



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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2026 OHIO GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Acton out: Dem candidate says no to debating Ramaswamy



Republican Vivek Ramaswamy entered the race for Ohio governor as the clear favorite, but polls have consistently shown Democrat Amy Acton running neck-and-neck with him. Associated Press photos

The Republican candidate had accepted invitations to debate Acton, but her campaign posts she “won’t debate someone who lies about her and her family.”

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COLUMBUS — Republican gubernatorial nominee Vivek Ramaswamy on Wednesday challenged Democratic rival Amy Acton to join him in accepting debate invitations from CNN and Cincinnati’s WLWT-TV. But an Acton spokeswoman replied that the former state health director won’t debate Ramaswamy at all before the Nov. 3 election, accusing the Columbus-area entrepreneur of dishonest personal attacks and misleading advertising. Ramaswamy, a Columbus-area entre-

preneur, challenged Acton in a statement to join him in holding Ohio’s first gubernatorial debates since 2018. “Ohioans deserve a substantive debate between their two candidates for Governor,” Ramaswamy said. “I challenge Amy Acton to join me on the debate stage so voters can make a well-informed choice in November.” Acton campaign spokeswoman Addie Bullock posted on X that Acton “won’t debate someone who lies about her & her family,” referencing a series of ads from Ramaswamy and his allies attempting to smear her. CNN’s invitation letter, posted on Ramaswamy’s X account, proposes a debate in mid-October that would “follow a traditional debate structure with podiums, time limits and questions posed directly by CNN journalists.” The offer by a major national media outlet like CNN illustrates both the competitiveness of the contest and the interest it is generating well beyond Ohio’s borders. Ramaswamy entered the race as the

clear favorite, thanks to his national prominence as a 2024 presidential candidate, record-setting fundraising, and the Ohio’s GOP dominance in recent statewide races. But polls have consistently shown Acton running neck-and-neck with Ramaswamy, and she has set fundraising records for an Ohio Democratic gubernatorial candidate. WLWT, Cincinnati’s NBC affiliate, has meanwhile offered to make the debate available for free via satellite to all media outlets in Ohio, including newspapers and TV and radio stations, according to the Ramaswamy campaign. The debate would also be streamed on WLWT’s website and streaming platform. The third gubernatorial candidate on the Nov. 3 ballot, Libertarian Don Kissick of Ottawa, has so far not been invited to participate in either debate, according to Kissick campaign manager Steve Perkins. SEE GUBERNATORIAL RACE, A2

IMMIGRATION OHIO

Haitian leaders in Springfield call for a halt to ankle monitors

Following Pierre Damas Bel’s death by suicide, a call comes to end an ICE monitoring program they deem cruel.

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SPRINGFIELD — Haitian and faith leaders in Springfield are calling on the Trump administration to stop using GPS ankle monitors to track immigrants after the suicide of a 20-year-old Wright State University student who was required to wear one. Pierre Damas Bel’s family says the monitor humiliated him and he was bullied at school because of it. “Some people die from cancer. Some people die in accidents. Some people die by suicide,” Central Christian Church Pastor Carl Ruby said. “Pierre died as a result of policy. It’s our immigration policy that took his life.” Concerns about requiring immigrants with no criminal record to wear ankle monitors while their cases play out have been raised for years. A 2021 study from Yeshiva University’s Cardozo School of Law found that 90% of immigrants surveyed reported physical problems from ankle monitors, including swelling and wounds. Eighty-eight percent said the devices harmed their mental health, and 12% reported having suicidal thoughts. “The only way that this will ever be corrected is that Republican elected officials join us in demanding a better policy,” Ruby said.

ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION Ankle monitors are part of ICE’s Alternatives to Detention program, which lets immigrants live in the community while their cases move through the system. During Donald Trump’s first administration, ICE began testing SmartLINK, a smartphone app that required regular check-ins. Use of the app expanded under President Joe Biden as ICE shifted away from ankle monitors — though they never disappeared entirely. The second Trump administration reversed that trend. SEE ANKLE MONITORS, A2

BRATENAHL

Estate on the lake: Travis bringing Taylor home to Northeast Ohio

The football star from Cleveland Heights bought the mansion a few months before marrying the pop star.

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Welcome to Bratenahl, Taylor Swift, it’s been waiting for you. Travis Kelce, the pop superstar’s husband, purchased a lakefront mansion in this exclusive enclave in March, a few months before the couple’s wedding, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. Kelce, the Kansas City Chiefs All-Pro tight end who grew up in Cleveland Heights, purchased the property through an LLC, according to county records. He paid \$5.35 million, a substantial discount from the \$5.99 million list price. Built around the turn of the 20th cen-

tury, the home has eight bedrooms and 11 bathrooms across more than 21,000 square feet of living space. The 3.5-acre property comes with a new in-ground pool and a restored gatehouse with two bedrooms. The Gilded Age mansion has undergone an extensive renovation since we featured it in 2023. At the time, many of its original details remained intact, including wood-paneled walls, elaborate plaster ceilings, hand-carved moldings, ornate fireplaces and leaded-glass windows. According to the listing, the renovation was extensive but thoughtful in preserving the home’s historic character, while adding modern conveniences such as a smart-home system. The former ballroom was transformed into a game room and home theater. The lower level was also reimagined for entertaining with a billiards room, poker area, bar, temperature-controlled wine cellar and tasting room, fitness center and sauna.



This home in Bratenahl was built in 1895 and has eight bedrooms and 11 bathrooms. Situated on a 3.5 acre lot, the property sold for \$5.35 million. Chestnut Hill Realty Inc.