

# Lake Ohio? Vivek Ramaswamy pitches new name for Great Lake on campaign trail

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Cincinnati Enquirer

Will Vivek Ramaswamy take a page from President Donald Trump's playbook and rename a body of water?

[The GOP candidate for Ohio governor](#) pitched a new name for one of the Great Lakes during an event in Toledo last week. Speaking to the [Lucas County Republican Party](#), Ramaswamy touted Ohio's geographic advantages and noted its proximity to Lake Erie.

Then he invoked Trump's decision to recognize the Gulf of Mexico as the [Gulf of America](#).

"I like what President Trump's done with the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of America," Ramaswamy said. "Anybody think if there's a Lake Michigan, maybe there should be a Lake Ohio around here? I'm feeling that, so we'll talk about that a little bit more as this campaign progresses."

A campaign spokesperson said Monday that Ramaswamy was joking: "The audience understood it was a joke. Perhaps the media will someday get a sense of humor. Vivek is focused on real policies to Make Ohio Great Again."

The five Great Lakes – Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior – got their names from French explorers and Indigenous people who lived in those areas, according to Michigan's [Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy](#). Michigan, for example, is derived from an Algonquin word that means "great water."

Ohio, which is Iroquois for "beautiful river," was named for the river that runs along its southern border, according to the [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#).

Ramaswamy is running against Attorney General Dave Yost for the chance to replace Gov. Mike DeWine, who is term limited in 2026. Former Ohio Department of Health director Amy Acton is the only Democrat in the race so far.

"As I travel across the state, it's clear from my conversations with so many Ohioans that we should be focused on helping those who are struggling with the cost of living, working to ensure our public schools are funded and keeping our communities safe," Acton said in a statement.