



State Representative Jeffrey Crossman

Ohio House District 15 Statehouse Legislative Update

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Dear Neighbor,

Our country has come to a sudden halt in recent weeks due to an unprecedented pandemic, but the Ohio legislature is working because we understand the serious health and financial consequences these changes are having on working families and individuals across Ohio.

State lawmakers recently convened in Columbus to pass emergency legislation to address immediate issues and the General Assembly passed bipartisan relief legislation unaimously.

Components of this legislation (House Bill 197), which the Governor, signed immediately includes:

- Expanding unemployment benefits to those out of work due to COVID-19;
- Extending the deadline to mail in absentee ballots for Ohio's primary election to April 28;
- Moving the state tax deadline from April 15 to July 15;
- Prohibiting water shutoffs for Ohio consumers during crisis;
- Allowing recent nursing graduates to obtain a temporary license to practice prior to passing the licensure examination;
- Waiving state testing for the 19-20 school year and allowing students to graduate who were already on track to do so;
- Extending validity of state licenses and providing a 90-day renewal period

While we are unsure when life will return to normal, you can be certain that we will continue to work on your behalf throughout this and we want to hear from you so we can better address your concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of any assistance. My office remains open and available to assist you with any questions or concerns you have as we navigate these unprecedented times together. In the meantime, please stay healthy and take care of yourself, your family, and your neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Crossman".

Voting Deadline for Primary Election Extended to April 28

With the passage of House Bill (HB) 197, the legislature extended the deadline to vote in the March to **April 28**. To protect the health and safety of Ohio's voters and poll workers, there will be no in-person voting this spring.

The extension only impacts those who had waited to vote in-person on March 17th. If you already voted by mail—you DO NOT need to vote again. All Ohioans who already cast their votes early will have their votes counted. If you had planned on voting in-person for the primary, here is the easy process you can follow to vote before the April 28th deadline:

- 1) PRINT and fill out an absentee ballot request form online (VoteOhio.gov) OR call your county Board of Elections to be mailed a request form.
- 2) MAIL with your own stamp OR drop off the absentee ballot application to the county Board.
- 3) RECEIVE absentee ballot in mail from county Board.
- 4) COMPLETE ballot and paperwork and mail it back to the county Board.
- 5) POSTMARK your ballot by April 27 OR drop off the ballot at your county Board of Elections by 7:30pm on April 28. Your postage will be paid.



The Secretary of State will also be sending out postcards to all voters to remind them of the process. If you have already voted, you will not have to do anything when you receive that postcard.

For more information, visit voteohio.gov.

Helpful Contacts:

Taxation: www.tax.ohio.gov

Form Requests: 800-282-1782

Taxpayer Assistance: 800-282-1780

Aging: www.aging.ohio.gov

Golden Buckeye Card: 866-301-6446

Elder Rights Unit: 800-282-1206

Jobs and Family Services: www.jfs.ohio.gov

Veteran Services: 888-296-7541

Unemployment: 877-644-6562

Bureau of Motor Vehicles: www.bmv.ohio.gov

General Information: 800-589-TAGS

Public Safety: www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

Highway Patrol: 877-7-PATROL

DUI Hotline: 800-GRAB-DUI



For Federal/ National Issues:

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Stay At Home Order

The **mandatory stay at home order**, requiring citizens to stay at home unless they are engaging in certain essential activities is now in effect **until May 1st**. This action is being taken in order to help “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 to avoid overwhelming our healthcare system. The state is working to build capacity for the influx of COVID-19 patients into hospitals.

As a reminder, here’s what the order means for your family:

YOU CAN

- Go to the grocery store, convenience or warehouse store.

(Retailers and businesses are required to implement maximum capacity restrictions on customers.)

- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with doctor first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery, or drive-thru
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog, be in nature
- Walk your pets and take them to the vet if necessary
- Help someone get necessary supplies
- Go to the laundromat or dry cleaner

YOU SHOULD NOT

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this order
- Visit family and friends if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out

For more information, call **833-427-5634** or visit **coronavirus.ohio.gov**.

How to Avoid COVID-19 Related Scams

Fear and uncertainty have caused a rise in COVID-19 related scams. **Protect yourself again these scams** by looking out for calls or messages that:

- Appear to be from a quarantined colleague or client requesting logging into a secure account or system.
- Involve a higher-up, Human Resources rep or bank requesting emails with personal info about colleagues, including Social Security or banking info.
 - Ask you to help with an unexpected transfer of funds, particularly a transfer to foreign suppliers for the purchase of coronavirus medical equipment or supplies.
 - Request your passwords or Social Security numbers to sign up for coronavirus updates or information.
 - Promise you coronavirus-fighting tips or government money.
- Urge you to “forward this to everyone you know” or tell you that the information was received from an insider or “a friend of a friend.”



To report a scam, contact the Ohio Attorney General’s office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

Educational Resources

Gov. Mike DeWine announced at the end of March that K-12 schools would remain closed until at least **May 1** due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Here are some resources that students can utilize while conducting their schooling online at home.

- Scholastic Classroom Magazine’s Learn at Home is a free digital learning hub for pre-K through high school. <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
- Scholastic Classroom Magazine’s child-friendly COVID-19 resource. <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/coronavirus.html>
- Khan Academy has a vast array of free courses, assistance, and daily schedules for parents to structure learning from home. <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- The Ohio “At Home Learning” initiative will include a full schedule of daily television programming geared toward students in grades pre-K through 12th grade. This programming will be available on Ohio PBS television stations across the state. <https://www.ideastream.org/news/ohio-public-television-stations-launch-home-learning-initiative>

Learn at Home has a vast array of learning resources for all ages. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/family-activities/resources-for-parents-and-families>

Additionally, you can find a list of schools which are providing meals to students while schools are closed here: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Supporting-Whole-Child-Nutrition>.