

DeWine strikes a different tone from Trump on Ukraine, Russia in proclamation on war

By **Laura Hancock**
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COLUMBUS, Ohio - Gov. Mike DeWine issued [a proclamation](#) Monday marking the third anniversary of Russia's "unprovoked invasion of Ukraine" -- striking a contrast with fellow Republican President Donald Trump's description of the war.

Since taking office on Jan. 20, Trump has shifted the White House posture on the Ukraine war. He [falsely said Ukraine started the war](#). He called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a dictator, but he wouldn't say the same [when asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin](#).

But in his proclamation, DeWine called Russia's actions "unacceptable." Trump, who ran on a promise to end the war, has made it clear that he doesn't want the U.S. to defend Ukrainians against the Russians.

Dan Tierney, DeWine's spokesman, declined additional comment on policy differences between DeWine and Trump.

"The governor's proclamation speaks for itself, and we'll let any other political office holder who wants to make a comment on the issue speak for themselves," Tierney said.

On Monday, the [U.S. voted against](#) a United Nations resolution condemning Russia for the invasion, voting on the side of Russia, North Korea and Belarus.

Negotiations between the U.S. and Russia to end the war don't appear to be headed in a direction that could punish Russia for the two invasions in the past 11 years. In fact, they [could give Putin concessions](#).

DeWine, in contrast to Trump, blames Russians for violating international law in starting the war.

DeWine notes over 44,000 people of Ukrainian descent live in Ohio, including in Parma, the location of Ohio's largest Ukrainian community.

DeWine also noted military aid Ohioans have given to help Ukrainians, including the Ohio Army National Guard providing armored personnel carriers, the Ohio Department of Public Safety leading a collection of surplus and personal protective gear to donate to the country's civilians and over 20 police departments donating equipment.

Last November, DeWine and officials from Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine, signed a memorandum of cooperation "aimed at strengthening Ohio's support for the war-torn country."

"Now, therefore, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize and continue to pray for the people of Ukraine," the proclamation says.

This isn't the first time DeWine has broken with Trump. DeWine and Trump took different approaches to slowing the spread of COVID-19, with DeWine shutting down much of the state.

When Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to try to overturn the election Trump lost, DeWine said Trump had ["poured gas on the fire."](#) Then, Trump teased a Republican challenger to DeWine in his 2022 reelection campaign [before eventually endorsing him.](#)

And when Trump and his vice presidential running mate JD Vance amplified false claims about Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio, eating their neighbors' pets, [DeWine was among the most vocal Republican critics.](#)