

Governor

Open seat (Gov. Mike DeWine is term-limited). Libertarian Don Kissick is also on the ballot.

Amy Acton

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Physician and former director of the Ohio Department of Health, who advised Gov. Mike DeWine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vivek Ramaswamy

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Biotech entrepreneur and 2024 Republican presidential candidate; endorsed by President Trump.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

AMY ACTON

No public position found.

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

No public position found.

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

AMY ACTON

Pledges that Ohio “never becomes a right-to-work state” and to defend collective bargaining. Wants more transparency and regulation for data centers and fewer financial incentives.

[1] Acton campaign: [Standing Up for Workers](#)
[2] guides.vote: [2026 Ohio governor voters guide](#)

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Supports bargaining rights for police, firefighters, and trades but says teacher collective bargaining is “the one area” he would not rule out eliminating. Would halt new data centers until residents get free electricity and lower property taxes.

[1] guides.vote: [2026 Ohio governor voters guide](#)
[2] Ramaswamy campaign: [The Plan](#)

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025

AMY ACTON

Proposes a state Earned Income Credit and a child tax credit of up to \$1,000; would protect Medicaid enrollment, relieve medical debt, and raise the minimum wage.

[1] Acton campaign: [Reducing Costs for Ohio Families](#)
[2] Acton campaign: [Lowering the Cost of Health Care](#)
[3] guides.vote: [2026 Ohio governor voters guide](#)

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Says Medicaid without work requirements has harmed those it was meant to help and pledges to prosecute Medicaid fraud. Proposes phasing out the state income tax and cutting property taxes.

[1] guides.vote: [2026 Ohio governor voters guide](#)
[2] Ramaswamy campaign: [The Plan](#)

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026

AMY ACTON

Pledges to protect “safe, legal abortion care, contraception, fertility treatments, and miscarriage care” and to defend the 2023 reproductive rights amendment (Issue 1).

[1] Acton campaign: [Ensuring Reproductive Freedom](#)

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

“I am pro-life. I believe that unborn life is life.” Opposed the 2023 reproductive rights amendment and has backed a ban at about six weeks.

[1] ACLU of Ohio: [governor candidate profile](#) (May 2026)
[2] guides.vote: [2026 Ohio governor voters guide](#)

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025

AMY ACTON

Would keep Ohio’s moratorium on executions — “I will be continuing the moratorium” — and prefers life imprisonment without parole for the worst crimes.

[1] News 5 Cleveland: Ohio candidates for governor differ on death penalty

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Would resume executions “in the rare cases for the most egregious of crimes,” only with “absolute certainty,” using methods he calls ethical and effective.

[1] News 5 Cleveland: Ohio candidates for governor differ on death penalty

[2] ACLU of Ohio: governor candidate profile (May 2026)

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *“Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.”* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

AMY ACTON

Says people here illegally should be dealt with under the law, but enforcement must be lawful: “we also have to treat people like human beings.” Criticized ICE operations in Minneapolis.

[1] ACLU of Ohio: governor candidate profile (May 2026)

[2] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio governor voters guide

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Says families here illegally should be returned to their home countries humanely, with a path back through “legal meritocratic immigration”; pledges “I will never separate parents from children.” Has supported ending birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants.

[1] ACLU of Ohio: governor candidate profile (May 2026)

[2] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio governor voters guide

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.”* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

AMY ACTON

Would “bring reform” to Ohio’s private school voucher program, saying “public money should be for public schools.”

[1] Acton campaign: Improving Ohio’s Education

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Supports Ohio’s school voucher program and wants to take school choice “to the next level”; pledges “meaningful choices over where and how their children learn.”

[1] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio governor voters guide

[2] Ramaswamy campaign: The Plan

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.”* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

AMY ACTON

Backs an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy using the “lowest-cost and cleanest” sources; would restore energy efficiency and renewable portfolio standards.

[1] Acton campaign: Affordability Agenda

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Calls “the climate agenda” a “hoax”; plans to expand natural gas, streamline energy permits, and require data centers to meet air and water standards.

[1] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio governor voters guide

[2] Ramaswamy campaign: The Plan

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