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SPORTS, 1B

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White House sought to sidestep agency



President Donald Trump and his allies have pressed Congress to adopt nationwide voting changes and argued that some voting systems require upgrades as Trump continues to falsely claim that the 2020 election was stolen from him. EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

Sources say methods reviewed before firings at election commission

Erin Banco and Bo Erickson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The White House spent months looking for ways to bypass a federal election agency and use emergency powers to force changes to voting machines before President Donald Trump ousted its leaders on July 9, four people familiar with the matter said.

Some officials were frustrated with what they saw as the Election Assistance Commission’s slowness in updating guidelines for states on voting machines, the sources said, while some also wanted it to add a

proof-of-citizenship requirement to its national mail voter registration form and address other election-related priorities of the administration.

Democratic lawmakers criticized the firings as an attempt to increase its control over elections, which are the purview of the states, and as undermining election integrity ahead of November’s midterm elections, when control of Congress will be at stake.

Trump fired the bipartisan federal agency’s two Democratic commissioners and allowed its lone Republican commissioner to resign, Reuters reported on July 9. The agency’s fourth commissioner departed in April.

It was not immediately clear why Trump decided to force the commissioners out at this time or if they will be replaced. The agency remains operational, but without a quorum it cannot take up any new business, such as implementing changes to voting procedures

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Record \$749M in ad spending expected in 2026 Ohio elections

Alex Perry
USA TODAY NETWORK

Political ad spending in Ohio is soaring to record levels, a new report shows, as tight Senate and governor races become some of the most competitive in the country ahead of the 2026 midterms.

Ohio is one of the biggest political advertising battlegrounds of the 2026 cycle, according to AdImpact’s 2026 Political Ad Spending Report. The increase in spending is due in part to a competitive U.S. Senate race, a tighter-than-expected governor’s race and heavy outside-group spending.

Here’s how that spending breaks down.

Ohio ad spending projected at \$749 million, among highest in U.S.

Ohio saw the largest increase in spending from the report’s initial projection, rising from \$440 million to \$749 million (a 70% increase), making it the fourth-most expensive state in the cycle.

The increase is largely impacted by the competitive U.S. Senate race between Sherrod Brown and Jon Husted, as well as the governor’s race between Democrat Amy Acton and Republican Vivek Ramaswamy.

Governor race projected at \$172 million

AdImpact projects Ohio’s gubernatorial race will generate \$172 million in political advertising, making it the fourth-most expensive governor’s race in the country this cycle. The race’s shift from “Likely Republican” to “Lean Republican” added more than \$100 million in projected spending.

Ohio Senate race shifts to toss-up as spending ramps up

The Senate race has also become more competitive.

AdImpact moved the race from “Lean Republican” to “Toss-up” status. Outside groups are already reserving significant fall advertising, including \$54

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New TSA security scanners may impact carry-on bags

Mariyam Muhammad
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Still thinking about a summer getaway? Then you might want to know about the latest with the Transportation Security Administration if your vacation plans involve a trip to the airport.

TSA has made changes to its scanning technology. It means the rules with carry-on bags are more strictly enforced than they used to be. Here’s a refresher on

how big your carry-on should be, and what these new scanners are.

Your carry-on bag must fit new TSA scanners

TSA’s new advanced 3D CT scanners can take a three-dimensional image of your carry-on bag, thereby getting rid of the hassle of having to remove items from your bag and placing them in bins.

But the new scanners have smaller entry tunnels

that measure 24.5 inches wide by 16.5 inches high, according to Simply Flying. That means your carry-on must fit into the tunnels, or else TSA may send you back to the airline counter to check it.

Previously, if your luggage fit through the X-ray machine and the metal frame used to measure the size of carry-on bags, then you were safe to fly. Now, the 3D scanners now effectively act as the measuring device.

Your carry-on bag for U.S. airlines must be 22

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