



## BILL DeMORA OHIO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



### Legislative Update from State Senator **Bill DeMora**

Senator Bill DeMora emphasizes bipartisanship, local Columbus projects, and legislative updates regarding public safety and economic concerns in Ohio.

#### Bipartisanship and General Assembly Atmosphere

DeMora highlights that despite political polarization, he maintains strong friendships with Republican colleagues. He notes that 90% of bills pass unanimously, while only 10% are highly controversial. He lightheartedly mentions his role as "Chairman of the Bourbon Caucus," using his office as a social hub for senators after sessions.

#### Legislative Updates and Public Safety

The Senator discussed several key pieces of legislation aimed at protecting vulnerable populations:

- **Banning Child Marriage:** A bipartisan bill requiring both parties to be 18 to marry, with no judicial waivers, to prevent sex trafficking.
- **Drink-Spiking Prevention:** Legislation mandating that bars provide inexpensive test strips (costing less than \$1) to combat sexual assault and trafficking, particularly around campus areas like Ohio State.
- **Capital Budget Projects:** His office submitted over \$22 million in project requests, including:
  - Affordable housing and drug treatment.

- Renovations for the Pizzuti Gallery (Columbus Museum of Art) and the Fire Museum.
- Improvements to Merolo Century Park and local cemeteries.

#### Economic and Fiscal Issues

- **Data Centers:** DeMora expressed skepticism regarding a ballot initiative to ban data centers, citing the extreme difficulty of gathering the required 422,000+ signatures. He supports regulating the massive water usage of these centers and shifting infrastructure costs from consumers to the data centers themselves.
- **SNAP Benefits:** He criticized a funding model that "screws" large counties like Franklin and Cuyahoga, which handle 75% of Ohio's SNAP cases but received disproportionately low administrative funding. He warned this could lead to a \$300-\$400 million federal fine due to rising error rates.
- **Property Taxes:** He argued that high property taxes are driven by the state's failure to fully fund public education, forcing local districts to rely on levies. He supports freezing taxes for seniors and creating "circuit breakers" for low-income residents.
- **Education Vouchers:** He voiced opposition to the \$2.6 billion spent on private school vouchers, arguing it subsidizes families who were already attending those schools while public schools remain underfunded.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

## GREETERS

### April 14

Terry Starr  
Devon Henry

### April 21

Jack Cotter  
Eve Petricoff

### April 28

David Zadnick  
Tim Irwin

## REGISTRATION DESK

### April 14

Don Leach  
Brian Bainbridge

### April 21

J.D. Dickerson  
Mike Brady

### April 21

Kevin Brown  
Janine Hummer

## CALENDAR

**April 14 - Scioto CC/ZOOM**  
Ben Kimball, USGA Senior Director of Championships – 2026 U.S. Senior Open at Scioto CC Preview  
Host: John Adams

**April 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM**  
Ann Bischoff, President & CEO, Dr. Carl Backes, Board Member – Star House “Battling Youth Homelessness”  
Host: Rich Simpson

**April 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM**  
Dr. Andy Thomas, chief clinical officer, and Elizabeth Seely, chief administrative officer for the hospital division, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center – “Introduction to the New University Hospital”  
Host: Herb Gillen

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 14TH**  
Scioto Country Club / ZOOM

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



# BILL DeMORA

## OHIO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Social Issues and Personal Anecdotes

- **Abortion and Drag Shows:** He criticized the House for passing a 24-hour waiting period for abortions, calling it unconstitutional following Ohio's recent amendment. He also dismissed the push to regulate drag shows as unnecessary.
- **The "Buckeye" Bill:** DeMora shared a humorous story about dressing as Brutus Buckeye on the Senate floor to advocate for a bill making the Buckeye the state candy and correcting its Latin name in the state code.

### Key Statistics Mentioned

Topic Statistic Bipartisanship  
90% of bills pass unanimously.

SNAP Cases  
Large counties handle 75% of cases but are underfunded.

Rainy Day Fund  
Currently holds over \$4 billion.

Ballot Signatures  
Requires ~422,000 valid signatures (from 44 counties).

Voucher Funding  
\$2.6 billion allocated to school vouchers.

## THE MEETING



President **John Krauss** opened the meeting, followed by **Connie Aschinger** providing the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: **Anna Schmidt**, **Tim Irwin** and visiting Rotarians **Tony Macaluso** and **Dave Reed**, along with assistant governor **Pat Knott**.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Membership Recognition:** New 125 Club members were acknowledged, with encouragement for contributions to Polio Plus and The Rotary Foundation. **Dave Hammond** was congratulated for achieving Major Donor status and shared with the club why he has chosen to support the RI Foundation.

### Events and Fundraisers:

A roundtable discussion is scheduled for April 14 featuring a speaker on cybersecurity for small businesses.

A fundraiser is planned for May 12; members were urged to seek sponsors and donations.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Upcoming events include a hackathon at Upper Arlington High School on April 17 needing volunteers, and a Bed Brigade build on April 8.