



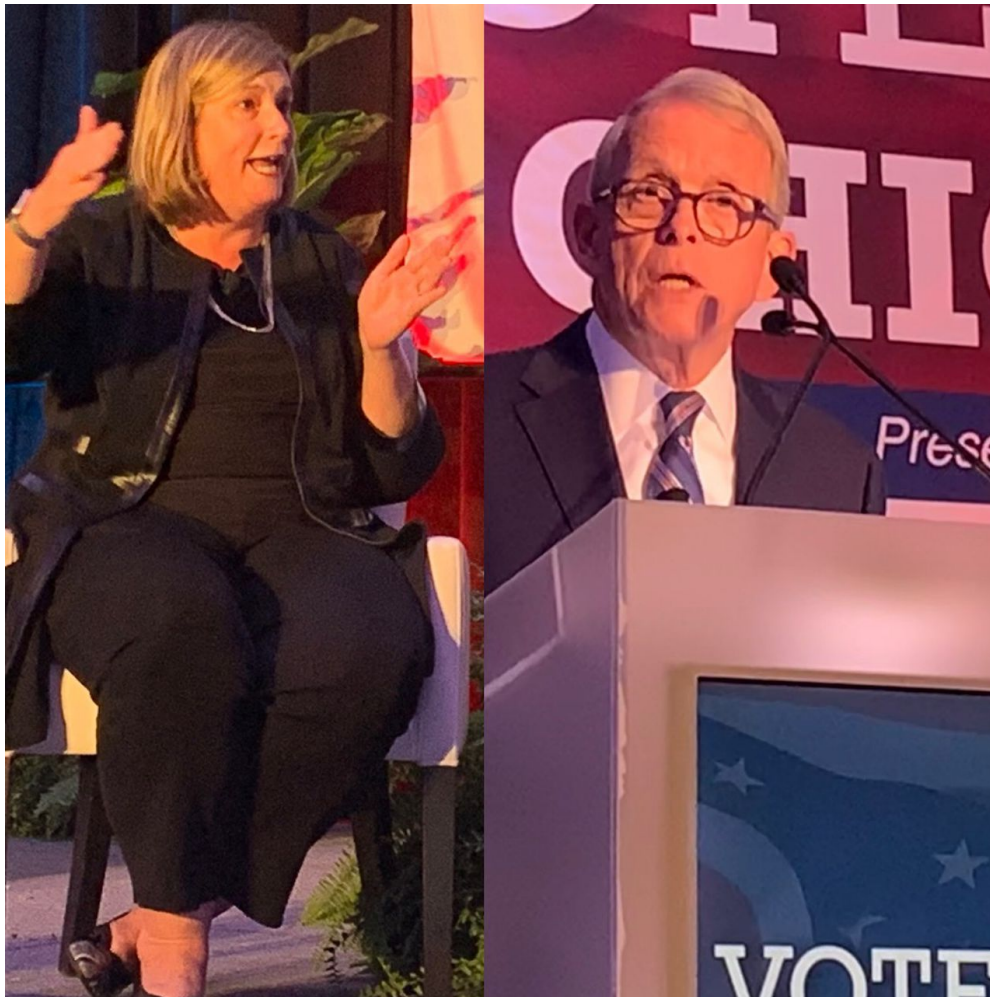
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News

DeWine, Whaley face off in pseudo-debate: Capitol Letter

Published: Oct. 28, 2022, 8:00 a.m.



Republican Gov. Mike DeWine and Democratic opponent Nan Whaley, each spoke Thursday in separate appearances at the Vote for Ohio Kids' Leadership Forum at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on Oct. 6, 2022. Whaley has unsuccessfully called on DeWine to debate her. (Jeremy Pelzer, cleveland.com)

NEW!

By **[Andrew J. Tobias, cleveland.com](https://cleveland.com)**

Rotunda Rumblings

De facto debate: Gov. Mike DeWine and former Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley met with the editorial board of [Cleveland.com/The Plain Dealer](#) on Thursday in what likely will be the closest Ohioans get to a debate for the 2022 gubernatorial election. DeWine, a Republican, has refused invitations to publicly debate his Democratic challenger. [Jeremy Pelzer reports](#) that the candidates sparred over abortion, guns and other policies.

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Turnout trouble? Early-voting data shows some troubling signs for Democrats in Ohio's major metro areas, portions of the state where Black voters who form part of the core of their party's coalition are key to a statewide win. [Andrew Tobias reports](#) that while Democratic turnout appears to be up in a few competitive congressional districts, fewer Democratic-leaning voters have cast ballots in districts anchored by Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton than at the same point in 2018.

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Medical investigation: The Ohio Board of Medicine cited Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopathic physician, for failing to comply with its investigation, [Jake Zuckerman reports](#). The basis for the investigation hasn't been publicly revealed, but Tenpenny drew lampooning national attention when she claimed COVID-19 vaccines "magnetize" hosts and "interface" with cell towers.

Marijuana as medicine: A new state survey finds that doctors were satisfied with medical marijuana's effectiveness when treating patients with pain, cancer, fibromyalgia and post-traumatic stress disorder. But physician satisfaction dropped when considering the drug's effectiveness for patients with 21 other conditions that the state allows for cannabis. [Laura Hancock writes](#) that many doctors reported using telemedicine.

The rich get richer: DeWine continued his financial dominance in the Ohio governor's race, collecting more than twice as much as Whaley during the month of October, new campaign-finance records show. [As Pelzer reports](#), the filings also revealed that DeWine's campaign spent almost \$6.8 million since early June, including buying about \$4.7 million in TV ads – about \$900,000 more than Whaley's campaign spent in total during that same time period. DeWine has more than \$7 million on hand for the campaign's final weeks compared with about \$745,000 for Whaley.

Raising the bar: Secretary of State Frank LaRose said Thursday that Ohio should consider raising the number of votes a proposed constitutional amendment must get to go into effect. [Per Tobias](#), LaRose said the state should consider requiring a supermajority, or 60%, not a simple majority, for constitutional changes. The comments came during a Thursday editorial board interview in which he and his Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election, Chelsea Clark, screened for a potential endorsement.

Out of town visitor: Ex-President Donald Trump will visit Ohio the night before the Nov. 8 election to rally for Republican Senate candidate J.D. Vance. The campaign announced that Trump will appear at the Dayton International Airport in Vandalia at 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7.

Rioter apologizes: Cleveland-area Jan. 6 rioter Christine Priola wrote an apologetic letter to the Washington, D.C., judge who is supposed to sentence her on Friday, [Sabrina Eaton reports](#). She said she should have known better than to participate in the riot and should have thought about how her actions would affect the people in and around the building, the country, her daughter and her family. "I do not want people out there acting like morons," she wrote. "I was one of those morons."

Port money: The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority got a \$27.2 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant that it will use to modernize and expand its electrical and stormwater infrastructure, [Eaton writes](#). The money came from a port infrastructure development program set up under the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law last November.

Kingmaker counties: Most of the change in Ohio's political behavior after 2016 took place in Northeast Ohio, Youngstown State University political scientist Paul Sracic argues in [a CNN opinion piece](#). He observes that Barack Obama won eight of the region's 12 counties in 2012, but "everything changed [four years later](#), when only four Northeast Ohio counties voted for the Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. By [2020](#), that number dropped to two for Joe Biden.... On November 8, the winner of the Ohio's hotly contested U.S. Senate race will very likely be the candidate who captures a clear majority of those 12 Northeast Ohio counties."

Political magnetism: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Thursday toured the new Cleveland headquarters of the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET) with U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat. "With this new space MAGNET is helping to incubate the next generation of innovators," Yellen said. "It's also exposing thousands of students to the good paying manufacturing jobs that our economy is creating."

The wealth gap: U.S. Rep. Shontel Brown of Warrensville Heights introduced legislation with several Democratic colleagues that would require a study of how federal programs and policies affect people living at or under the poverty line and racial inequity, including the racial wealth gap. "For Congress and federal agencies to work effectively and deliver for the people, we need to understand the full impact of these programs—not just how it affects the wealthiest individuals, but also those teetering on the brink of poverty, said a statement from Brown."

New ads: The Republican Accountability PAC, a group of anti-Trump Republicans says it's spending \$1.7 million on TV ads featuring Ohio Republicans and conservatives who say they're going to vote against Vance. [One](#), for instance, features "Greg from Chillicothe," who criticized Vance for flipping from an ardent Trump critic to a vocal Trump supporter.

Home cooking: The Vance campaign, meanwhile, [unveiled its own new ad](#), featuring the Republican Senate nominee cooking bacon in his kitchen while highlighting the rising cost of food.

An open (meetings) question: A Franklin County judge on Thursday heard arguments over whether to throw out [a civil lawsuit](#) claiming that the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board, set up to decide how to distribute hundreds of millions of dollars of opioid settlement money, has been violating the state's open-meetings law. Robert Zimmerman, an attorney for OneOhio, argued that the foundation is a non-profit "voluntary association of various elements of government," not a government body. Attorney John Griener, representing Harm Reduction Ohio, disagreed, noting that Harm Reduction Ohio's president was turned away from attending a board meeting in May even though the board said it would voluntarily operate as if it were subject to open-meetings law. Judge Mark Serrott said he would issue a decision in five days about whether to issue a judgment on the pleadings, as Zimmerman requested.

Let's talk politics: The politics team at cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer is following the biggest stories of the 2022 election and how they affect us all. Now, you can be the first to hear about them – and tell us what you think – through our new Subtext account. You'll get anywhere from two to four texts a day with breaking news, interesting anecdotes and analysis of the statewide races in the Nov. 8 election. You can [subscribe here](#) to hear directly from our reporters through Election Day.

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Buckeye Brain Tease

Question: With how polling is looking, Tim Ryan likely is pinning his political hopes on enough Ohioans once again splitting their tickets and voting for both a Democratic Senate candidate and Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, as they did for Sen. Sherrod Brown in 2018. Before 2018, when was the last time Ohioans chose governor and U.S. Senate candidates of different political parties?

Email your response to capitolletter@cleveland.com. The first correct respondent will be mentioned in next week’s newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who answered last week's question:

During World War II, U.S. photographers had trouble importing the German Rolleiflex camera, so a simple, affordable camera was produced in the U.S. to meet consumers' demand. It was first made in Detroit, then in Delaware, Ohio. The cameras were sold in Sears & Roebuck stores. What is the name of the camera company?

Answer: Former Ford engineer and French immigrant Rodolphe Stahl started Ciro Cameras Inc. in 1947. Six years later, he moved his company from Detroit to Delaware, [according to the Ohio History Connection](#). He produced cameras under his own company's name and for Sears & Roebuck. Ciro Cameras and all of its models were sold in 1951 to Graflex Inc.

State Rep. Kyle Koehler, a Springfield Republican, was the first to respond with the correct answer!

On The Move

The Center for Christian Virtue has hired Mike Andrews as its communications director. Andrews previously worked for the Licking Memorial Health System.

Birthdays

Friday, 10/28: Thomas J. Herbert, Ohio's 56th governor (1894-1974)

Saturday, 10/29: Riley Alton, legislative aide to state Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge; state Rep. Bill Seitz

Sunday, 10/30: Kimberly McConville, executive director of the Ohio Beverage Association; Cailyn Pittman, community outreach coordinator, Franklin County Auditor's Office; Jen Miller, president of the Ohio League of Women Voters

Straight From The Source

"There are going to be people jumping off bridges in San Francisco by the thousands. You know, New York City, they may literally shut down."

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican, [during an appearance at an Allen County Republican Party function](#) earlier this week. He was referencing what he thought may happen if Republicans re-take the U.S. House majority, which likely would make Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

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