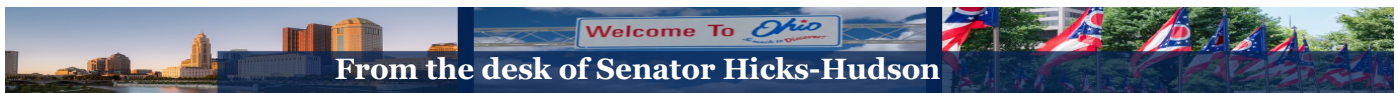


A legislative update from  
**SENATOR PAULA HICKS-HUDSON**  
 SENATE DISTRICT 11

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Dear Neighbors,

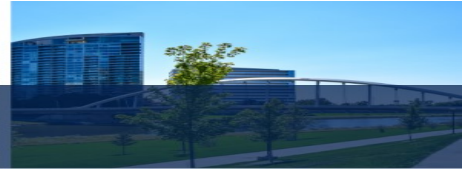
Beginning of January, Ohio's minimum wage for non-tipped employees increased to \$10.10. This is an 80-cent increase. For tipped employees, the minimum wage increased by 40 cents to \$5.05 per hour.

While these increases are good, we need to reduce poverty and income inequality in our state by raising the minimum wage. We must continue to raise the minimum wage higher in order to reduce poverty and income inequality in our state. A low minimum wage has kept more than 1.5 million Ohioans in poverty. By raising the minimum wage, Ohio's economy and workers will benefit. Recently, several large companies in Ohio have raised the minimum wage. While this is promising, relying on businesses to increase wages leaves many workers behind. A statewide approach would give more than 2 million Ohioans a long-overdue higher compensation.

Additionally, raising the minimum wage can close the gender pay gap and reverse some of the historic inequities throughout our state. The difference in wages drives the concentration of women into low paying jobs and results in poverty for women and children. It is essential that we provide workers with the best wages.

Sincerely,  
 Paula Hicks-Hudson  
 State Senator | District 11





On Friday, January 13th, a listening session on Urban Agriculture was held at the Grace Community Center. During the session, urban farmers, educators and stakeholders shared the challenges and barriers they encounter practicing Urban Agriculture in Toledo, and generally in the State of Ohio.

This meeting will help focus legislation, to help urban farm producers bring their products from land to table. Hopefully, the legislation will open and promote urban agriculture throughout the state of Ohio, focusing on the role of state government in the process. Over 25 people attended the session, sharing their insights and suggestions on legislation that will help them be productive.



For the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, it is an honor to have been appointed to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, Government Oversight, Judiciary, Energy and Public Utilities, Finance, and Rules and Reference Committees. It is an incredible privilege of serving on this set of varied and consequential committees, particularly serving as a ranking member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Government Oversight, and Judiciary Committees.

To be presented with the opportunity to explore such a wide range of topics that will allow me to grow as both a legislator and community member is significant as I look forward to addressing my priority issues of maternal health, urban agriculture and responsible governance.