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2027 mayoral race may expand

Political outsiders eye challenging Ginther, Hardin

Jordan Laird
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther seeks a fourth term, he is facing a challenger from within City Hall in Council President Shannon Hardin, but the two Democrats could face even more chal-

lengers from outside the local political power structure.
Six other potential mayoral candidates have pulled petitions from the Franklin County Board of Elections to begin collecting signatures for the 2027 mayoral election, although most residents have probably never heard of them.

To get on the ballot in the nonpartisan Columbus mayoral race in 2027, a candidate has to collect at least 1,000 valid signatures and file a petition by Feb. 3. If more than two candidates make the ballot, there will be a primary election on May 4 to narrow the field down to two ahead of the November general election. All candidates run in the same primary, regardless of party, and the top two vote-getters advance.

Who besides Ginther and Hardin is eying a mayoral bid? And are there other local politicians who might yet throw their hat in the ring?
While Hardin, a City Hall insider of over a decade tries to position himself as a change agent, other potential candidates who've pulled petitions are true City Hall outsiders who've never held

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“So much of what global soccer is, is global politics, economics and sports. It’s really a convergence. It’s the world’s sport, and everything about it touches parts of the community of the economy, so I found that fascinating.”

Mary Shepro
President of business operations for the Columbus Crew and for Columbus’ new women’s professional soccer team



Mary Shepro, president of business operations at the Columbus Crew, speaks during a Columbus Metropolitan Club’s forum in June. Shepro has recently been given the same title for the Columbus expansion NWSL franchise.

SAMANTHA MADAR/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Three news outlets sue over access to Trump

Networks no longer sending camera crews to president’s events

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – CNN, MS NOW and Politico are suing President Donald Trump and other administration officials in a bid to regain access to the White House after reporters from each outlet were denied entry over the weekend.
The news outlets, in a lawsuit filed Sept. 21, asked a federal court in Washington to immediately block a ban on the three outlets that Trump has enforced and to restore access to the reporters.
The suit argues the CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters were denied their First Amendment rights to a free press under the Constitution and their right to due process under the 14th Amendment.
“President Trump has said in no uncertain terms that he would prefer only to be covered by news organizations and reporters who praise his administration,” the lawsuit reads. “But the Constitution does not allow a president or any other government official to deprive the press of their First Amendment rights and liberty and property interests with no notice or process based solely on his dislike of the content of their reporting. The ban is unconstitutional and should be immediately restrained.”
Other co-defendants besides Trump are Steven Cheung, White

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Passion at work

Meet the woman pushing to make local women’s soccer team a success

Samantha Hendrickson Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

Mary Shepro first fell truly in love with soccer in the streets of Qatar. • Before she became president of business operations for the Columbus Crew and, as of Sept. 21, the same title for Columbus’ new women’s team, the former Chicagoland attorney was helping Qatar prepare for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. On one of her trips, she witnessed the entire country burst with joy minutes after its first AFC Asian Cup win in 2019. • Shepro’s passion for soccer was born out of the passion she saw that day. Crowds took to the streets with flags and danced in gridlocked traffic during her four hour, 12-mile drive from the airport to her hotel, she told The Dispatch. • “It was unlike anything I had ever seen,” Shepro recalled.

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