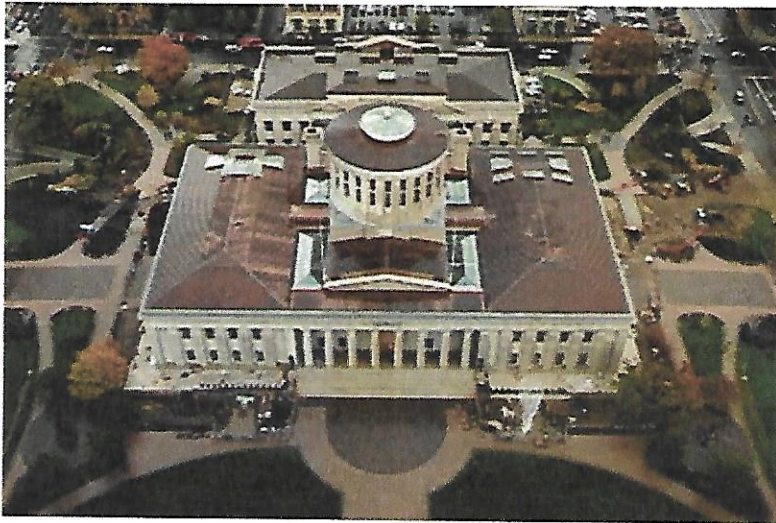


By Joe Guillen, The Plain Dealer

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Doral Chenoweth III/The Ohio

Statehouse

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Lake County Commissioner Daniel Troy has dropped out of the race for the 60th House District, leaving the county's Democratic Party to pick a new opponent for Republican candidate Lori DiNallo in the Nov. 6 election.

Troy, a Democrat, said he was overwhelmed with local support for him to remain a county commissioner.

The partisan atmosphere in Columbus would make it more difficult to accomplish his goals of improving life in Lake County and finding a common ground through bipartisanship, Troy said in a statement.

Troy has encouraged the Lake County Democratic Party to select Mentor-on-the-Lake Mayor John Rogers.

DiNallo is a councilwoman in Painesville.

James Helmink, a Willowick attorney who finished second to Troy in the three-candidate primary election in March, said today he will seek the party's nomination.

Rep. Lorraine Fende, a Democrat, currently represents the 60th District but is term-limited and cannot run for re-election.