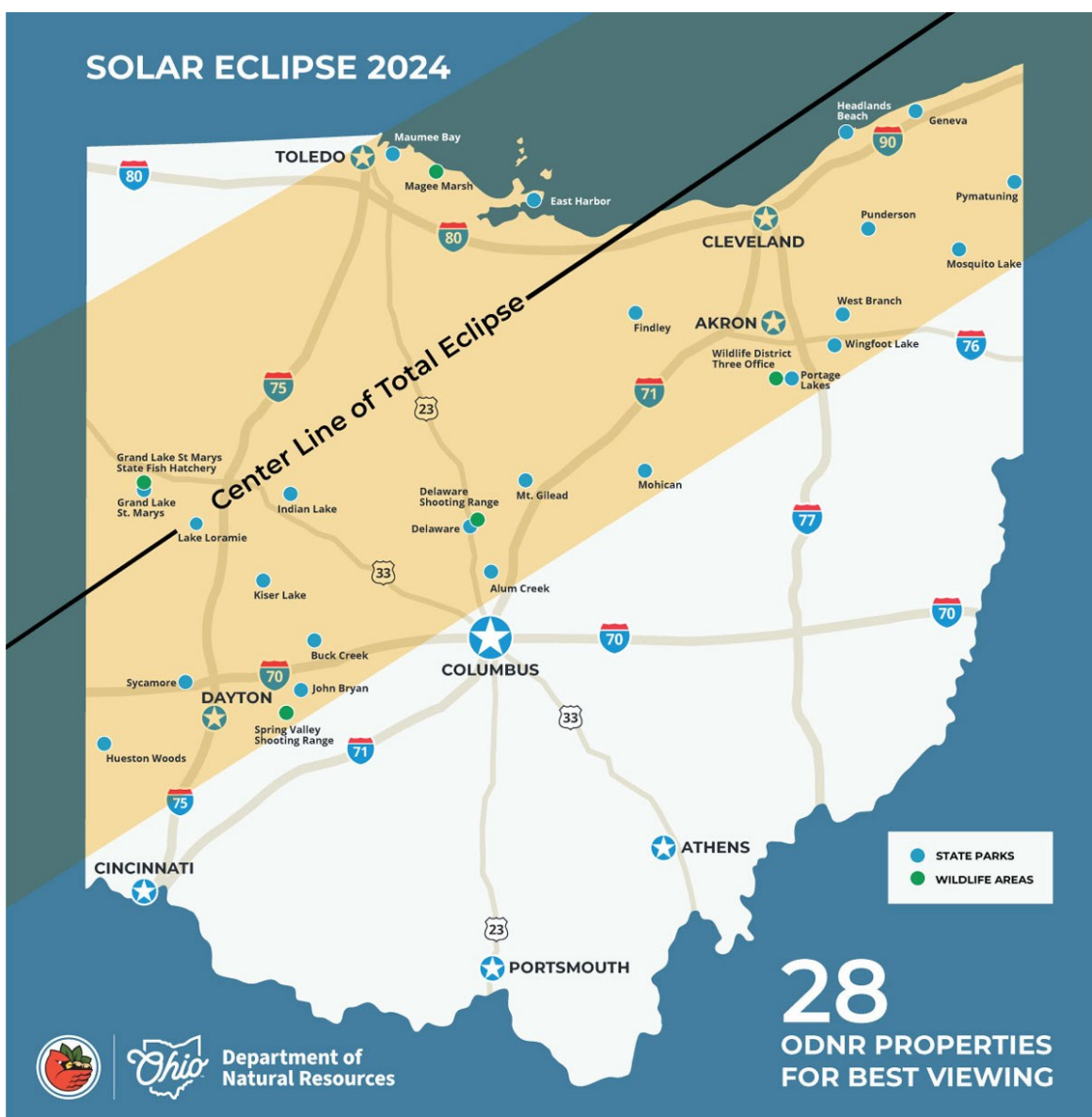
Public libraries play such a vital role in our society's shared knowledge of information. I am delighted to share that this renovation of an original Carnegie library and reopening will now better serve our community with 21st century standards and services.

The branch location is located at 3706 Pearl Rd. For more information or to view Cleveland Public Library's event schedule, [click here](#).



DISTRICT 15—You have probably heard by now of the total solar eclipse that we are set to experience on April 8th—the first time since 1806 that Ohio will experience such an event! As such, it is important to be aware of eye safety recommendations to safely and comfortably view the upcoming eclipse.

From the [Ohio Optometric Association](#), [here is a Solar Eclipse link](#) that details their best practices, as well as links for safe-to-use and compliant solar viewers. Obviously, safety is the first priority here.





Around the District (continued)

DRONE FIRST RESPONDER TECHNOLOGY—I recently wrote a letter of support to U.S. Congressman Max Miller, seeking his support for federal Community Project Funding in the amount of \$1.2 million for Baldwin Wallace University’s *“Drone As A First Responder Technology Operations Program (DFR-TOP).”* The proposal is to integrate new additional technology with the North East Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX) in a cost effective way to better detect and track drones and aircraft and to provide regional public safety agencies with the ability to share airspace awareness. The goal is to support public safety operations by efficiently identifying potential threats (e.g. drones) for intervening countermeasures, with resulting increased community safety and reduced police response time.



The proposal is to integrate new additional technology with the North East Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX) in a cost effective way to better detect and track drones and aircraft and to provide regional public safety agencies with the ability to share airspace awareness. The goal is to support public safety operations by efficiently identifying potential threats (e.g. drones) for intervening countermeasures, with resulting increased community safety and reduced police response time.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY—The county, in collaboration with the City of Cleveland and the Ohio Department of Transportation, announced that the Veterans Memorial Bridge will receive a \$7 million boost of federal funds to assist with redeveloping the lower level of the structure. Please follow [this link](#) for more information on the planned project.

As an aside, I’m proud to say that my Grandfather was one of the workers who built this bridge between 1912 and 1918. It has served Cleveland as a cornerstone in the transportation infrastructure and historical significance of our Northeast community. Now it will be given a new life and additional purpose as a public amenity for our region.



Legislative Updates

NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 — In my role on the 9-1-1 Steering Committee, I am honored to contribute to the oversight and guidance of statewide emergency services implementation. Our committee collaborates closely with the Ohio 9-1-1 program office, advancing the New Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) initiative—a new effort to enhance communication with emergency services, including police, fire, and medical responders.



NG 9-1-1 received direct support from funds provided by House Bill 33, signed in July 2023. This legislation allocated just over \$28 million for fiscal year (FY) 2024 and \$17.7 million for FY 2025, ensuring essential resources for our statewide emergency communication improvements. These improvements include refining operational policies and procedures to swiftly deliver messages to appropriate answering points.

Recent insights into the anticipated financial implications of the NG911 fee and disbursement formulas have shown a boost in funds to local government assistance in the counties. Notably, there has been an increase of over \$700,000 from January 2023 to January 2024, with March disbursements also continuing to show a promising trend of increased funding for local government services.

As a member of the steering committee and a former Municipal Safety Director, I am eager to continue contributing to the important work of this program. For further information regarding NG911, click [here](#), and, as always, contact me with any questions.

CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE — In our previous newsletter, I provided updates on HB 405, a bill I introduced to authorize income tax credits for disability-related home care expenses. This bipartisan supported bill aims to offer financial assistance of up to \$5000 for stay-at-home caregivers. To review the bill, please click [here](#).



Expanding upon my previous newsletter, accessible on [my website](#), I want to emphasize the importance of childcare and caregivers, and the financial strain these expenses place on families and parents. Many young parents find it more cost-effective not to work outside the home because child care is so expensive. Establishing supportive state policies is crucial for bolstering our community caregivers, and in a larger sense, our country's economic well-being. Across the nation, legislatures

are exploring cost-saving and effective ways to expand eligibility programs, enabling caregivers (and parents) to work, pursue education, and actively participate in the economy. Such policies uplift our young families and children's caregivers, leading to increased earnings, a stronger economy, and tax revenue.

A recent report, found [here](#), highlights the link between childcare accessibility and economic growth. It underscores the potential for boosting our economies by supporting caregiver as-



sistance related legislation and making funds available for caregivers.



Legislative Updates (continued)

DIGITAL PARKING METERS. I hope to soon introduce legislation together with Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) to prohibit parking fee collection services from selling the consumer personal data they collect from digital payment of parking meter fees, and to also prohibit them from retaining that information longer than 30 days after termination of the consumer's parking session.

Several issues have been raised regarding the growing use of digital parking meters that do not utilize coins, but instead rely upon electronic forms of payment. This has obvious questions as to the unfair restriction of public parking for a fee for consumers



who do not have digital payment availability, or those who simply prefer to pay with coins as they have always done. There is currently bipartisan legislation recently introduced in the Ohio House (HB 442) seeking to remedy these issues.

However, an additional related matter also deserves attention. This is the need to **protect the privacy of consumers** who utilize digital public parking meters and the information collected with each digital transaction, as well as maintaining the security of that information from unauthorized access. Clearly, there is value in collecting a data base of information on consumers who choose to park at digital meters. That information can be monetized and sold, resulting in a windfall for parking fee collection services at the expense of the loss of consumer privacy.

Very simply, this proposed legislation, titled "The Protect Digital Parking Data Act," will prohibit the sale of such information and will require a purging of that data within 30 days of the termination of the consumer's parking session. I will update you in future newsletters with any further action on this legislation.