

2026 RACE PROFILE: OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State serves as the chief election officer in Ohio, overseeing the elections process state-wide and appointing members of boards of elections in all of the state's 88 counties. Additionally the office "supervises the administration of election laws; reviews statewide initiative and referendum petitions; chairs the Ohio Ballot Board, which approves ballot language for statewide issues; canvasses votes for all elective state offices and issues; investigates election fraud and irregularities; trains election officials, and works with counties to train poll workers. The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office also compiles and maintains election statistics and other election-related records."

Despite Ohio's reputation as a swing state, Republicans have maintained control of the state since 2010. Since that election year, Republicans have held all five state-wide executive offices which include: Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor, and Treasurer. Republicans have also maintained control of both houses of the Ohio Legislature since 2010. The focus of the 2026 election will likely be on the state Governor's race which is still taking shape, though Trump-backed Vivek Ramaswamy has declared his candidacy. In Ohio, the Secretary of State serves on the Ohio Redistricting Commission along with the Governor, the State Auditor, and four members chosen by the state legislature. This commission is tasked with drawing legislative districts at both the state and federal level and will likely be a contentious issue in the 2026 election.

Current and term-limited Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose has declared he will run in 2026 to be State Auditor. In the open SOS race in 2026, two Democrats and two Republicans have declared their candidacies to date. For the Democratic Party, House Minority Leader Allison Russo announced her candidacy in August 2025, while healthcare activist and doctor Bryan Hambley declared his candidacy in early 2025. Current Ohio Treasurer Republican Robert Sprague, who is term-limited in that role, has declared he will run instead for Secretary of State. A citizen-activist named Marcell Strbich has also declared himself a candidate for the Republicans. On May 5, 2026, Democrat Allison Russo and Republican Robert Sprague won their respective primaries and will face each other in the general election.

Key findings are below:

As Treasurer, Sprague maintains all the benefits of an incumbent even though he is seeking a different office. He is the latest in a two-decade long line of Republicans who will attempt to use the revolving-door of statewide office to maintain control of the state. Attacks in the general election will likely focus not only on Sprague's positions on issues germane to the Secretary of State, but also culture-war issues likely pushed by his own party. Democrats will likely tie Sprague to President Trump and any cultural or political issues he supports. Similar to the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate for Secretary of State will be inexorably tied to the Governor; Sprague has already endorsed Vivek Ramaswamy. Should Ramaswamy be nominated--he was the only serious candidate on the Republican side as of August 2025 -- opposition attacks will be focused on the Trump/Ramaswamy relationship. In an interview with the Lima News Sprague said his focus would be on four things, "eliminating state income tax, lifting people out of poverty, reforming energy policy and protecting religious beliefs." None of these priorities are within the purview of the Secretary of State.

Robert Sprague is the current Treasurer of the State of Ohio and is term-limited from running for a third term. Sprague is instead running for Secretary of State in an effort to continue more than two-decades of Republican control of state executive offices. Prior to statewide elected office, Sprague was a state

legislator, and both treasurer and auditor for the city of Findlay, Ohio. Prior to declaring he would run for Secretary of State, Sprague had filed paperwork to run for Governor.

Philosophy. Sprague is married with five children and was an “active member of Gateway Church.” Sprague has said that the 2026 election needed to be “free and fair” to ensure the same would apply for the 2028 presidential election. Sprague has pledged to work closely with both the state legislature and President Trump on election security issues. Additionally, Sprague planned to partner with Vivek Rammaswamy’s propaganda plan for the state. Sprague said on his website, “We can’t have a strong democracy without informed citizens. Next steps are to partner with Vivek Ramaswamy to launch a bold new civics education push—teaching Ohio’s next generation about their rights, their responsibilities, and the hard truth that freedom survives only if you fight for it. When young Americans know the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and what’s at stake, they’ll stand up—and show up—at the ballot box.”

Voting Rights. Sprague’s plan for election security included requiring a voter ID, cleaning voter rolls, and securing ballots. Sprague proposed “all paper ballots, all the time” reiterating his point in a Twitter post saying, “Every election should be held with 100% paper ballots. No exceptions. No excuses.” Sprague promoted vote-by-mail in 2022. Sprague would require proof of citizenship for all voters and pledged to work with the Trump Administration and DHS to do so. Sprague said, “Voting is a right for American citizens only. If you can’t prove it. You can’t vote. Period.” Sprague also pledged to hold “custody audits” of elections if he was Secretary of State. Sprague proposed a “bipartisan panel of boards of elections officials to review all processes and chains-of-custody requirements after every election to ensure every federal and state rule and law was followed throughout the process.” Sprague also proposed purging any voter from the voter rolls if they “fail to vote in at least one election during any period of four consecutive years.”

BACKGROUND

Ohio will elect six statewide executives in 2026 including:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Auditor
- Treasurer

[Almanac of American Politics, accessed [8/29/25](#)]

Ohio Republicans have controlled all statewide executive offices dating to 2010. [Almanac of American Politics, accessed [8/29/25](#)]

Ohio Republicans have pushed MAGA agenda statewide. “The bills keep coming, one after another, after another. Ohio Republicans are dominating the ‘culture wars’ over schools and students, joining other states in passing a barrage of new laws involving race, ethnicity and gender with several more in the pipeline. Both emboldened by President Donald Trump’s success in the 2024 elections and as a backlash against former President Joe Biden, bills pressing the Make America Great agenda in schools have accelerated and come in rapid fire. In the past year, Ohio’s Republican supermajority has defended in court its 2023 bans of transgender athletes participating in school sports and of ‘gender-affirming’ health care including hormone treatments and blockers for minors.” [Ohio Capital Journal, [4/3/25](#)]

Date of Ohio Primary

Ohio 2026 primary will be held on May 5, 2026. [Ohio Secretary of State, Election Calendar, [2026](#)]

Filing deadline for candidates is February 4, 2026. [Ohio Secretary of State, Election Calendar, [2026](#)]

Role of Secretary of State in Ohio

Ohio SOS is the chief elections officer in the state. “As Ohio’s chief elections officer, the Secretary of State oversees the elections process and appoints the members of boards of elections in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. The Secretary of State supervises the administration of election laws; reviews statewide initiative and referendum petitions; chairs the Ohio Ballot Board, which approves ballot language for statewide issues; canvasses votes for all elective state offices and issues; investigates election fraud and irregularities; trains election officials, and works with counties to train poll workers. The Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s Office also compiles and maintains election statistics and other election-related records.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Ohio SOS oversees campaign finance compliance in the state. “Statewide candidates’ campaign finance reports are filed with the office, together with the reports for state political action committees (PACs), state political parties and legislative caucus campaign committees.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Ohio SOS is member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. “The Secretary of State is a member of The Ohio Redistricting Commission, which meets every 10 years following the decennial census. The seven-member commission redraws boundaries for each of the 99 Ohio House and 33 Ohio Senate districts to reflect population changes. Other members of the commission are the Governor, the Auditor of State, one individual appointed by the Senate President, one individual appointed by the Speaker of the House, one individual appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, and one individual appointed by the House Minority Leader.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Ohio SOS office is the granting authority to do business in OHIO. “The Business Services Division receives and approves articles of incorporation for Ohio business entities and grants licenses to out-of-state corporations seeking to do business in Ohio. Limited partnerships and limited liability companies also file with the Secretary of State’s Office. The Corporations Section of the Business Services Division also approves amendments to filed documents, mergers, consolidations and dissolutions, registers trademarks, trade names, service marks and fictitious names. This section also approves and keeps a registry of business names, names and addresses of statutory agents, incorporators’ names, corporations’ charter numbers, dates of incorporation, and the number of authorized shares per corporation.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

SOS office documents secure business transactions. “Secured parties file financing statements in the Uniform Commercial Code section of the Business Services Division to claim an interest in collateral used for a loan and to have the claim indexed for public notice.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

SOS provided document certification, historical records, ministers licenses, and serves as notary commission. “Document Certification. The Secretary of State provides authentication of documents for use overseas. Authentications are in the form of either an apostille or a gold seal certificate. Apostilles are used for documents pertaining to countries that are part of the Hague Convention of 1961. Gold seal certificates are used if a country is not part of this convention. Historical Records. All laws passed by the Ohio General Assembly, municipal charters, administrative rules adopted by agencies, and executive orders issued by the Governor are filed with the Secretary of State’s Office. Minister Licenses. The Secretary of State’s Office licenses ministers for the purpose of solemnizing marriages in Ohio. Licenses are issued to any ordained or licensed minister of any religious society or congregation requesting the license. Notary Commission. Part of the Secretary of State’s Office, the Notary Commission maintains records of all registered notaries in Ohio.” [Ohio Secretary of State, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

ROBERT SPRAGUE (R)

BIO

Sprague declared he would run for Secretary of State in February, 2025. “Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague launched his campaign for secretary of state Wednesday, abandoning plans to join a hotly contested Republican primary for governor in 2026.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

- **Sprague Was State Treasurer When He Declared, Previously State Legislator And County Government Official.** “Sprague, 51, of Findlay, took over the treasurer’s office in 2019 and spent the past six years managing Ohio’s investment and debt portfolios. He previously served as a state lawmaker and worked in local government as the Findlay treasurer and auditor.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]
- **Sprague was term limited as state treasurer.** “Sprague and Secretary of State Frank LaRose can’t run for their current jobs in 2026 because of term limits.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

Sprague served as the 49th Treasurer of Ohio. “Robert Sprague became Ohio’s 49th Treasurer of State on January 14, 2019.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

- **Treasurer “serves as the chief investment officer for the state’s investment and debt portfolios, oversees the daily cash flows of state monies.”** “As Treasurer, he serves as the chief investment officer for the state’s investment and debt portfolios, oversees the daily cash flows of state monies, and serves as custodian of certain funds and investment assets outside the state treasury.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]
- **Sprague launched public health tracking program as treasurer called “ResultsOHIO.”** As Treasurer, Sprague successfully launched ResultsOHIO, a program that empowers policymakers and innovators to pursue pay for success projects aimed at tackling social and public health challenges facing the Buckeye State. ResultsOHIO protects taxpayer dollars by focusing on bold, new results-based ideas. Through the initiative, public dollars are only used to reimburse project costs if the project has proven to deliver verifiable results.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]
- **As Treasurer, Sprague introduced “Ohio Gains initiative.”** In the fall of 2021, Treasurer Sprague unveiled new and innovative ways to put the state’s balance sheet to work for Ohio. The Ohio Gains initiative featured a series of investment reforms that created new cost savings opportunities for Ohio-based businesses and institutions, while investing more of Ohio’s tax dollars here in Ohio. Central to the Ohio Gains proposal was an overhaul of the popular Ag-LINK program that makes reduced interest loans available to Ohio’s farming community. The new and improved Ag-LINK made an immediate impact on Ohio’s agriculture community, as 2022 set a number of new records for the decades-old program.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]
- **Sprague also oversaw the development and implementation of Family Forward.** “Sprague also oversaw the development and implementation of Family Forward, a program designed to support prospective parents navigating the adoption process. Through Family Forward, Ohioans seeking to adopt may qualify for reduced interest loans up to \$50,000 that can be used to help manage the costs associated with adoption.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

- **Sprague claimed he “Modernized over 100 outdated laws” as state treasurer.** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Modernized over 100 outdated laws to streamline operations and improve efficiency across the Ohio Treasurer’s office.” [Sprague for Ohio, Robert’s Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]
- **Sprague highlighted cuts while in office as state treasurer.** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Reformed Ohio Checkbook—streamlining operations, cutting \$1 million in waste, and earning national recognition for improving government spending transparency.” [Sprague for Ohio, Robert’s Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague was auditor and treasurer for city of Findlay, Ohio. Treasurer Sprague first entered public service in his hometown of Findlay, where he developed his commitment to strong fiscal stewardship as city auditor and treasurer. In these roles, he balanced the city’s budgets and helped finance a massive recovery effort after historic floods and the 2008 economic recession.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 2011-2018. “He later made his way to Columbus, serving the 83rd District as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 2011 through 2018.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague was project lead at Ernst & Young. During his time in the private sector, he was a project lead at Ernst & Young and worked on several high-profile engagements with Fortune 500 companies before forming his own consulting firm.” [Ohio Treasurer, Bio, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

- **Sprague trained employees at “world’s largest plastics plant.”** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Led employee training in Singapore for the world’s largest plastics plant, implementing SAP ERP systems and driving operational excellence.” [Sprague for Ohio, Robert’s Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]
- **Sprague said his work for Ernst & Young included projects in Atlanta, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Houston.** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Worked with Ernst & Young on major projects in Atlanta, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Houston—gaining global experience and sharpening leadership and analytical skills.” [Sprague for Ohio, Robert’s Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague started own firm after working for Ernst & Young. “Before entering public service, Sprague worked at Ernst & Young, one of the big four global accounting firms, and later started his own firm.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

- **Sprague “Founded a small business consulting firm, serving clients across the U.S. and internationally in Mexico City and London.”** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Founded a small business consulting firm, serving clients across the U.S. and internationally in Mexico City and London.” [Sprague for Ohio, Robert’s Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague had degrees from Duke and UNC. “Sprague graduated from Duke University with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

Timeline

2004-2007: Sprague was Treasurer for Findlay, Ohio. According to Sprague's campaign website, "City Treasurer, City of Findlay Professionally managed the revenue and expenditures of the City of Findlay's budget." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

2007-2011: Sprague was Auditor for City of Findlay, Ohio. According to Sprague's campaign website, "2007-2011 City Auditor, City of Findlay Managed finances for a city in crisis and helped the City of Findlay, Ohio recover after historic flooding." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

2011-2019: Sprague was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. According to Sprague's campaign website, "2011-2019 Ohio State Representative Turned an \$8 billion budget deficit into a \$2 billion surplus by working with Republican leadership." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

2019-2026: Sprague Treasurer of State of Ohio. According to Sprague's campaign website, "2019-Present Ohio Treasurer Launched the Ohio Homebuyer Plus program to help first-time buyers save for down payments." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Family and Faith

Sprague is married with five children. According to Sprague's campaign website, "Father of five Cole, Davis, Graham, Tate, and Mary Hannah—and husband to Amanda Sprague, a successful small business owner, marathon runner, cyclist, and devoted mom." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague was "Active member of Gateway Church." According to Sprague's campaign website, "Active member of Gateway Church in Findlay, Ohio, reflecting a strong foundation in faith and community." [Sprague for Ohio, Robert's Story, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

PHILOSOPHY

Sprague: "2028 decides our next President. 2026 ensures it's a free and fair election." Robert Sprague tweeted, "2028 decides our next President. 2026 ensures it's a free and fair election." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/11/25](#)]

Sprague: "We're just calling balls and strikes and we will make sure that the will of the people has been done through the vote." "I'm asking people to trust me with their tax dollars and now I'm going to ask them to trust me with their vote," he said. "We're just calling balls and strikes and we will make sure that the will of the people has been done through the vote." [The Lima News, 3/7/25]

Sprague listed four priorities if elected, none of which included duties of Secretary of State. "If elected, Sprague said he would focus on four things: eliminating state income tax, lifting people out of poverty, reforming energy policy and protecting religious beliefs." [The Lima News, 3/7/25]

Sprague: "As secretary, I will continue to ensure that our elections are fair, the results are trusted and our right to vote is protected." [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

Sprague: “As Secretary, I will continue to ensure that our elections are fair, the results are trusted, and our right to vote is protected.” “In his announcement for the position, Sprague pointed to his work as treasurer. ‘For the past six years, the people of Ohio have entrusted me to be a responsible steward of their tax dollars, and today I am asking them to put their trust in me to protect their sacred vote,’ Sprague said. ‘As Secretary, I will continue to ensure that our elections are fair, the results are trusted, and our right to vote is protected. I look forward to working with President Trump, the Administration, and the Ohio General Assembly to these ends.’” [Ohio Capital Journal, [2/5/25](#)]

Sprague had filed paperwork to run for Governor. “Sprague had been expected to run for governor and had even filed paperwork, but is now the second big name to aim for other office instead, following former Lt. Gov. Jon Husted’s departure for the U.S. Senate last month.” [Ohio Capital Journal, [2/5/25](#)]

Trump and Ramaswamy

Sprague: “I’m looking forward to working with President Trump and the legislature to enact even stronger protections.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Talking tough on election security isn’t enough—action is. Last night in Erie County I laid out the plan: Voter ID. Clean voter rolls. Secure ballots. I’m looking forward to working with President Trump and the legislature to enact even stronger protections.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/21/25](#)]

Sprague planned to partner with Vivek Ramaswamy propaganda program. According to Sprague’s campaign website, “We can’t have a strong democracy without informed citizens. Next steps are to partner with Vivek Ramaswamy to launch a bold new civics education push—teaching Ohio’s next generation about their rights, their responsibilities, and the hard truth that freedom survives only if you fight for it. When young Americans know the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and what’s at stake, they’ll stand up—and show up—at the ballot box.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague endorsed Vivek Ramaswamy for governor. “In an X post Wednesday morning, Sprague also endorsed Ramaswamy for governor if he runs, calling him ‘the leader we need to lead Ohio forward with a bold vision of conversation reform. Should he run for Governor, he will have my full support!’” [Ohio Capital Journal, [2/5/25](#)]

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Election Security

Sprague: “In Ohio, we are fortunate to have an election process that is secure, accurate and accessible.” ““In Ohio, we are fortunate to have an election process that is secure, accurate and accessible, but that is the direct result of the vigilance and leadership of Secretary LaRose and a Republican legislature that takes election security seriously,’ Sprague said in a statement.” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

Sprague proposed “All paper ballots, all the time.” According to Sprague’s campaign website, “All paper ballots, all the time. Ohio will be a paper ballot state with a verifiable, auditable paper trail from which voters can confirm their choices are accurate before their vote is tabulated.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague: “Every election should be held with 100% paper ballots. No exceptions. No excuses.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Every election should be held with 100% paper ballots. No exceptions. No excuses.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [7/25/25](#)]

Sprague promoted absentee voting in 2022 election. Robert Sprague tweeted, “Today is the FINAL DAY to send back your absentee ballot! If you can’t get your ballot in the mail today, you can return your ballot in-person at your county board of elections before 7:30 PM tomorrow.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [11/7/22](#)]

Proof of Citizenship

Sprague: “We will only allow American citizens to vote.” “Sprague spoke briefly at the April 2 Lincoln Day dinner the Erie County Republican Party hosted at Kalahari Convention Center. Sprague mentioned his campaign for secretary of state and said he backs requiring government ID cards to prove that people are eligible to vote; currently there are other documents voters can present at polling places, like utility bills. ‘We will only allow American citizens to vote,’ he said.” [Sandusky Register, [4/16/25](#)]

Sprague wanted to give “Ohio’s boards of elections the ability to verify an individual’s citizenship status when they attempt to register to vote, not after they enter the database.” According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Only the federal government definitively knows who is and who is not a U.S. citizen. Next steps are to work with the Trump Administration to obtain access to federal citizenship data with the end goal of giving Ohio’s boards of elections the ability to verify an individual’s citizenship status when they attempt to register to vote, not after they enter the database.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

- **Sprague: “Only the federal government definitively knows who is and who is not a U.S. citizen.”** [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague would “Work with the Trump Administration to share critical federal data with the states, especially citizenship data from DHS.” According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Next Steps: Work with the Trump Administration to share critical federal data with the states, especially citizenship data from DHS.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague: “We must verify citizenship at the point of voter registration.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Every noncitizen who casts a ballot steals a vote from an American citizen. We must verify citizenship at the point of voter registration.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [7/28/25](#)]

Sprague: “Voting is a right for American citizens only. If you can’t prove it. You can’t vote.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “If there was any doubt that Democrats want noncitizens voting in our elections, look no further. Voting is a right for American citizens only. If you can’t prove it. You can’t vote. Period.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/26/25](#)]

Sprague called removal of non-citizens from voter rolls a “win for democracy.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Removing almost 500 non-citizens from Ohio’s voter rolls ensures we have fair and secure elections. Huge win for democracy!” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/1/24](#)]

Sprague: “Only Ohioans Vote in Ohio. Period.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Only Ohioans Vote in Ohio. Period. I will make sure every voter proves they’re a U.S. citizen—because your vote shouldn’t be

canceled out by someone who shouldn't be voting in the first place. Protect your vote. Defend Election Day." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [7/9/25](#)]

Redistricting

Sprague opposed 2024 redistricting amendment. Robert Sprague tweeted, "The redistricting amendment on the ballot this November would be a disaster for Ohio. - Puts redistricting in the hands of left-leaning special interests and clandestine political operatives. - Has no protections on counties/communities being split for political purposes. - Gives Ohioans ZERO oversight over the committee or the process. I strongly encourage all Ohioans to reject this Democrat power grab on November 5th." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [7/31/24](#)]

Sprague opposed 2024's issue 1. "Our country is on the line. Get out and vote!  Trump/Vance  Bernie Moreno  Down ballot Republicans  NO on Issue 1." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, 11/5/24]

Voter Fraud

Sprague: "Every bad entry in Ohio's voter database is an open door for fraud." Robert Sprague tweeted, "Every bad entry in Ohio's voter database is an open door for fraud. Dead voters. Moved voters. Phantom voters. It's unacceptable." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/6/25](#)]

Sprague: "The 'voter fraud is rare, so we shouldn't enforce voting laws' argument is lazy and used by those who want states to turn a blind eye to noncitizen voting." Robert Sprague tweeted, "The 'voter fraud is rare, so we shouldn't enforce voting laws' argument is lazy and used by those who want states to turn a blind eye to noncitizen voting. Fraud is rare in Ohio because we take it seriously. As Secretary, I will continue to ensure that ONLY U.S. citizens vote in our elections and refer the cheaters to law enforcement." [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [7/30/25](#)]

Vote Audits

Sprague pledged "custody audits" as Secretary of State. "Sprague pledged to keep elections in Ohio fair if elected with custody audits, by requiring photo ID for voting and by maintaining bipartisanship in his office." [The Lima News, 3/7/25]

Sprague proposed "bipartisan panel of boards of elections officials to review all processes and chains-of-custody requirements after every election to ensure every federal and state rule and law was followed throughout the process." According to Sprague's campaign website, "Ohio can be proud of the fact that bipartisan officials audit every election, every time, and invariably find that election results are 99.9% accurate. The same scrutiny and evaluation that we apply to the election results should be applied to the myriad processes and components of the voting process that go into the final tally, from the mailing of military overseas ballots to the certification of election results. Next steps are to require a bipartisan panel of boards of elections officials to review all processes and chains-of-custody requirements after every election to ensure every federal and state rule and law was followed throughout the process." [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Voter ID

Sprague would require photo ID for voting. “Sprague pledged to keep elections in Ohio fair if elected with custody audits, by requiring photo ID for voting and by maintaining bipartisanship in his office.” [The Lima News, 3/7/25]

Sprague: “If we want secure ballots, voter ID, and zero foreign interference, we must elect trusted and proven conservatives across the nation next year.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “If we want secure ballots, voter ID, and zero foreign interference, we must elect trusted and proven conservatives across the nation next year.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/11/25](#)]

Voter Suppression

Sprague would purge any voter who did not vote within 4 years. According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Voter list maintenance. Next steps are to ensure the voter list is in compliance with the Ohio Constitution, Article V requirement that electors be ‘a resident of the state’ and that ‘any elector who fails to vote in at least one election during any period of four consecutive years shall cease to be an elector.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague would share voter information with credit bureaus and financial services companies “to update and maintain voter registration rolls.” According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Work with credit bureaus and financial services companies to obtain real-time information on individuals to update and maintain voter registration rolls.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague said he would “File an annual report to the legislature detailing the Secretary’s voter registration maintenance procedures.” According to Sprague’s campaign website, “File an annual report to the legislature detailing the Secretary’s voter registration maintenance procedures.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague: “As Secretary of State, I will use federal data + private sector tech to clean house; scrub the rolls of errors, outdated entries, and those who’ve walked away from the process.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “With over 8 million registered voters, the system must be airtight. As Secretary of State, I will use federal data + private sector tech to clean house; scrub the rolls of errors, outdated entries, and those who’ve walked away from the process.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/6/25](#)]

Sprague: “Only qualified electors should decide our elections. Period.” Robert Sprague tweeted, “Only qualified electors should decide our elections. Period.” [Twitter, @RobertCSprague, [8/6/25](#)]

OTHER ISSUES

Israel

Sprague: “We need to stand with Israel because Israel has stood with the United States.” “He also invested in Israel bonds, telling Columbus Jewish News: ‘We need to stand with Israel because Israel has stood with the United States.’” [Columbus Dispatch, [2/5/25](#)]

Reproductive Rights

2023: Ohio voters protected right to choose in a statewide constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights. “Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment on Tuesday that ensures access to abortion and other forms of reproductive health care, the latest victory for abortion rights supporters

since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year. Ohio became the seventh state where voters decided to protect abortion access after the landmark ruling and was the only state to consider a statewide abortion rights question this year.” [Associated Press, [11/7/23](#)]

Sprague opposed Ohio Abortion Ballot issue 2023. [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]

Sprague blamed “Special interest groups from the coasts” for pushing Ohio amendment on abortion. In an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer Robert Sprague wrote, “Special interest groups from the coasts are trying to buy an amendment to Ohio’s constitution. Before voting this November, you should know the truth about what this amendment would do to the founding document of our state, as well as what it would do to your family and your relationship to your children.” [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]

Sprague claimed Ohio amendment would “turn this commonsense familial principle upside-down.” In an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer Robert Sprague wrote, “The proposed Ohio amendment would turn this commonsense familial principle upside-down, dictating that every minor must have access to such procedures and that there is nothing an objecting parent can do about it. How would you feel about a doctor performing that surgery on your son or daughter, knowing that you are powerless to intervene, help, counsel or stop it?” [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]

Sprague: “Ohio should be a safe place for children, where parents are the final authority on what is good for their families.” In an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer Robert Sprague wrote, “Ohio should be a safe place for children, where parents are the final authority on what is good for their families. Ohio should have a culture of life, where we rejoice and give thanks for beautiful little babies, and where we protect them, guide them and nurture them. Little ones are the heart and soul of Ohio, and we should have a commonsense constitution that protects them.” [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]

Sprague said amendment was “a bald-faced push to make Ohio the most extreme abortion state in the union.” In an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer Robert Sprague wrote, “You will no doubt hear from the advocates of this amendment that it is simply a return to the days of Roe v. Wade. Make no mistake, it is not. It is a bald-faced push to make Ohio the most extreme abortion state in the union.” [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]

Sprague: “I hope everyone can agree that these dangerous policies have no business being cemented in our state’s founding document by people from outside Ohio.” In an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer Robert Sprague wrote, “There are a wide range of opinions when it comes to the issue of abortion. It is likely the most contentious and divisive issue in our political discourse today. But no matter where one stands on the matter, I hope everyone can agree that these dangerous policies have no business being cemented in our state’s founding document by people from outside Ohio.” [Cincinnati Enquirer, [6/13/23](#)]