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Democrats overcome new map

Party flips three GOP-held districts for control

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

When state Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio voted for Ohio's congressional map, she believed the right Democratic candidates could beat Republicans in a favorable political environment.

But not even Antonio, a Democrat from Lakewood, expected what happened on Nov. 3.

Democrats will control eight of Ohio's 15 congressional seats after flipping three Republican-held districts and successfully defending three incumbents in competitive races under the map approved in 2025. The victories were part of a blue wave in Ohio that sent Amy Acton to the governor's mansion and returned Sherrod Brown to the U.S. Senate.

ELECTION 2026
CONGRESSIONAL RACES IN OHIO

In 2025, Antonio joined Republicans and House Minority Leader Dani Isaacsohn, D-Cincinnati, in approving a congressional map that avoided worst-case scenarios for both parties. Republican leaders initially proposed a map that could have given the GOP a 13-2 advantage, but they compromised with Democrats to stave off a ballot referendum.

Advocates lambasted the final map, saying politicians shouldn't be involved in drawing congressional districts and that the process shut Ohioans out. One year later, Antonio feels vindicated by her decision to support it.

"I knew what was possible," Antonio said. "Leadership requires you to make a hard call sometimes. I knew going into

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Tariq Stewart, brother of Donovan Lewis, gives his victim impact statement in the sentencing of former Columbus police officer Ricky Anderson on Nov. 4 in connection with the August 2022 fatal shooting of Donovan Lewis. Anderson previously pleaded guilty to reckless homicide. At right is victim advocate Laura Marsh. DORAL CHENOWETH/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Ex-Columbus officer who shot Donovan Lewis gets probation

Family members speak to loss, emotional toll

Bailey Gallion
Columbus Dispatch
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Ricky Anderson, a former Columbus police officer charged in the 2022 death of Donovan Lewis, 20, will serve three years probation.

Anderson originally faced murder and reckless homicide charges after he shot and killed Lewis in bed Aug. 30, 2022, while trying to arrest him. The case generated significant public outcry and protests; Lewis was Black, and Anderson is white.

Anderson entered an Alford plea Sept. 3 to reckless homicide, which carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison. An Alford plea acknowledges there is enough evidence to support a conviction on the charge without admitting guilt.

At a Nov. 4 sentencing hearing, Judge Julie Lynch acknowledged the pain of Lewis' family but said his death "wasn't intentional" and "wasn't homicide."

"What the family wants, really, is

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ELECTION 2026
OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GOP loses supermajority, could aim to weaken Acton

Laura A. Bischoff and Jessie Balmert
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Democrats broke a veto-proof majority in the Ohio House of Representatives, giving Governor-elect Amy Acton a shot at passing her legislative priorities.

Democrats declared victory in eight seats previously held by Republicans and were headed to recounts in four more. Republicans currently hold a 65-34 majority in the Ohio House of Representatives, a threshold that allows the GOP to override the governor's vetoes. Those Democratic victories drop Republicans under a 60-seat supermajority, which they have held since 2013.

Democrats unseated four current Republican lawmakers and won in four open seats. Here are the results:

- Democrat Megan Coy defeated Rep. Mike Dovilla, R-Berea, in the 17th House district.
- Democrat J. Noah Spinner won over Republican Mike Kahoe in the open 31st House district, previously held by Republican Bill Roemer. Roemer is term-limited and could not run for re-election.
- Democrat Samantha Salamon defeated Republican Vik Sandhu in the open 35th House district, previously held by Republican Rep. Steve Demetriou. Demetriou also lost his Ohio Senate bid.
- Democrat Rose Lounsbury unseated Republican Rep. Andrea White, of Kettering, in the 36th House district.
- Democrat Daquan Neal defeated Republican Mark Campbell in the

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