

2026 U.S. House Race

Ohio's 9th Congressional District

ACLU
Ohio

ACLU OF OHIO POSITION

ENGAGED DEMOCRACY

The ACLU firmly opposes the SAVE Act as it would disenfranchise millions of eligible voters through unnecessary, restrictive documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements for voter registration.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy.

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND DIGNITY

The ACLU of Ohio played a pivotal role in the 2023 campaign to secure passage of The Ohio Reproductive Freedom Amendment.

Every person should have the freedom and power to make deeply personal decisions about their body and future, free from government interference.

FREE SPEECH, FREE COUNTRY

The ACLU opposes additional funding for Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and calls for safeguards against racial profiling, detention of children, and warrantless arrests.

Regardless of immigration status, everyone has basic rights that are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

SMART JUSTICE

The ACLU of Ohio is committed to advancing community reentry by working to eliminate barriers that prevent people recently released from prison from leading successful lives.

We must give our neighbors meaningful opportunities and necessary support systems to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

Marcy Kaptur (D)



Education
University of Wisconsin Madison (B.A., 1968)
University of Michigan (M.U.P., 1974)

Work Experience
- Urban planner for Toledo-Lucas County
- Director of Planning National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs
- Assistant Director for urban affairs, Executive Office of the President

Kaptur voted against the federal SAVE Act.

Kaptur endorsed The Ohio Reproductive Freedom Amendment in 2023.

"A woman's health decisions must be between a woman and her doctor, not out-of-touch lawmakers. Marcy opposes a national abortion ban, especially a ban that would not make exceptions for rape, incest or life of the mother. Marcy knows that the criminalization of reproductive healthcare must be fought in every instance."

Kaptur believes in secure borders and legal immigration.

Kaptur voted to expand border security, to hire more than 10,000 border agents, and to enable military presence at the border if needed. Kaptur has voted to deliver resources necessary to our Customs and Border Patrol agents.

"I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort to help those who protect and serve our communities. Our officers deserve all of the training and resources we can provide to help them effectively and safely handle behavioral health crises to protect themselves, those experiencing crisis, and the public they serve."

Derek Merrin (R)



Education
University of Toledo (B.A., 2008)
Bowling Green State University

(M.P.A., 2009)

Work Experience
- Business owner
- Realtor
- State auditor
- Mayor of the City of Waterville
- State Representative

Merrin supports the federal SAVE Act.

Merrin opposed The Ohio Reproductive Freedom Amendment in 2023.

In speaking at a candidate forum in 2024, Merrin said, "I've fought to protect the unborn. This last year the citizens of Ohio went a different direction."

"Deport illegal immigrants."

"We are going to continue to fight for American citizens over illegal immigrants"

"I applaud Toledo's law enforcement officers for putting their lives on the line everyday for the safety and security of everyone in our community. I will stand by our law enforcement officers. I'm honored to have their support and look forward to continuing to work to ensure they have the resources and manpower necessary in order to protect Northwest Ohioans."

Matthew Althaus (L)



Education
Miami University

Work Experience
- 2018-present: County Development Coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Ohio
- Served six years in the U.S. Navy, deploying twice to the Middle East during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"Protecting ballot access and voter choice. Increasing transparency and trust in elections, and ensuring every Ohioan has a voice."

"We should have secure elections without creating unnecessary burdens for lawful voters."

As of August 2026, Althaus' stance on abortion is not publicly available.

As of August 2026, Althaus' stance on Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity is not publicly available.

As of August 2026, Althaus' stance on public safety and policing not publicly available.