
THE OHIO POLL*

FOR RELEASE
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STRICKLAND HOLDS DOUBLE-DIGIT LEAD OVER BLACKWELL, BROWN HOLDS NARROW LEAD OVER DEWINE

Cincinnati, OH--The first Ohio Poll of likely voters in 2006 finds U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland (D) leads Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell (R) by 12 percentage points in the race for governor. U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown (D) leads U.S. Senator Mike DeWine (R) by four percentage points in the race for U.S. Senate.

These findings are based on the latest Ohio Poll, conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. The Ohio Poll is sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. The Poll was conducted from September 7 through September 17, 2006. Interviews were not conducted on September 11, 2006.

Now that the intense post-Labor Day campaigning has begun, Ohioans are beginning to devote greater attention to the gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races on the ballot this fall. The latest Ohio Poll asked likely voters about their preferences in these two races, which are being closely watched nationwide.

STRICKLAND LEADS BLACKWELL BY 12 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN RACE FOR GOVERNOR

The first Ohio Poll conducted among likely voters in 2006 finds Democrat Ted Strickland holds a double-digit lead over Republican Ken Blackwell in the race for governor, 50 to 38 percent. An additional three percent intend to vote for Independent candidate Bill Peirce, two percent express support for Independent candidate Bob Fitrakis, one percent plan to vote for another candidate and seven percent are undecided.

At the present time, fewer Democrats than Republicans express intent to vote for their rival party's candidate. While 20 percent of Republicans say they will vote for Democrat Ted Strickland, just eight percent of Democrats intend to vote for Republican Ken Blackwell.

BROWN LEADS DEWINE BY 4 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN RACE FOR U.S. SENATE

The latest Ohio Poll also finds Democrat Sherrod Brown holds a narrow lead over Republican Mike DeWine in the race for U.S. Senate, 51 to 47 percent among likely voters. Less than one percent express support for some other candidate and two percent are undecided.

At the present time, fewer Democrats than Republicans express intent to vote for their rival party's candidate in the U.S. Senate race. While 20 percent of Republicans say they will vote for Democrat Sherrod Brown, 14 percent of Democrats intend to vote for Republican Mike DeWine.

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DIRECTION OF OHIO AND THE UNITED STATES

Likely voters were also asked about their perception of the direction in which Ohio, and the country, are headed.

Far more likely voters see things in Ohio as “off on the wrong track” (69%) than see things in Ohio as “heading in the right direction” (27%).

Among likely voters who see Ohio as “off on the wrong track,” Strickland leads Blackwell, 59 to 29 percent. Brown leads DeWine, 61 to 37 percent among likely voters in this group.

Similarly, far more likely voters see things in the country as “off on the wrong track” (61%) than see things as “heading in the right direction” (35%).

Among likely voters who see the country as “off on the wrong track,” Strickland leads Blackwell, 69 to 17 percent. Brown leads DeWine, 69 to 29 percent among likely voters in this group.

Ohio Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Ohio Poll conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati from September 7 through September 17, 2006. Interviews were not conducted on September 11, 2006.

A random sample of 671 likely voters from throughout the state was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.8 percent.

In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

Results reported for subgroups have the potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

Reported percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Respondents to the Ohio Poll were asked:

- “Suppose the election for governor was being held today and the candidates were: Ted Strickland, the Democrat, Ken Blackwell, the Republican, Bob Fittrakis, the Independent candidate, and Bill Peirce, the Independent candidate. Which would you vote for?”
- “Suppose the election for U.S. Senate was being held today and the candidates were: Sherrod Brown, the Democrat, and Mike DeWine, the Republican. Which would you vote for?”
- “Generally speaking, would you say things in Ohio are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?”
- “Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?”

**2006 Ohio Gubernatorial Election
(Likely Voters)**

	September <u>2006</u>
Ted Strickland (D)	50%
Ken Blackwell (R)	38
Bill Peirce (I)	3
Bob Fitrakis (I)	2
Other	1
Undecided	7
(N=)	(639)

**2006 Ohio U.S. Senate Election
(Likely Voters)**

	September <u>2006</u>
Sherrod Brown (D)	51%
Mike DeWine (R)	47
Other	Less than 1
Undecided	2
(N=)	(639)

**Direction of Ohio
(Likely Voters)**

	September <u>2006</u>
Right Direction	27%
Wrong Track	69
Don't Know	3
(N=)	(657)

**Direction of Country
(Likely Voters)**

	September <u>2006</u>
Right Direction	35%
Wrong Track	61
Don't Know	4
(N=)	(661)

Ohio Poll #105

Suppose the election for governor was being held today and the candidates were . . . Ted Strickland, the Democrat . . . Ken Blackwell, the Republican . . . Bob Fitrakis, the Independent candidate . . . or Bill Peirce, the Independent candidate. Which would you vote for?

		STRICKLAND	BLACKWELL	FITRAKIS	PEIRCE	OTHER	DK
Ohio Likely Voters		50%	38%	2%	3%	1%	7%
Sex	Male	50%	41%	2%	2%	0%	4%
	Female	50%	35%	1%	3%	2%	9%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	66%	28%	4%		2%	
	30 to 45	48%	41%	3%	2%	2%	4%
	46 to 64	47%	42%	1%	4%	0%	5%
	65 and over	52%	30%		2%	1%	15%
Race	African-American*	68%	20%	4%	3%		6%
	White	48%	39%	2%	3%	1%	7%
Education	Less than high school*	58%	18%		12%	6%	6%
	High school graduate	50%	35%	3%	2%	1%	9%
	Some college	55%	35%	3%	2%	0%	5%
	College graduate	46%	44%		2%	2%	6%
Union Membership	Union household	65%	25%	1%	2%		7%
	Non-union household	46%	42%	2%	3%	1%	7%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	53%	33%	3%	3%	1%	7%
	Northwest Ohio	48%	41%		6%		5%
	Central Ohio	56%	38%	1%	0%		4%
	Southeast Ohio*	56%	25%	6%	3%		11%
	Southwest Ohio	42%	47%		2%	2%	7%
Party Identification	Democrat	81%	8%	2%	2%	1%	7%
	Independent*	55%	30%		2%	1%	12%
	Republican	20%	68%	2%	3%	1%	6%
Ideology	Liberal	83%	7%	2%	3%		6%
	Moderate	60%	28%	2%	2%	2%	6%
	Conservative	24%	63%	2%	3%	0%	8%
Direction of Ohio	Right Direction	31%	59%	1%	1%	1%	6%
	Wrong Track	59%	29%	2%	3%	1%	6%
Direction of U.S.	Right Direction	20%	72%	3%	1%	1%	3%
	Wrong Track	69%	17%	1%	3%	1%	8%

Ohio Poll #105, September 2006
Institute for Policy Research
University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #105

Suppose the election for United States Senate was being held today and the candidates were ... Sherrod Brown, the Democrat ... and Mike DeWine, the Republican. Which would you vote for?

		BROWN	DEWINE	OTHER	DK
Ohio Likely Voters		51%	47%	0%	2%
Sex	Male	46%	52%		2%
	Female	55%	42%	0%	3%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	60%	40%		
	30 to 45	51%	47%		2%
	46 to 64	47%	51%	0%	2%
	65 and over	53%	43%		4%
Race	African-American*	59%	38%		2%
	White	49%	49%	0%	2%
Education	Less than high school*	63%	37%		
	High school graduate	51%	47%		2%
	Some college	54%	42%	1%	3%
	College graduate	47%	51%		2%
Union Membership	Union household	65%	31%		4%
	Non-union household	46%	52%	0%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	53%	45%	0%	2%
	Northwest Ohio	61%	39%		
	Central Ohio	45%	53%		2%
	Southeast Ohio*	58%	34%		8%
	Southwest Ohio	43%	54%		3%
Party Identification	Democrat	84%	14%		2%
	Independent*	43%	43%	3%	11%
	Republican	20%	79%		2%
Ideology	Liberal	81%	17%		2%
	Moderate	59%	38%	0%	2%
	Conservative	28%	70%		2%
Direction of Ohio	Right Direction	30%	69%		1%
	Wrong Track	61%	37%	0%	2%
Direction of U.S.	Right Direction	23%	76%		0%
	Wrong Track	69%	29%	0%	2%

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*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #105

Generally speaking, would you say things in OHIO are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

		RIGHT DIRECTION	WRONG TRACK	DON'T KNOW
Ohio Likely Voters		27%	69%	3%
Sex	Male	22%	74%	4%
	Female	32%	65%	3%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	42%	56%	2%
	30 to 45	28%	69%	3%
	46 to 64	24%	74%	2%
	65 and over	26%	68%	6%
Race	African-American*	27%	71%	3%
	White	27%	69%	3%
Education	Less than high school*	26%	74%	
	High school graduate	29%	65%	6%
	Some college	24%	74%	2%
	College graduate	29%	69%	2%
Union Membership	Union household	25%	73%	3%
	Non-union household	28%	68%	3%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	18%	79%	3%
	Northwest Ohio	29%	69%	2%
	Central Ohio	34%	63%	3%
	Southeast Ohio*	34%	58%	8%
	Southwest Ohio	37%	60%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	16%	81%	3%
	Independent*	26%	72%	2%
	Republican	38%	58%	3%
Ideology	Liberal	21%	77%	2%
	Moderate	23%	75%	3%
	Conservative	37%	59%	4%

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Ohio Poll #105

Generally speaking, would you say things in this COUNTRY are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

		RIGHT DIRECTION	WRONG TRACK	DON'T KNOW
Ohio Likely Voters		35%	61%	4%
Sex	Male	35%	61%	4%
	Female	35%	61%	4%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	43%	57%	
	30 to 45	31%	64%	4%
	46 to 64	39%	59%	2%
	65 and over	32%	61%	7%
Race	African-American*	17%	83%	
	White	38%	58%	4%
Education	Less than high school*	16%	78%	6%
	High school graduate	38%	58%	4%
	Some college	28%	68%	4%
	College graduate	40%	57%	3%
Union Membership	Union household	28%	69%	3%
	Non-union household	38%	58%	4%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	32%	64%	3%
	Northwest Ohio	34%	64%	1%
	Central Ohio	32%	64%	4%
	Southeast Ohio*	35%	55%	10%
	Southwest Ohio	43%	52%	4%
Party Identification	Democrat	10%	87%	2%
	Independent*	26%	61%	14%
	Republican	62%	35%	4%
Ideology	Liberal	9%	91%	
	Moderate	30%	66%	3%
	Conservative	54%	41%	4%

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