







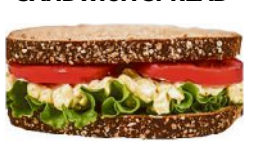
**ESTABLISHED BY THE
BALLVILLE
E-Z SHOP, INC.
FREMONT, OH
KARLOVETZ FAMILY 1955**

**GRAD PARTY?
We make Custom Trays!**



Prices Good Thru 5/15/26

GIANT MEAT AND DELI SPECIALS

PORTERHOUSE STEAK	BONELESS BEEF WESTERN RIBS	FRESH CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS	BONELESS COUNTRY RIBS	PORK STEAK	OUR FAMOUS SANDWICH SPREAD
					
\$8.49 /lb	\$7.99 /lb	79¢ /lb <small>(10# bags only)</small>	\$2.99 /lb	\$2.99 /lb	\$2.99 /lb

419-332-7167 • 1512 River Street, Fremont, OH • ballville-zshop.com

The News - Messenger

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | FREMONT, OHIO | THENEWS-MESSENGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

SANDUSKY COUNTY

Voter turnout was No. 3 in all of state

Roger LaPointe
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

FREMONT – Sandusky County had the third-highest turnout in the state for the 2026 primary. Party officials had theories on why that happened.

The county had 11,535 ballots cast from a pool of 38,644 registered voters. That made for 29.85% voter turnout. Only Richland County, at 30.15%, and Putnam County, at 34.25%, did better.

Sandusky County Democratic Party

Chair Chris Liebold was thrilled with higher turnout, but it wasn't without some exasperation.

"For the Democrats, we increased the number of people running for central committee and precinct captain. Our volunteers and precinct captains were enthusiastic about their job, and it helped increase the turnout here," he said. "We also had really active Congressional primary candidates."

Democrats had 3,438 ballots cast, with 2,519 of them cast on election day. "I think that enthusiasm, combined

with negativity surrounding Republicans and Donald Trump's war in Iran, gas being over \$5 per gallon, led more people to pull Democratic ballots," Liebold said.

He pointed out that, in absolute numbers, Toledo and the other big cities will always have higher turnout, simply because of the population. Non-presidential election years always have lower turnout.

On a precinct-by-precinct basis,

See VOTER TURNOUT, Page 2A

'Amya didn't get more time'



Amya Frazier, 11, poses for a photo with her backpack. She was a fifth grader at Columbus City Schools' Westgate Elementary School. PROVIDED BY AMY ZAHRANI

Yost early exit could shake up election

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Attorney General Dave Yost wanted to be governor of Ohio.

Yost announced a bid to replace Gov. Mike DeWine in January 2025. Touting years of experience in public office, he pledged to tackle children's literacy and stagnant population growth. He knows Ohio at "a deep, granular level," he said.

Four months later, Yost dropped out. Republicans had coalesced around billionaire entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. The attorney general, a long-time politician, saw the writing on the wall.

Now, lingering questions about Yost's future have been answered. He announced on May 7 that

he will depart seven months early in June to join Alliance Defending Freedom, a well-connected Christian legal advocacy group that advocates against abortion access and supports private school vouchers.

All eyes have turned to Gov. Mike DeWine, who must pick Yost's replacement months before voters choose a new attorney general. The governor could opt for a low-stakes placeholder to serve the rest of this year – or he could set off a domino effect that shakes up the November election.

See YOST, Page 2A

Gun storage bill honoring girl faces uphill battle

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amya Frazier, 11, went to her relative's house to play video games. She ended up dead, shot by her 14-year-old cousin with an unsecured gun in Columbus.

"All I remember was screaming and

dropping to my knees, begging God to let her live and be OK," said Amya's mother, Hope.

But Amya would not survive the gunshot wound to her head. "My whole world crumbled," Hope said.

Now, Hope, Amya's grandmother, Amy Zahrani, and Amya's loved ones are advocating for stronger penalties for adults who don't lock up their

guns, resulting in disastrous ends. Amya will never become the doctor or professional soccer player she dreamed of being – but other children could, her mother said.

For years, Democrats have tried to enact safe storage laws in Ohio, but those efforts have gone nowhere

See GUN STORAGE, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to thenews-messenger.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 187 | No. 284
Subscribe 877-424-0217
©2026 \$1.50



0 40901 02056 1