

# Ohio House Democratic leader Allison Russo steps down from leadership

By Anna Staver  
Cleveland.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- House Minority Leader Allison Russo will step down at the end of June after three and a half years as the top Democrat in the Ohio House.

“Every strong leader knows the importance of a thoughtful transition...,” Russo said in a statement Thursday. “It is important that I give the next leadership team ample time to thoughtfully and carefully plan how to navigate our Caucus priorities after this budget cycle and to continue building our effort to pick up more seats for Democrats in the Ohio House in 2026.”

Russo can’t run for her seat again because of term limits, so her departure from the House in 2027 could mark the end of her political career unless she runs for statewide office.

A difficult task in a state President Donald Trump won by 11 points.

Republican supermajorities control both chambers of the legislature and every statewide office except for one supreme court seat.

Still, Russo made her mark as a behind-the-scenes strategist. She helped Democrats influence the outcome of the [House speakership battle](#) in 2023 by backing Rep. Jason Stephens, a Lawrence County Republican who won with bipartisan support.

During redistricting, Russo became one of the most visible Democratic voices as the GOP-led commission drew, and redrew, legislative maps.

Her departure also comes as another key Democratic leader steps back: [Ohio Democratic Party Chair](#) Liz Walters recently announced she would not seek another term.

Russo [ran for Congress in 2021](#) and hasn’t ruled out a future statewide campaign in the past. But for now, she says her focus is closer to home.

“For the immediate future, I’m focusing on my constituents in the 7th House district and my family ...,” she said. “Any decisions regarding my political future will come at a later time.”