



NFL rankings: Which of the remaining unbeatens takes over No. 1?

SPORTS, 9A

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ELECTION 2026



Ohio Rep. Anita Somani, D-Dublin, said her family's history helped shape her views on politics. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. from India when Somani was six months old. BROOKE LAVALLEY/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Indian Americans weigh in on Vivek Ramaswamy

Republican candidate for governor is running against Dem Amy Acton

Nora Igelnik
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Vivek Ramaswamy's bid to become Ohio's first Indian American governor is prompting conversations across the country about representation and assimilation, but one particular commu-

nity weighs the political race's significance more personally.

In the upcoming gubernatorial election, Democrat Amy Acton, the state's former health director under Gov. Mike DeWine, is up against Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, finance and pharma billionaire and former Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) archi-

tect. The polls say the race is close, and either way the pendulum swings, Ohio will see its first elected woman or Indian American governor.

Notably, the race also carries special significance for many Indian Americans in Ohio. Ramaswamy himself was

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Why Ohioans will see a voter ID amendment on the ballot

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio voters will soon decide whether they support requiring a photo ID at the polls.

If that idea sounds familiar, it's because it's already state law.

Ohio's GOP-controlled Legislature voted in June to place the proposed constitutional amendment, known as Issue 3, on the Nov. 3 ballot. It's the only statewide issue before Ohioans in the upcoming election, along with key races for governor and U.S. Senate.

Here's what you need to know about Issue 3.

What is Ohio Issue 3?

Simply put, Issue 3 would enshrine the state's voter ID policy in the Ohio Constitution.

Ohio requires voters who cast in-person ballots to present a photo ID, with exceptions for people who have a religious objection to being photographed. It can be an unexpired Ohio driver's license or state ID, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, Ohio National Guard ID or an ID issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

University IDs and out-of-state driver's licenses aren't accepted.

The ballot measure reinforces all of those rules. It also allows lawmakers to decide whether to require photo ID for mail-in voting. Right now, absentee voters can provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number in lieu of

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Most Ohio police skip rape kit reports. AG orders review

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson appointed 17 people to quickly dig into why law enforcement agencies aren't reporting data on sexual assault kits and recommend how to improve the system.

The new working group comes after the USA TODAY Network Ohio bureau

reported that the vast majority of Ohio law enforcement agencies are not reporting rape kit data to Wilson's office, as required by state law.

As attorney general, Mike DeWine cleared nearly 14,000 untested rape kits off police evidence locker shelves and had them analyzed by forensic scientists. But years later, a lack of reporting by law enforcement agencies makes it difficult to determine if a backlog of untested kits is building

again.

In 2025, 61 law enforcement departments reported sexual assault kit data to the state, but 940 other agencies did not report data to the attorney general's office. Some small departments may not have had cases to report but the agencies that failed to report include larger police departments as well.

The working group's goal is to have recommendations by early December,

given that both Wilson and DeWine leave office in early January. The group includes:

- Co-Chair: Kristen Slaper, senior adviser to Wilson
- Co-Chair: James Lowe, deputy attorney general for law enforcement
- Rosa Beltré, president and CEO, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- Columbus Police Chief Elaine

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