

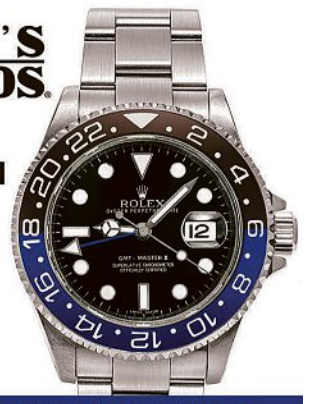
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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | NEWARK, OHIO | NEWARKADVOCATE.COM

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Ohio could flip in governor race

Alex Perry
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio's governor race is tightening, with new polls showing Democrat Amy Acton and Republican Vivek Ramaswamy in a close contest, and raising the possibility the seat could flip in November, according to Newsweek.

Ohio is no longer seen as a safe Republican win, as the 2026 governor's race has become increasingly competitive despite the state's recent shift towards Republicans, the publication suggests. Five states –

Arizona, Wisconsin, Georgia, Iowa and Nevada – are deemed toss-ups, and new polling shows close races in both Iowa and Ohio. The Ohio contest is now among the most closely watched in the country, according to Newsweek.

Other polls from The New York Times also show how close the race has become. Here's what to know.

Ohio could flip in November, polls suggest

Newsweek says Ohio is a key pickup opportunity for Democrats, with polls

showing Acton either tied with or narrowly ahead of Ramaswamy in multiple surveys.

- **AARP poll:** Acton leads 47%-44%.
- **New York Times/Siena poll:** Acton and Ramaswamy tied at 47%.
- **Fox News poll:** Acton leads 50%-49%.

While the race is tight, many election forecasters still slightly favor Republicans, according to the Cook Political Report. Still, polling shows Amy Acton has made the race highly competitive.

See RACE, Page 2A



Ohio governor candidates Vivek Ramaswamy and Amy Acton. THE ENQUIRER/COLUMBUS MONTHLY



Members of the community lay candles and flowers during a candlelight vigil July 6 for Rittman Police Sgt. Scott Ries. Ries and two others were killed during a July 5 shooting in Rittman. JEFF LANGE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Rittman community honors shooting victims at vigil

Abreanna Blöse
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

RITTMAN – A wave of grief washed over a crowd outside the Rittman Police Station on the evening of July 6, nearly 24 hours after a shooting left four dead and four more injured.

A stretch of East Ohio Avenue outside the station was blocked off as hundreds of mourners gathered in the street, holding flickering candles.

Authorities responded at about 9:30 p.m. July 5 to a report of a disturbance and shots fired, where officers immediately were under fire, Wayne County Sheriff Thomas Ballinger and Medina

County Sheriff Terry Grice said in a joint statement.

Rittman Police Sgt. Scott Ries, a 10-year veteran of the Rittman Police Department, was killed in the line of duty while responding to the incident on Chippewa Trail.

See VIGIL, Page 3A

Bill seeks housing for sex crime survivors

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio is one of few states that doesn't protect survivors of sexual violence who need to break their lease to flee an unsafe situation.

A bipartisan bill could change that. Reps. Michele Grim, D-Toledo, and Melanie Miller, R-Ashland, have introduced legislation that would allow victims of rape, domestic violence and other sex crimes to request new locks or end their lease early. Grim said this can help people find a safe place to live without fear of financial consequences.

"This would give survivors a way to get out of situations that are harmful to them and find safety without having to worry that their credit is going to be ruined or they're going to have an eviction on their credit report," Grim told the statehouse bureau.

To qualify, tenants must have a protection order or show they reported allegations to police or a victim advocate. The bill prohibits landlords from penalizing the tenants and disclosing their situation to credit agencies or other landlords. Renters who ask for new locks can't be charged more than \$250.

The Violence Against Women Act allows survivors to move for safety reasons if they live in federally-subsidized housing. Forty-two states have enacted laws that let victims break their leases, according to the Rhode Island Current – but Ohio isn't one of them.

See BILL, Page 2A

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Volume 206 | No. 170
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