

# The Lima News

## Democrats pledge to restore trust in Ohio government

By HEATHER RUTZ  
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LIMA — Democratic statewide candidates said Tuesday night they'll restore Ohioans' trust and investments if elected this year.

Ohio Attorney General candidate Subodh **Chandra left the Allen County Democratic Party spring dinner crowd breathless** with his dismantling of Republicans and promised to protect Ohioans.

"If a governor's job is to lead to prosperity, the attorney general's job is to protect from harm and loss," Chandra said. "If you have prosperity without protection, where will you be? It will be rendered meaningless if there are thieves looting out the back door. Republicans weren't just asleep at the wheel, they were holding the door open for those thieves."

Chandra pledged to go after predatory lenders, polluters and companies that price gouge and hold the governor and Legislature accountable for a constitutional school funding system.

Chandra, the son of Indian immigrants, most recently served as law director for the city of Cleveland. He also served as a federal prosecutor and worked in private law firms.

In his usual fiery style, Chandra told the crowd he's heard the whispers about the viability of a man of his race being able to win a statewide election, and played a voice mail message of his triplet toddler sons laughing and squealing that he keeps on his phone.

"My sons, third generation Americans, are blissfully unaware that their lives are filled with anything else but endless possibility," Chandra said. "It's our role, the role of the Democratic Party, to ensure that all of God's children continue to know and believe that their lives are filled with endless possibility."

### **Chandra received a standing ovation.**

Franklin County Treasurer Rich Cordray, candidate for state treasurer, also pledged to do for Ohio what he has done for his county.

Franklin County boasts an AAA bond rating, better than the state, and that allows the county to borrow money for big projects at a cheaper cost, saving taxpayers money, Cordray said. Cordray has also aggressively sought delinquent taxpayers, bringing in millions.

Cordray said he would revive programs established by the last Democrat to hold the office, Mary Ellen Withrow.

"She didn't just sit in her office and count the state's money, she put that money to work for the state," Cordray said. "She created the linked deposit and STAR Ohio programs, and invested in communities around the state. Those programs withered under her successors. We'll put some of the state's money back into local communities again."