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# The Columbus Dispatch

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## Car break-in wave hits apartments

### Complex on the Far West Side targeted

**Bailey Gallion**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dozens of residents on Columbus' Far West Side woke up Aug. 21 to find their vehicles had been broken into overnight. A Columbus police dispatcher confirmed multiple vehicles were broken into on Stilton Avenue, but could not say how many. The first call came in at 6:05

a.m., she said. At the Avalon Oaks Apartments off of Holt Road later that morning, residents were outside sweeping up broken glass, covering broken windows with plastic and speaking to police. Residents said the vehicles had windows smashed seemingly at random. Amber Walden, who was outside covering a broken car window with a sheet of plastic, said the thieves smashed the window on one of her teen

daughters' cars, but not the other daughter's car. "She says that they just opened up her middle console and her glove compartment," Walden said. "I think they took her owner's manual, and that was it." They left the change in the vehicle untouched, Walden said. Her daughter found the window busted when she came out to leave for work, and police were looking at another damaged vehicle. Walden's vehicle was untouched. "My car is down there, and I have my

cross-body (purse) with my wallet and everything sitting in my front seat," Walden said. "They didn't even attempt." Walden said nothing like this had happened at the apartment complex before. An employee at the leasing office said the property managers had no comment. John Westlake said he saw shattered glass around the cars in the parking lot when he woke up and peeked out his

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## Ready to take flight



ABOVE: A ground crew member works on cleaning a windshield as the Blue Angels arrive Aug. 21 for the 2025 Columbus Air Show at Rickenbacker International Airport. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels has a team of 160 people that make performances like the one at the Columbus Air Show possible. The Columbus Air Show was scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 22-24. RIGHT: The Blue Angels pilots are welcomed as they arrive Aug. 21 for the 2025 Columbus Air Show at Rickenbacker International Airport. PHOTOS BY DORAL CHENOWETH/ COLUMBUS DISPATCH



## Russo to vie for Ohio secretary of state in '26

### She's the 2nd Democrat to announce bid in race

**Haley BeMiller**  
State Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A top Democratic lawmaker will run for secretary of state in 2026. Rep. Allison Russo, D-Upper Arlington, announced her campaign Aug. 21, weeks after she stepped down from her position as House minority leader. Ohio's current secretary of state, Republican Frank LaRose, is term limited next year and running for state auditor. Russo told the statehouse bureau that she wants to restore public trust in elections and depoliticize the secretary of state's office. "I think there's a lot of justified distrust in many of these offices, especially the secretary of state, because time and time again this office has tried to manipulate voters," Russo said. "It starts there with taking the partisanship out of it, not putting thumbs on the scale." Russo is the second Democrat to announce a bid for secretary of state, setting up a primary if both candidates remain in the race. Cincinnati doctor Bryan Hambley launched his campaign in January and has the backing of Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio, D-Lakewood, according to his website. Hambley welcomed Russo to the race, saying democracy thrives on a "competition of ideas." "My fellow Ohioans have told me, loud and clear, that Ohio needs new voices in state government and a less partisan secretary of state," he said in a statement. "This is why I am running: to make our elections fair and ensure

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WITH AMELIA ROBINSON

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