

Former Ohio Sen. Niraj Antani drops out of secretary of state race to run for treasurer

Former state Sen. Niraj Antani drops out of secretary of state race after term-limited Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague announces run

**By Erin Glynn
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Former Republican Ohio Sen. Niraj Antani is withdrawing from the 2026 Ohio secretary of state race, after Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague announced his intentions to run.

Antani now plans to launch a campaign for state treasurer, said Seth Camick, political director for Antani's campaign, in a statement to The statehouse news bureau.

"Senator Antani is planning to announce a campaign for State Treasurer this afternoon," Camick said.

Antani served for six years in the Ohio House and four in the Ohio Senate, representing part of Montgomery County.

Antani said in a statement that he and his team do not see a path to victory with Sprague running for secretary of state.

"While I am disappointed, I am not deterred. For the last decade, I've fought against the entrenched establishment who seek to protect the status quo. I will continue that fight," he said.

Antani said Sprague and current Secretary of State Frank LaRose, who announced his campaign for state auditor, are playing "musical chairs" with state positions.

"These recycled cookie cutter, copy-paste politicians are playing musical chairs with Ohio's Constitutional executive offices. They'll do whatever it takes to stay in power, no matter the Tammany Hall style, smoke filled, back room behavior that makes Ohioans sick," he said.

Both LaRose and Sprague are term-limited from running for their current offices again.

Democrat Bryan Hambley, a Cincinnati doctor, has also announced a bid for secretary of state. State Sen. Theresa Gavarone, R-Bowling Green, has said she is considering running for the office.