

THIS WEEK  
AT THE  
STATEHOUSE  
JULY 29, 2022  
ELECTION EDITION



**Primary election roundup: aug. 2 date, numerous incumbent challenges add to uncertainty**

The first legislative election since the COVID-influenced process of two years ago also reflects the fallout from the pandemic in that an unusual number of Republican incumbents are facing challengers this cycle who cite the state's response to the health emergency as a key reason for seeking a General Assembly seat.

Rep. Brian Lampton (R-Fairborn), Rep. Susan Manchester (R-Lakeview) and Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Green Twp.) are in the group of incumbents with so-called Medical Freedom foes.

That dynamic is also in play for several of the more closely watched legislative primaries next Tuesday, a sampling of which follows:

**16th House District:** The only race with two incumbents from the same party going head-to-head is in the Cuyahoga County district (52.89% partisan index favoring Democrats based on recent election results) where two Democrats, Rep. Monique Smith (D-N. Olmstead) and Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland), moved following redistricting in part to sidestep a likely fall matchup with Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville).

**46th House District:** In what may be one of the more competitive races against an incumbent, Rep. Thomas Hall (R-Middletown) faces a challenger with substantial local backing in Matt King, with the youthful hopefuls stressing their respective experience in government and the private sector. (65.37% R)

**13th Senate District:** A member of the State Board of Education Track's conservative bloc is hoping to disrupt the Manning family political dynasty in northern Ohio's newly drawn district (50.03% D). Sen. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville), who has the backing of the Ohio Republican Party and Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, is looking to fend off a challenge from the right from Kirsten Hill, who has been endorsed by Ohio Right to Life.

**17th Senate District:** The state's ongoing energy bill scandal is an issue in the race to replace term-limited Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Washington Court House). Businessman Tom Hwang cites the issue as a reason to challenge Rep. Shane Wilkin (R-Hillsboro), a primary sponsor of the measure (HB6, 133rd General Assembly), in the heavily Republican district (68.25% R).

**1st House District:** Rep. Dontavius Jarrells (D-Columbus), who represents the current 25th district, and Carolyn Harding, who lives in the current 18th district, seek to represent the new Franklin County district (81.5% D). Freshman Rep. Jarrells says his efforts have focused on families and communities. Ms. Harding is a community activist and podcaster.

**14th House District:** Education is a focus of the two Republicans vying for the party's nomination in the newly configured Cuyahoga County district (54.28% D). David Morgan, a self-employed U.S. Army veteran, said he hopes to use school choice to tamp down on what he believes are controversial subjects being taught in the classroom. Jolene Austin, a stay-at-home mom who was recruited by the House Republican Caucus' campaign arm, looks to change the way schools are funded. The winner of the GOP primary will face Parma City Council President Sean Brennan in November.

**17th House District:** Rep. Tom Patton's Statehouse career stretches back to when his Republican primary opponent's age was in the single digits. But Ryan McClain, 23, of Middleburg Heights said that should not stop voters from giving him a shot in northeast Ohio's newly drawn district (50.76% D).

22nd House District: Democratic primary voters in this Cuyahoga County district (87.29% D) will effectively choose their representative on Tuesday given no Republican candidate is on the fall ballot. Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland) is seeking a third term but will need to hold off challenges from trauma counselor and activist Danielle Dronet and Cleveland schools teacher Vincent Stokes.

24th House District: Former Rep. Dale Mallory is planning a Statehouse return but has to get past Dani Isaacsohn, founder and CEO of Cohear, a community engagement firm, to win the Democratic primary in the strongly left-leaning Cincinnati district (70.31% D).

27th House District: On the Democratic side, scientist Gavi Begtrup, and nurse researcher Rachel Baker are competing for the chance to hand the party a suburban Cincinnati district (51.21% D) long dominated by Republicans.

The GOP contest in the district to replace term-limited Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) is a three-way race between pharmaceutical sales specialist Lindsay Cole, business owner Jenn Giroux and real estate agent Joe Murray. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 15, 2022)

28th House District: In a key toss-up seat (51.29% D), former Hamilton County Commissioner Chris Monzel and business consultant Kim Georgeton vie for the Republican nomination and the chance to unseat Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Forest Park) this fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 15, 2022)

41st House District: First-year law student Colin Flanagan and longtime mental health professional Nancy Larson are competing to ensure a Toledo-area toss-up district (51.2% D) remains in the Democratic fold. The winner will face Republican Josh Williams in the fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2022)

55th House District: Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is a key issue in the GOP primary for the heavily Republican southwest Ohio district (73.72% R). Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin), chair of the House Health Track Committee, is challenged by Thomas Goodwin, a property casualty insurance professional.

61st House District: Appointed Rep. Shawn Stevens (R-Sunbury) and Beth Lear, lobbyist for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio, vie for the GOP nomination in the central Ohio district that skews Republican (60.27% R). Mr. Stevens, a former member of the Delaware County Board of Elections, was chosen over Ms. Lear to fill the seat vacated by Rick Carfagna.

64th House District: Two Democratic candidates are putting lessons learned from their political role models into practice as they seek election in the Trumbull County district (55.75% D). Vince Peterson spent the last five years working as a constituent liaison for U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Warren). Bria Bennett has participated in several campaigns, including as deputy campaign manager for Cynthia Rice's 2016 Ohio Supreme Court bid. The winner will face Republican Nick Santucci in the fall.

68th House district: Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) faces a bitter rematch with Americans for Prosperity Ohio-backed businessman Thad Claggett after the incumbent narrowly bested the challenger in 2020 by just 307 votes. The winner will be unopposed this fall.

98th House District: Rep. Darrell Kick (R-Loudonville), a sixth generation farmer, looks for a fourth term but must get past Scott Pullins, an attorney known for butting heads with the Ohio Republican Party, in the strongly Republican district in north central Ohio

## NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

(Road naming and license plate bills omitted from list)

### HOUSE BILLS

**HB 708 – Criminal Penalty**– To provide that if a penalty for an offense has been imposed on an offender and if the penalty for that offense is subsequently reduced by a change in the Revised Code or Constitution, the penalty previously imposed on the offender may also be reduced.

**HB 709 – Civil Action Limitations**– To enact the Scout's Honor Law to eliminate the limitations period for a civil action based on a claim of childhood sexual abuse only for purposes of filing claims against a bankruptcy estate.

### SENATE BILLS

**SB 356 – Development Delays**– Regards the education of children experiencing developmental delays and state operating funding for districts and schools educating them.