

Max Miller makes his case to President Trump to move NASA HQ to Cleveland

By Rich Exner
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CLEVELAND, Ohio - Rep. Max Miller of Bay Village says doing what he can to lure NASA's headquarters from Washington to the agency's Glenn Center in Brook Park includes bending the ear of his former boss, President Donald Trump.

Miller said he made the pitch of Ohio's ties to the space industry and the lower costs of living in Greater Cleveland during a recent meeting with the president.

"He said it made sense," Miller said of Trump's reaction. "He said it was exciting and intriguing."

Miller's comments came Wednesday after a briefing at the Great Lakes Science Center. Miller, Gov. Mike DeWine, Sen. Jon Husted, Team NEO CEO Matt Dolan and Greater Cleveland Partnership CEO Baiju Shah met with Cleveland school students and then took turns during a media briefing promoting Cleveland's case to land the headquarters.

Cleveland is said to be competing with Florida and Texas to become the new home for NASA, though a decision hasn't even been made on whether to move the headquarters out of Washington.

Both Husted and Miller said they were uncertain of any timetable to make a decision.

Yet they, joined by elected officials and business leaders from across Northeast Ohio, have been making the push to relocate to Ohio, selling the state and local ties to aeronautics research, a low cost of living and proximity to the nation's capital.

"We really truly believe that NASA should move its headquarters to Cleveland," Husted said. "Florida and Texas can be great places to launch spacecraft into the stars. But Ohio is home of the innovation. That's what happens at NASA Glenn."

Speculation about a possible move to Cleveland began in March [when congressional leaders from Ohio](#) wrote Vice President JD Vance and Trump's nominee to be NASA administrator, Jared Isaacman, urging the move as part of an effort to decentralize

federal agencies out of the nation's capital. NASA's Washington lease expiring in 2028.

Miller, who worked in the Trump Administration during Trump's first term, acknowledged that he has not received a commitment from Vance, the former Ohio senator, but expressed optimism in saying "if and when he (Vance) gets behind this."

DeWine said Ohio's case has been made stronger because of a unified effort from the business community and political leaders.

"We wanted to be here today, frankly, to show how united the state of Ohio is in this mission," DeWine said. "We really have the people. We have the businesses. As NASA continues to grow and change, we want our NASA mission to come right here. We think it would be a logical place."

NASA Glenn has [more than 3,000 workers](#) on a 6,700-acre Brook Park campus just west of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

It traces its [roots to 1941 in Cleveland](#), originally part of NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Brook Park acquired the site in a 2001 land swap with Cleveland, as Cleveland was looking to secure property for a possible airport expansion.