

Ohio senators, ex-governor weigh in on heated exchange between Trump, Vance and Zelenskyy

By **Anthony Shoemaker**
Columbus Dispatch

Current and past Ohio leaders reacted to the heated exchange between President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on Friday.

A tense exchange turned into a verbal explosion after Vance told Zelenskyy he was being "disrespectful" to Trump and should be thanking the U.S. rather than lecturing it on the cause of the war with Russia.

Here's what Ohio leaders are saying:

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich

"Today's Oval Office meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy was shameful. President Zelenskyy represents a nation whose citizens have sacrificed their lives and shed blood for the freedoms they cherish. He deserves respect, not humiliation." - Post on X

U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio

"Finally we have a President who will speak the TRUTH and stand up against Washington's endless wars. American taxpayers have been funding this war, it's time to stop the killing and stop risking World War 3!" - Post on X

U.S. Sen. Jon Husted, R-Ohio

"Putin invaded Ukraine under President Barack Obama, and then again under President Joe Biden— neither of them had a strategy to win a war or bring peace to the region. America under President Trump is working to bring peace. It is very easy to start a war but incredibly hard to end one. President Zelenskyy did not help himself with the comments he made in the Oval Office today." - Posted on X

Vivek Ramaswamy, candidate for Ohio governor

Modern-day peace through strength. Well said by [@realDonaldTrump](#)" - Post on X

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo

"Today, the Statue of Liberty hangs her head in shame. The purposeful staging in the Oval Office by the President and Vice President to humiliate an ally and one of the world's most staunch defenders of democracy, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was not merely inappropriate and uncalled for, it was not befitting of the office they hold." she said. "Lots of congratulatory vodka is being spilled in Communist Russia as Dictator Vladimir Putin and his henchmen celebrate his illegal invasion of a sovereign and democratic European nation."

U.S. Rep. Greg Landsman, D-Cincinnati

"It's a Russia First policy and their fixation with dictators over democracies is insane - and ultimately very, very dangerous."

U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson, R-Troy

"I'm very proud of my President and my Vice President. Well done! The rude, entitled tyrant will soon schedule a visit to a tailor, say thank you, and listen without interrupting our President - if he is welcomed back for another meeting." - Posted on X

Alex Triantafilou, chair Ohio Republican Party

"As a first generation American of European descent, I have great sympathy for the poor Ukrainian people who are DYING. The American President wants to END the killing and keep the country somehow intact. Peace should be the mission. Biden never tried. Pres. Trump is trying." - Posted on X

Allison Russo, House Minority Leader, D-Upper Arlington

"Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia is the aggressor. Ukraine defends its freedom—and America's values. Russian propaganda delivered directly from Trump's White House will never erase the truth about Putin's atrocities. Slava Ukraini!-" Posted on X.

This story will be updated as more reactions come in.