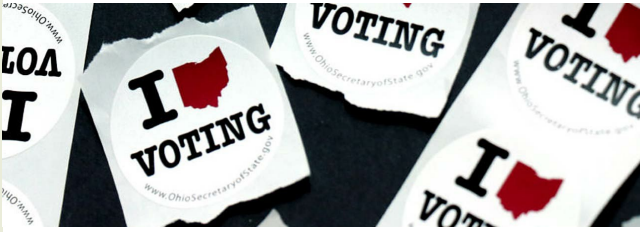




# FAN Updates

March 2024 | News & Updates from  
the Foodbank Advocacy Network



## Primaries are Important Too!

Overlooking the primaries?

Primary elections are a vital part of the democratic process! It provides voters the opportunity to select the major party nominee for each public office.

In Ohio, there are primary races at the federal, state and local level. Primaries are an early pathway to get to know the candidates and their policy priorities and values.

*Vote in this critical primary, helping elect officials who understand and support anti-poverty efforts!*

Also, share voter information with others and encourage them to also vote – **be a voter advocate!**

[Request a sample ballot here!](#)

## Key Dates

**Ohio's primary election: March 19, 2024**

**March 17:** Last Day for In-Person Early Voting

**March 18:** Postmarked Deadline for Vote by Mail

**March 19:** In-Person Election Day 6:30am-7:30pm, Deadline to drop-off ballots

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

## Key Changes to Ohio Election Law

Major changes to Ohio election laws that went into effect in April 2023 significantly changed voting procedures, including **what IDs are accepted, the hours of early voting, and how Ohioans can register to vote.**

2024 is the first presidential year since these changes took effect, and many voters are not yet aware of these changes.

MOFC is helping spread the word to support every eligible voter to have their voice heard at the ballot box.

**ALL VOTERS NEED AN  
UNEXPIRED PHOTO ID**

## Congress Votes on 6-Bill Appropriations Package

Earlier this month, Congress passed a bipartisan package of six fiscal year 2024 (FY24) appropriations bills, including the agriculture appropriations bill, avoiding a potential partial federal government shutdown.

The FY24 agriculture appropriations bill largely protects funding for federal nutrition programs, increases funding to programs like WIC including for increased caseloads, and did not include harmful policy changes to nutrition programs, such as the proposed SNAP choice restriction pilots and limitations to USDA's discretionary Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) spending authority.

*To read Feeding America's statement on this appropriations passage, click here:*

[Feeding America Statement on FY24 Appropriations](#)

We will continue to monitor closely as the deadline to pass the remaining six appropriations approaches. These remaining appropriations bills must be passed **by Friday, March 22**, to avoid a partial government shutdown.

Included in the [Transportation and Housing and Urban Development](#) package was an appropriation for our Eastland Prosperity Center which will transform a vacant shopping center into a human services hub anchored by the largest Mid-Ohio Market to date. This is a major undertaking will serve a regional area from Southeast Columbus into neighboring counties.

Thank you to **Rep. Mike Carey** for carrying the request and **Rep. Joyce Beatty** and **Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown** for their support of it!

## MOFC on Capitol Hill

Earlier this month, members of the Government Relations and Advocacy team joined our Ohio Association of Foodbanks colleagues and nearly 200 foodbank advocates from across the Feeding America partner network in Washington, D.C.

We met with our Congressional delegation to urge them to support and strengthen federal nutrition programs. The **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), WIC and SNAP**, along with additional programs, are reauthorized in the #FarmBill to help people facing hunger keep food on the table.

It is important that we continue to address hunger and related social issues to assist our neighbors and lift up all in our communities!



# TO VOTE IN PERSON

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
OHIO DRIVER'S LICENSE	BIRTH CERTIFICATE
OHIO STATE ID ISSUED BY THE BMV	COLLEGE ID
US PASSPORT OR PASSPORT CARD	UTILITY BILLS
US MILITARY ID CARD	BANK STATEMENTS
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ID CARD	PAYCHECKS
US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ID CARD	GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO

## Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing opportunities are available at all locations such as the new Mid-Ohio Market at Gantz Road! Our agency partners need the support of community members to meet the growing needs of our neighbors and that is especially true in the coming months. To learn more about volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, visit <http://vhub.at/MOF>.



**Left to Right:** Sarah Kuhns, Ohio Association of Foodbanks; Benisha Wright, Community Advocate; Hallie Carrino-Lee, MOFC



**Left to Right:** Michael Kostovos, Office of Congressman Troy Balderson; Eva Bloom, SE Ohio Foodbank; Benisha Wright, Community Advocate; Mike Hochron, MOFC

## Advocacy Resources:

Access [advocacy resources](#) and [FAN updates](#) here; or, for federal advocacy information, visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center](#) (FRAC) advocacy sites.

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Find out how you can become an advocate for MOFC and those we serve at <https://mofc.org/advocacy/>.

MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE | [mofcollective.org](http://mofcollective.org)



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