

Ohio GOP Reps. Miller, Turner, Carey added to Democrats' 2026 target list

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WASHINGTON, D. C. - Emboldened by Democratic candidates' showings last week in two Florida congressional races, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is adding Ohio Republicans Max Miller, Mike Turner and Mike Carey to the list of incumbents it will strive to topple in 2026.

A Tuesday morning announcement from House Democrats' campaign arm said that adding the trio to their list of "Districts in Play" will ensure that Ohio voters know the Republicans are embracing "Elon Musk's extremism and their party's dangerously far-right agenda that's raising costs, destroying jobs, eroding Ohioans' freedoms, and hurting our country's future."

A statement from DCCC Chair Suzan DelBene of Washington said her group is already working to recruit "authentic and battle-ready candidates in Ohio who reflect these districts and will work to better Ohioans' lives, not line Elon Musk's pockets and their DC party bosses' pockets."

Although it doesn't yet have candidates to run against the three, DCCC is posting online fundraising pages so donors can contribute to their eventual opponents.

"From tanking the economy, gutting Medicaid, abandoning our veterans, to making everything more expensive, they've broken their promises to Ohioans, and it's going to cost them their seats," said DelBene.

None of the three targeted Republicans have made political prognosticators' lists of vulnerable incumbents. While Turner has made the DCCC's target list in several past elections, the organization has not made recent efforts to win districts represented by Carey or Miller.

Miller, of Bay Village, won [51.1% of the vote](#) in 2024 against Democrat Matthew Diemer, and Independent Dennis Kucinich, who previously represented sections of the district in Congress. It includes all of Medina and Wayne counties, and parts of Cuyahoga and Holmes counties.

Carey, of Columbus, [won 56.5 percent of the vote](#) in his 2024 re-election bid against Democratic former Ohio legislator Adam Miller. The district he represents includes all or parts of Franklin, Madison, Fayette, Shelby, Clark and Miami counties.

Turner, a former Dayton mayor, [won 57.6 percent of the vote](#) last year against Democrat Amy Cox, a retired educator, and Independent Michael Harbaugh. That district includes all or parts of Montgomery, Greene and Clark counties.

A DCCC spokesperson observed that the two Republicans who won Florida races last week to replace retired incumbents in strongly GOP districts won their seats by around 15 points less than their predecessors.

DCCC attributes their weaker showings to blowback over President Donald Trump's policies, and it hopes that blowback will be evident in Ohio on election day next year.

When asked whether an upcoming GOP-controlled remapping of the state's congressional districts might undermine those districts' winnability, the spokesperson said DCCC doesn't plan to wait until the lines are drawn to start holding those three Republicans accountable.

The campaign arm of U.S. House of Representatives Republicans, the National Republican Congressional Committee, last month announced that Ohio Democrats Emilia Sykes of Akron and Marcy Kaptur of Toledo were on [their target list of Democrat-held seats](#) representing prime pick-up opportunities.

"House Republicans are in the majority and on offense," said a statement from NRCC Chairman Richard Hudson. "Meanwhile, vulnerable House Democrats have been hard at work demonstrating they are painfully out of touch with hardworking Americans. Republicans are taking the fight straight to these House Democrats in their districts, and we will unseat them next fall."

Kaptur won with 48.27% of the vote against Republican former Ohio legislator Derek Merrin and Libertarian Tom Pruss. Sykes [won 51.1% of the vote](#) against Republican former Ohio legislator Kevin Coughlin, who has [announced that he's seeking a rematch in 2026](#).

The [Cook Political Report rates](#) Kaptur and Sykes' re-election prospects as "tossups." It does not regard any GOP-held seats in Ohio as potentially winnable by the other side.