

GARDEN HACKS

SOME GARDENING TIPS MIGHT SOUND BRILLIANT ON THE SURFACE, BUT DIG DEEPER, AND YOU'LL FIND MANY BELONG IN THE COMPOST PILE. C5

Sunday



THE PLAIN DEALER

K1 KICKER 8

America, 250 years young



Patriotic pride was on full display in Lakewood on Saturday as thousands of people lined Lake Avenue for the city's annual Fourth of July parade. Residents along the tree-lined street transformed their front yards into festive viewing areas, filling every patch of shade with tents, lawn chairs and blankets. The street quickly became a sea of red, white and blue, as spectators paid tribute to America's 250th birthday. *Photos by David Pektiewicz, cleveland.com*



STATE POLITICS

Populist issues are pressuring legislators as election looms

Ohio voters are angry, frustrated and raring for a fight — and lawmakers are paying attention.

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COLUMBUS — In the last year, Statehouse Republicans have tried to address weighty matters that don't fall neatly into the left-right divide: High property taxes, data centers, medicaid money for family caregivers, private school vouchers.

These populist issues have Ohioans of all political stripes raring for a fight, and lawmakers have started to listen.

Perhaps it's election year calculus, since roughly every 20 years, Ohio Democrats experience a resurgence. Longtime Ohio politics observers say the openness to respond is a departure from just a few years ago, when Matt Huffman, then president of the Ohio Senate and now speaker of the House, told a reporter, "We can kind of do what we want."

Republicans have said they feel confident that they'll hold on to seats.

With some of the issues, lawmakers have made headway — such as shaving property taxes statewide by \$3 billion and giving seniors property tax credits worth \$500 on average.

Others they haven't been able to tackle, such as regulating data centers.

Republican lawmakers have also introduced legislation to rein in the state's school vouchers, but none of it has passed.

SEE POPULIST ISSUES, A2

2026 OHIO GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Ramaswamy's COVID attack ads omit context

Anti-Acton ads don't mention Ramaswamy's advocacy for COVID measures.

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COLUMBUS — Republican gubernatorial nominee Vivek Ramaswamy and his allies are airing attack ads excoriating Democratic opponent Amy Acton over her high-profile role in Ohio's COVID-19 policies as state health director.

Although Acton was indeed a key player in Ohio's COVID policies, Ramaswamy's campaign overstates her involvement in the decision by top Ohio Republicans to postpone Ohio's March 2020 primary election.

The ads also don't mention that the Columbus-area entrepreneur advocated during the coronavirus crisis for measures like a national immunity registry, nor that he was an adviser on COVID issues to then-Lt. Gov. Jon Husted.

The first ad, which Ramaswamy's campaign began in March as it kicked off a \$10 million TV ad campaign, asserts that "Amy Acton called off Ohio's election at the last minute, defying a judge's orders and abusing her power."

SEE ATTACK ADS, A3