

Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel still mulling bid for Ohio governor after AG Dave Yost's exit

By Haley BeMiller
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Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel doesn't appear closer to a decision about running for governor after Attorney General Dave Yost dropped out of the race last week.

Tressel told reporters May 21 that he's still in "fact-finding" mode about a potential bid to replace term limited Gov. Mike DeWine. The former Ohio State University football coach [became DeWine's No. 2](#) in February after Sen. Jon Husted filled the seat vacated by Vice President JD Vance.

I spent about 11 years as an assistant football coach before I came to the conclusion, 'Hey, maybe I could be a head coach,'" Tressel said after an event at the Ohio Statehouse. "After that world ended, I spent a couple years as a vice president and was studying a little bit, 'I wonder if I could ever be a president.'"

[Yost's exit](#) from the race left entrepreneur and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy as the clear front runner for the GOP nomination. Ramaswamy has secured the support of President Donald Trump, the Ohio Republican Party and several Republican state officials.

Tressel revealed his intentions to [explore a run for governor](#) ahead of the Ohio GOP's endorsement meeting, but it didn't stop them from backing Ramaswamy.

"Columbus needs re-engineering, not demolition," Yost wrote in a letter to supporters about his decision. "Sherrod Brown and the risky progressive ideas of his party will unwind all of the good that the last 15 years of Republican leadership has brought. This is a time to protect Ohio, not a time for a family squabble."

Tressel said Yost's announcement doesn't affect his thinking. The lieutenant governor has kept a busy schedule of Republican Lincoln Day dinners across the state, which are often an opportunity for potential candidates to test the waters.

"I don't really know about the family squabble thing," Tressel said when asked about Yost's comments. "Every voter deserves a chance to decide what they'd like to vote for."