

# Trump is backing Ramaswamy for Ohio governor. Who has endorsed in race to replace DeWine?

By **Jessie Balmert**  
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The race to replace Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine is more than a year away, but one Republican candidate has already scooped up an impressive slate of key endorsements from top GOP officials.

Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, a Cincinnati-area native and Upper Arlington resident, scored the top endorsement for any Republican just hours after he officially entered the race. [President Donald Trump endorsed](#) his former Department of Government Efficiency pick, [writing that Ramaswamy is "Young, Strong, and Smart!"](#)

A super PAC backing [Ramaswamy](#) called V-PAC: Victors not Victims quickly cut a \$3 million ad campaign touting the Trump endorsement, [according to NBC News](#).

Early endorsements can help clear a crowded primary, but that hasn't happened yet. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and Morgan County former school board member Heather Hill are running in the Republican primary for governor.

Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel, best known for leading the Ohio State [Buckeyes](#) to a national championship, [hasn't decided what to do next](#).

A few candidates have already switched races. Former Lt. Gov. Jon Husted was planning a governor's bid but instead took a U.S. Senate appointment to replace Vice President JD Vance. And Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague, who mulled a governor's bid, decided to run for secretary of state instead.

Here's a look at how the endorsement race stands:

## Who has endorsed Vivek Ramaswamy for governor?

Ramaswamy touts [a lengthy list](#) of support from Ohio's Republican officials, including:

- U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno and U.S. Reps. Jim Jordan, Warren Davidson, Dave Taylor and Michael Rulli.
- Ohio statewide elected officials Frank LaRose and Robert Sprague, who serve as secretary of state and treasurer, respectively.
- 15 Republicans in the Ohio Senate, including Senate President Rob McColley and his leadership team.
- 38 Republicans in the Ohio House of Representatives, including five in current leadership positions.
- 22 Ohio sheriffs.

Ramaswamy also has endorsements from billionaire Elon Musk, who co-led DOGE with Ramaswamy; Donald Trump Jr., Turning Points USA founder Charlie Kirk and [several sitting U.S. senators](#).

## Who has endorsed Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost for governor?

Yost, who has served as an Ohio elected official since 2011, has a much shorter list so far. Former Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2006, is backing Yost's campaign.

Yost also touts support from 30 sheriffs, [according to Cleveland.com](#). A spokeswoman said Yost has "well over 100 endorsements from local officials, but we will be releasing those on our own timeline."

## Who has endorsed Heather Hill for Ohio governor?

Hill, a conservative business owner, was inspired to join the race after [police fatally shot two of her foster children](#), according to the Associated Press. Hill lists endorsements from former professional boxer [James "Buster" Douglas](#) and a Mahoning County Republican leader's group called the [Conservative Patriot League of America](#).

## Who hasn't endorsed in the Ohio governor's race?

The most prominent Ohioan who hasn't endorsed in the governor's race yet is Ohio's current governor, Mike DeWine.

DeWine, [who previously backed Husted's bid](#), hasn't announced who he'll support, but it will be a Republican. DeWine told the editorial board that he won't vote for his former state health department director, Dr. Amy Acton, who is running as a Democrat.

Other Republicans who have not endorsed in the governor's race include Husted, who must run in 2026 for the remainder of Vance's term; Lt. Gov. Tressel, House Speaker Matt Huffman, state Auditor Keith Faber and six GOP congressmen.