

The March 28 Toledo Blade Editorial, in assessing a political ad suggesting Ohio is falling behind, indicates that the party in total control of state government is the responsible party.

The editorial is right on target, pointing to specific policy positions that have shortchanged local communities.

The EdChoice voucher debacle and the state's failure to implement a constitutional system of public school funding are conspicuous failures in addition to those identified in the editorial.

[Editorial: Who should we blame?](#)

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11:45 PM

Apoorva Ramaswamy has shocking news in the opening commercial for her husband Vivek's campaign for governor: "Ohio families are working hard but falling behind."

"He wants safe communities and great schools," Mrs. Ramaswamy adds in her husband's campaign ad.

The Ramaswamy ad is soft touch, with compelling imagery of Mr. Ramaswamy nuzzling a baby.

The ad, though, sends a weird message. Republicans have been in 100 percent control of state government since 2011, when Republican John Kasich replaced one-term Democrat Ted Strickland as governor, and then prior to Mr. Strickland for years before that. If Ohioans are falling behind, how is that not laid at the GOP doorstep?

Given Republican dominance of state politics since 1991 we'd like to hear much more from Mr. Ramaswamy on who to blame for Ohioans "falling behind" as well as his wife's concerns about safety and great schools.

One would think that after 15 years of leadership, the party in power wouldn't be saying people are "falling behind."

Statehouse Republicans have been actively hostile to Ohio's communities since the Kasich administration decimated the Local Government Fund in 2011.

In 2010 Toledo received \$19.7 million from the Local Government Fund. In 2026, the estimated assistance from this state program was a little more than half — \$10.4 million. With less money from Ohio and rising costs, many communities are falling into decline.

There is little hope that a governor Ramaswamy can restore state funding to local governments to the historic norm as he has promised to eliminate the income tax and make deep cuts to property taxes.

Mr. Ramaswamy has backpedaled away from his claim that Ohio has too many universities and that they should be consolidated to help pay for the tax cuts he says will spark economic revival.

Whether the state universities are consolidated or just remain under-funded, they are highly likely to continue charging higher tuition than the national average, thus adding to the perception the Ramaswamy campaign commercial identifies as "falling behind."

If continuing tax cuts were the answer Ohio should not be "falling behind," as the GOP has lowered the rates from a top bracket above 7 percent to single bracket at 2.75 percent.

It would behoove Mr. Ramaswamy to explain why we're still falling behind after all that tax-cutting. He should also explain how eliminating \$9.8 billion in income tax revenue will keep us from falling further behind.

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Mr. Ramaswamy began his campaign for governor promising to eliminate property taxes. Pressed to explain where he would cut \$30 billion from the state budget, Mr. Ramaswamy changed course on his property tax promises.

Mr. Ramaswamy's gauzy TV ad is sure to trigger some doubt among Ohio voters who are well aware of who has had veto-proof control of the government during the period in which they are "falling behind."

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