

# Law enforcement investigating threats, powdery substances mailed to multiple Ohio Republicans

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Cleveland.com

COLUMBUS - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has been receiving threatening letters for months.

And he's not the only Republican getting them.

In December, someone mailed a letter filled with a "powdery substance" to [Secretary of State Frank LaRose's house](#) and one to the office of state Sen. Andrew Brenner's, a Delaware Republican.

"Other senators also received them," Brenner said. "I know they're all Republican."

Senate Democratic spokesperson Casey Rife confirmed, saying "none of our offices received any. Just Republicans, I think." Cleveland.com reached out to House Democrats as well.

Brenner didn't know who targeted him or other GOP officials. His menacing letter with the white powder arrived [during lame duck](#), the frenetic period of last-minute lawmaking before the two-year session ends.

A hazmat team quarantined his office -- locking his staff inside for three hours -- while they investigated.

"They handled it very professionally," Brenner said.

Ohio State Highway Patrol handles security for the Statehouse and directed [Cleveland.com](#) to contact the "lead agency on this investigation," the FBI field office in Cincinnati.

The FBI did not respond to a request for comment.

Brenner didn't want to speculate about why a person or persons targeted Ohio Republicans.

But Dan Lusheck, spokesman for Ohio's Secretary of State, said his boss will "certainly not be deterred."

"In a matter of months, there's been two assassination attempts on a presidential candidate and a corporate executive gunned down on a city sidewalk," Lusheck said. "You can't just assume threats are harassment or intimidation these days."

A hazmat team also responded to LaRose's home in December. And a [powdery package was sent to LaRose's office](#) before the November election.

Secretaries of State in Colorado, Georgia and Indiana received similar packages.

Yost's threatening letters started arriving in the summer of 2024, spokesperson Bethany McCorkle told [Cleveland.com](#) via text message.

She said the attorney general received "many" letters like LaRose's "in addition to other threats" but declined to say more citing the ongoing investigation.

Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted's spokesperson directed [Cleveland.com](#) to contact the authorities who didn't respond. The same was true for Gov. Mike DeWine's office.

"Our office refers all security questions to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, spokesman Dan Tierney said.

Treasurer Robert Sprague and Auditor Keith Faber offices both said they haven't gotten any suspicious letters.