

THE OHIO POLL*

FOR RELEASE

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DEMOCRATS STRICKLAND, BROWN LEAD IN BELLWETHER OHIO

Cincinnati, OH--The latest Ohio Poll of likely voters finds U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland (D) leads Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell (R) by 14 percentage points in the race for governor. U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown (D) leads U.S. Senator Mike DeWine (R) by seven 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 October 9 through October 14, 2006.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE: STRICKLAND LEADS BLACKWELL BY 14 PERCENTAGE POINTS

With three weeks remaining before Election Day, the latest Ohio Poll finds Democrat Ted Strickland holds a 14 percentage point lead over Republican Ken Blackwell in the race for governor, 52 to 38 percent. An additional three percent intend to vote for Independent Bill Peirce, one percent express support for Independent Bob Fitrakis, less than one percent plan to vote for another candidate and six percent are undecided.

Strickland led Blackwell, 50 to 38 percent in the September 2006 Ohio Poll of likely voters.

Voters were also asked if they will definitely vote for their gubernatorial candidate choice or if they might change their mind between now and Election Day. The same percentages of Strickland (75%) and Blackwell (75%) voters say they will definitely vote for their candidate choice.

U.S. SENATE RACE: BROWN LEADS DEWINE BY 7 PERCENTAGE POINTS

The latest Ohio Poll also finds Democrat Sherrod Brown holds a seven percentage point lead over Republican Mike DeWine in the race for U.S. Senate, 52 to 45 percent among likely voters. Less than one percent express support for some other candidate and two percent are undecided.

Brown led DeWine, 51 to 47 percent in the September 2006 Ohio Poll of likely voters.

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When asked if they will definitely vote for their U.S. Senate candidate choice or if they might change their mind between now and Election Day, slightly more Brown voters (82%) than DeWine voters (79%) say they will definitely vote for their candidate choice.

DIRECTION OF OHIO AND THE UNITED STATES

As Election Day nears, likely voters continue to be pessimistic about the direction in which Ohio, and the country, are headed.

Seventy-one percent of likely voters see things in Ohio as “off on the wrong track,” while 25 percent see things in Ohio as “heading in the right direction.”

When asked about the direction the country is headed, 65 percent of likely voters see things in the country as “off on the wrong track,” while 32 percent see things as “heading in the right direction.”

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 October 9 through October 14, 2006.

A random sample of 526 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 4.3 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, and Bill Peirce, the Independent. Which would you vote for?”
- “Do you think you will definitely vote for (INSERT CANDIDATE CHOICE) for governor or do you think you might change your mind between now and Election Day?”
- “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?”
- “Do you think you will definitely vote for (INSERT CANDIDATE CHOICE) for U.S. Senate or do you think you might change your mind between now and Election Day?”
- “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 7-17, <u>2006</u>	October 9-14, <u>2006</u>
Ted Strickland (D)	50%	52%
Ken Blackwell (R)	38	38
Bill Peirce (I)	3	3
Bob Fittrakis (I)	2	1
Other	1	Less than one
Undecided	7	6
(N=)	(639)	(490)

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

	September 7-17, <u>2006</u>	October 9-14, <u>2006</u>
Sherrod Brown (D)	51%	52%
Mike DeWine (R)	47	45
Other	Less than one	Less than one
Undecided	2	2
(N=)	(639)	(497)

**Direction of Ohio
(Likely Voters)**

	September 7-17, <u>2006</u>	October 9-14, <u>2006</u>
Right Direction	27%	25%
Wrong Track	69	71
Don't Know	3	5
(N=)	(657)	(515)

**Direction of Country
(Likely Voters)**

	September 7-17, <u>2006</u>	October 9-14, <u>2006</u>
Right Direction	35%	32%
Wrong Track	61	65
Don't Know	4	3
(N=)	(661)	(514)

Ohio Poll #106

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 . . . or Bill Peirce, the Independent. Which would you vote for?

		STRICKLAND	BLACKWELL	FITRAKIS	PEIRCE	OTHER	DK
Ohio Likely Voters		52%	38%	1%	3%	0%	6%
Sex	Male	50%	40%	2%	5%		4%
	Female	54%	36%	1%	1%	1%	8%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	40%	55%	2%			3%
	30 to 45	45%	45%	3%	4%		3%
	46 to 64	59%	34%	1%	2%		4%
	65 and over	54%	31%	0%	2%	1%	11%
Race	African-American*	71%	16%		2%		12%
	White	52%	40%	1%	2%	0%	5%
Education	Less than high school*	73%	23%		4%		
	High school graduate	59%	28%	1%	3%		8%
	Some college	53%	37%	1%	3%	1%	4%
	College graduate	46%	46%	1%	2%		5%
Union Membership	Union household	59%	24%	3%	7%		7%
	Non-union household	51%	41%	1%	2%	0%	5%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	59%	29%	2%	4%		6%
	Northwest Ohio*	43%	48%				9%
	Central Ohio*	62%	32%				6%
	Southeast Ohio*	54%	39%				8%
	Southwest Ohio	37%	52%	1%	5%	2%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	85%	8%	0%	1%	1%	6%
	Independent*	62%	8%	10%	11%		9%
	Republican	19%	71%	1%	4%		5%
Ideology	Liberal*	71%	17%	0%	2%		9%
	Moderate	68%	22%	2%	3%		6%
	Conservative	25%	67%	1%	4%		3%
Direction of Ohio	Right Direction	24%	68%	2%	4%	1%	2%
	Wrong Track	65%	25%	1%	2%	0%	7%
Direction of U.S.	Right Direction	16%	72%	3%	5%	1%	4%
	Wrong Track	73%	18%	1%	2%	0%	7%

Ohio Poll #106, October 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 #106

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		52%	45%	0%	2%
Sex	Male	48%	51%	1%	
	Female	55%	41%		4%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	42%	55%		3%
	30 to 45	45%	52%		3%
	46 to 64	58%	41%	0%	1%
	65 and over	54%	42%	1%	2%
Race	African-American*	74%	19%		6%
	White	50%	48%	0%	2%
Education	Less than high school*	67%	33%		
	High school graduate	60%	35%	1%	4%
	Some college	52%	46%	0%	2%
	College graduate	46%	52%		2%
Union Membership	Union household	66%	34%		1%
	Non-union household	49%	48%	1%	3%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	65%	33%	1%	1%
	Northwest Ohio*	48%	45%		6%
	Central Ohio*	52%	47%		2%
	Southeast Ohio*	29%	62%		9%
	Southwest Ohio	38%	61%	0%	1%
Party Identification	Democrat	86%	11%		3%
	Independent*	65%	35%		
	Republican	15%	82%	1%	1%
Ideology	Liberal	78%	22%		
	Moderate	66%	30%	1%	3%
	Conservative	22%	77%	0%	1%
Direction of Ohio	Right Direction	27%	71%		1%
	Wrong Track	62%	35%	1%	2%
Direction of U.S.	Right Direction	16%	83%		1%
	Wrong Track	71%	26%	1%	3%

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Ohio Poll #106

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		25%	71%	5%
Sex	Male	24%	73%	3%
	Female	26%	69%	6%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	57%	39%	4%
	30 to 45	23%	70%	7%
	46 to 64	19%	80%	1%
	65 and over	24%	70%	7%
Race	African-American*	12%	84%	4%
	White	26%	69%	5%
Education	Less than high school*	13%	87%	
	High school graduate	21%	73%	6%
	Some college	28%	68%	5%
	College graduate	27%	70%	4%
Union Membership	Union household	24%	71%	5%
	Non-union household	24%	71%	4%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	17%	79%	4%
	Northwest Ohio*	28%	71%	1%
	Central Ohio*	27%	67%	6%
	Southeast Ohio*	34%	56%	10%
	Southwest Ohio	32%	62%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	13%	84%	3%
	Independent*	12%	84%	4%
	Republican	39%	54%	7%
Ideology	Liberal	21%	77%	2%
	Moderate	18%	78%	4%
	Conservative	34%	61%	5%

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Ohio Poll #106

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		32%	65%	3%
Sex	Male	37%	61%	2%
	Female	28%	68%	4%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	30%	66%	4%
	30 to 45	40%	59%	1%
	46 to 64	28%	70%	1%
	65 and over	32%	62%	6%
Race	African-American*	4%	96%	
	White	36%	61%	3%
Education	Less than high school*	44%	45%	11%
	High school graduate	25%	73%	2%
	Some college	30%	67%	3%
	College graduate	39%	59%	3%
Union Membership	Union household	23%	76%	1%
	Non-union household	34%	62%	3%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	27%	71%	2%
	Northwest Ohio*	29%	67%	4%
	Central Ohio*	34%	63%	3%
	Southeast Ohio*	28%	71%	1%
	Southwest Ohio	44%	51%	5%
Party Identification	Democrat	7%	91%	1%
	Independent*	17%	79%	3%
	Republican	60%	35%	4%
Ideology	Liberal	12%	87%	1%
	Moderate	23%	75%	2%
	Conservative	56%	41%	3%

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