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Ohio General Election Preview

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Ohio voters head to the polls in a pivotal midterm election that could result in significant changes to the Statehouse political climate. Republicans have largely dominated state government since 1990 and have held unanimous control since 2010. Republicans have controlled multiple rounds of statehouse and Congressional map drawing and, despite reforms to the redistricting process adopted by voters in 2015 and 2018, have been able to draw maps that protect their majorities in the Ohio General Assembly. President Trump carried Ohio in 2016 and 2020 by 7 points, and in 2024 by 11 points (likely receiving a boost due to Ohio native J.D. Vance being his running mate). Term-limited Governor Mike DeWine (R) has been popular even among Democratic voters, but has grown apart from a Republican base that has embraced a more conservative and populist political identity. Democrats have the opportunity to have the strongest midterm election in Ohio since their 2006 sweep of most statewide offices. Here are some key trends to watch as results come in—

- River Valley Votes: In recent years, Republicans have made significant gains in the Mahoning Valley (Youngstown) and Miami Valley (Dayton). These areas were historically Democrat strongholds with many pro-union and blue-collar voters. Democrats need to win big in Montgomery County and Mahoning County if they want to win statewide.

- Lake Erie Adjacent Counties: Historically, Democrats have struggled to turn out their voters in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), and this has resulted in missed opportunities statewide. In addition to high turnout in the Cleveland area, Democrats also need to carry Erie and Lorain Counties along Lake Erie; this could benefit key down-ticket statehouse and Congressional races.

- Other Notable Counties: Three bellwether counties to watch are Delaware in central Ohio, Portage in Northeast Ohio, and Wood in Northwest Ohio. If Democrats manage to flip these counties, then it will likely be a full sweep of all competitive and statewide races. Failing that, if Democrats can keep the margin of defeat low in these areas, they will likely see some notable wins.

Republicans have tended to overperform in statewide and General Assembly races and underperformed in Congressional races. This is evidenced both by the current Congressional map, which is split 10R and 5D despite Republican efforts to secure 12 seats, and by former Senator Sherrod Brown's loss to Bernie Moreno in 2024; in that race, he performed 7 or more points better other Democrats including Kamala Harris. President Trump and Vice President Vance made a combined 5 visits to Ohio in the final three weeks of the campaign; however, this may not be enough to ensure a good night for Ohio Republicans. In general, Democratic voters need to stay enthusiastic despite frequent electoral disappointments in recent years while Republican candidates need to overcome lackluster races at the top of the ticket and resulting voter fatigue with Trump.

Ohio Congressional Races

Despite Ohio currently having two Republican Senators and a 2:1 advantage in U.S. House seats, Democratic candidates for Congress have generally outperformed other statewide and Presidential candidates. As Democrats look to retake both chambers of Congress, Ohio could play a key role in the Senate but a lesser ole in the House. While eyes will be on the Husted v. Brown Senate Special Election, there are some notable House races that could provide early indications of overall statewide performance on Tuesday night.

U.S. Senate Special Election

Ohio's marquee race between current U.S. Senator Jon Husted (R) and former U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D) could play a key role in control of the U.S. Senate next year. Husted was appointed last year to replace Vice President J.D. Vance following the 2024 Presidential Election. Husted has previously served as Ohio House Speaker, State Senator, Secretary of State, and Lieutenant Governor to Mike DeWine before his appointment. Husted was considered the leading contender for Governor until Ramaswamy opted to enter the race. Brown is a three-term Senator who narrowly lost his reelection in 2024 to Senator Bernie Moreno (R); in that contest, Brown outperformed all other Democrats on the ballot (while Trump carried Ohio by an 11-point margin, Moreno bested Brown by less than 4 points). Recent polling shows Brown in the lead—

Polling Firm / Source	Brown (D)	Husted (R)	Dates	MOE
Trafalgar Group	47%	45%	10/31 – 11/1	2.9%
Poll Vault / Emerson	46%	48%	10/31 – 11/1	3.2%
Atlas Intel	51%	44%	10/28 – 11/1	2%
NY Times / Sienna	49%	44%	10/26 – 11/1	4.2%
Rasmussen Reports	46%	46%	10/27 – 10/31	3%
InsiderAdvantage	49%	47%	10/29 – 10/30	2.8%
YouGov	50%	48%	10/26 – 10/29	2.8%

Historically, polling for Congressional races in Ohio has been more accurate, especially for U.S. Senate; in the leadup to the 2024 contest between Moreno and Brown, polling in the final weeks gave Moreno a 3% lead. The RealClearPolitics average is Brown +2% and Sabato's Crystal Ball rates this race as Lean D; further, prediction markets generally given Brown a 2:1 advantage. Interestingly, a GOP consulting firm aligned with Vice President Vance purchased mailers in the closing weeks of this race backing Independent Socialist Candidate Greg Levy in hopes of syphoning votes from Brown; it is unclear if this will change the outcome as multi-candidate polling shows Levy and Libertarian Candidate Bill Redpath with less than 4% of the vote.

This race covers the unexpired portion of Vance's full Senate term, which means the winner will need to run again in 2028 for the full term. Additionally, since this is technically a special election, Brown would take office immediately after a successful electoral outcome. Given Brown's overperformance in 2024, this race is an opportunity for Democrats and is likely more winnable than similar contests in Texas, Alaska, Kansas, and North Carolina.

7th Congressional District

This seat is currently held by Congressman Max Miller (R) and is a key pickup opportunity for Democrats through first-time candidate Brian Poindexter. On paper, the district is R+4% and Miller has generally outperformed the index (2024 is an exception as former Congressman Dennis Kucinich ran as an independent candidate). Miller originally announced his bid for Congress to unseat former Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (R) after he voted to impeach President Trump in 2021; this race would have occurred in the 16th District, which was ultimately eliminated following the 2020 Decennial Census. Gonzales opted not to seek reelection, and Miller instead ran in the 7th District Primary against Congressman Bob Gibbs (R). who would ultimately drop out of the race in protest. The 7th District was then redrawn prior to the 2024 election to make the district more narrowly Republican leaning, though Miller would handily win reelection.

Miller's career includes a stint in the first Trump Administration, and he enjoys a close relationship with the President. He is also a member of the wealthy Miller family in Cleveland and enjoys access to high wealth donors in Northern Ohio. Notably, Miller married Emily Moreno, the daughter of U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno, 2022. During Moreno's 2024 Senate run against Brown, Max and Emily announced they would divorce. More recently, Emily Moreno has made several allegations of abuse of both her and their daughter in divorce filings. This is not the first time Miller has faced assault allegations. During his time in the Trump White House, Miller previously dated former White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham; she also alleges physical abuse during their relationship. Both Senator Moreno and Senator Husted have called on Miller to resign, however RCCC and other key Republican organizations continue to back his candidacy.

Democrats are hoping Brook Park City Councilman and Union Ironworker Brian Poindexter and capitalize on the controversy surrounding Miller and flip this Cleveland-area seat. The 7th District encompasses southern Cuyahoga County, portions of Wayne County, and all of Medina and Ashland Counties. Trump carried the district (in its current configuration) by 11% in 2024. Sabato's Crystal Ball lists this seat as Lean D while Cook Political Report rates it a toss-up. Democrats appear likely to retake the U.S. House no matter the outcome in OH-7, however flipping this seat would likely give Ohio a 9R-6D split in a Congressional map drawn my Republicans to produce a 12R-3D result nearly two years ago.

9th Congressional District

Democratic Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur faces a rematch with former State Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova) in this Toledo-area seat. Kaptur is the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives and continues to be a target for Republicans; Kaptur narrowly beat Merrin in 2024, and the district as an R+3% index. One notable difference between 2024 and 2026 is the lack of a Libertarian candidate, which could send a few more votes to Merrin. Both Sabato Crystal Ball and Cook Political Report rate this as Leans Democratic.

Merrin had a successful career in local government before winning election to the Ohio House of Representatives. He was in line to be House Speaker at one point but was defeated by former Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill), who came to power with the help of Democrats in the Ohio House of Representatives. Merrin emerged from a crowded primary that included State Representative Josh Williams (R-Sylvania) and former ICE Deputy Director Madison Sheahan. At one point, Senate President Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) considered a run, but was instead tapped to be Vivek Ramaswamy's running mate.

The 9th District covers Lucas County (Toledo), Wood County (Bowling Green), and several smaller counties (Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Williams). Kaptur will need Toledo voters to turnout while Merrin will be focused on smaller counties that are reliably Republican. The key to this race will be Wood and Erie Counties, which are roughly the same size and more balanced from a partisan perspective. Merrin won Erie County by 6 points and narrowly carried Wood County in 2024. If Democrats can take Wood and/or Erie County, it could not only give Kaptur the win but indicate a stronger statewide outcome.

Other Notable Congressional Races

The current Congressional map in Ohio was supported by Republicans and Democrats, however it took a very contentious path to be adopted. The current partisan split is 10R – 5D, and with the exception of the 7th District, we do not anticipate any other seats to flip on Election Night. Here are some other races that will be close, though very likely favoring incumbents—

- 1st District: Incumbent Democratic Congressman Greg Landsman faces Air Force and CIA veteran Eric Conroy in this Cincinnati-area race. Republicans have tried to make this race competitive by drawing nearby Warren and Clinton Counties into the 1st District; however, Landsman has outperformed the D+2% index . Both Cook Political Report and Sabato's Crystal Ball rate this as Likely D.

- 10th District: Longtime Congressman and former Dayton Mayor Mike Turner faces a challenge from first-time candidate Kristina Knickerbocker in this R+3% seat. On paper, it should be more competitive, however Turner has consistently outperformed the index and other Republicans; while Trump carried the district by 5 points, Turner won his 224 contest by nearly 20%. The 10th District covers all of Montgomery County (Dayton) and neighboring Greene County, plus portions of Clark County. Democrats will likely carry Montgomery County in the Gubernatorial and Senatorial Contests, but Turner's popularity in Dayton will keep him relatively safe. This race is a Lean R according to Sabato's Crystal Ball and Cook Political Report.

- 13th District: Congresswoman Emilia Sykes (D) faces a challenge from retired TV and Radio Host Corey Coleman in this Akron-area seat. Sykes is a former State Lawmaker and member of the influential Sykes family, who have been key players in Akron politics for decades. She is also married to Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce (D). On paper, the seat is D+4 though Sykes and other Democrats have

generally underperformed that index. That said, this is rate Likely D by Cook and Sabato's, and Sykes should handily win reelection given her popularity in Summit County.

- 15th District: Congressman Mike Carey (R) is being challenged by OSU Professor and political newcomer Don Leonard in this expansive central Ohio seat. The seat has an R+7 index and Republicans have generally outperformed that index in previous races. Both Sabato and Cook rate this as Lean R, and it would take significant support in Franklin County and strong Democratic turnout in Miami County on the western edge of the 15th for Leonard to have any chance.

Gubernatorial Contest

The most expensive and arguably the nastiest Gubernatorial race in Ohio political history will conclude tomorrow as voters decide between Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy (R) and former Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton (D). Regardless of the outcome, the outcome of this race will be historic as Ohio has never had an elected Governor who isn't white and male; additionally, neither candidate has held elected office, which is another first for Ohio Governors going back more than two centuries. Republicans have controlled all branches of Ohio Government since the 2010 midterms, and Ohio Governors have been Republicans (with the exception of Democratic Governor Ted Strickland's single term from 2006 – 2010) for more than 30 years.

Dr. Acton's path to the Democratic nomination was relatively smooth after former Congressman Tim Ryan opted not to jump into the race. Since leaving office, Ryan has enjoyed a successful lobbying career and there was speculation that he was discouraged from running indirectly by the Trump Administration through some of his cryptocurrency clients. Ramaswamy faced a challenge from first time and far right candidate Casey Putsch, who frequently raised issues with Vivek's religion and ethnicity. Ramaswamy secured 83% of the vote, which showed significant unity among Republican primary voters.

Each candidate utilized their picks for Lieutenant Governor to offset perceived weaknesses, especially given they are relative political newcomers. Ramaswamy tapped term-limited Ohio Senate President Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) as his running mate while Acton selected former Ohio Democratic Party Chair David Pepper. McColley gives Ramaswamy a known statehouse operator who is well liked by Republican lawmakers and could be an asset in his legislative negotiations as Governor. Pepper's elected experience includes time on the Cincinnati City Council and Hamilton County Commission; he also ran unsuccessfully against Dave Yost for State Auditor in 2010 and Mike DeWine for Ohio Attorney General in 2014. Pepper is a former Ohio Democratic Party Chairman and gives the Acton campaign much needed campaign experience and access to high dollar Democratic donors. Both Pepper and McColley have law degrees and have kept relatively low profiles during the final days of the race.

Both Acton and Ramaswamy had achieved celebrity status prior to announcing their respective Gubernatorial bids, therefore polling in this race has remained relatively stable and tight. In fact, since April no single poll has showed more than 10% of voters being undecided. Polls showed a statistical tie during the summer, however Acton started to open up a lead following Labor Day. This typically coincides with campaign operations and ad buys ramping up. As Vivek's poll numbers remained static and stubbornly behind Acton's, Statehouse Republicans scrambled to enact a 90-day gas tax holiday at the behest of Ramaswamy. The maneuver had little impact on gas prices and polling for the race.

Ramaswamy was also at the center of one of the biggest controversies in the 2026 midterms after his campaign released an ad featuring Dr. Acton's estranged mother offering her endorsement of Vivek. The ad generated significant backlash and was ultimately pulled after widespread reporting that Acton's mother sided with her stepdad after he was convicted of sexually assaulting Acton when she was 12; the mother lost custody and Dr. Acton has not spoken to her in nearly five decades. Though it may be coincidental, polls that were conducted in the immediate aftermath show Acton pulling further ahead.

Polling in Ohio Governor's Race – Last 30 days

Polling Firm / Source	Acton (D)	Ramaswamy (R)	Dates	MOE
Poll Vault / Emerson	48%	48%	10/31 – 11/1	3.2%
Atlas Intel	52%	44%	10/28 – 11/1	2%
NYTimes / Sienna	49%	43%	10/26 – 11/1	4.2%
Insider/Advantage	49%	46%	10/29-10/30	2.8%
YouGov	53%	46%	10/26 – 10/29	2.8%
Suffolk University	48%	44%	10/21 – 10/26	4%
FOX News	50%	48%	10/15 – 10/19	2%
Marist	50%	43%	10/15 – 10/18	4.5%
Cook Political Report	49%	44%	10/9 – 10/13	N/A
BGSU / YouGov	50%	44%	9/29 – 10/9	4%
Co/efficient	43%	45%	10/5 – 10/6	3.5%
CNN	50%	42%	9/29 – 10/5	4.5%

The RealClearPolitics (RCP) average is Acton +4.5% and Sabato's Crystal Ball rates the race as Lean D. In addition to public polling, prediction markets also show Acton is a strong favorite with 80% on Kalshi and 83% on Polymarket. Despite these positive trends for Dr. Acton, it is important to note that President Trump carried Ohio in 2016, 2020, and 2024, including a 10-point win most recently. Generically, Ohio is roughly R+5%, which is a notable hurdle for any Democrat to overcome statewide.

The 2018 Gubernatorial contest offers a useful comparison as we head into election day. This was Governor DeWine's first election, and he faced a strong challenge from former Democratic Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray. Like the current race, both candidates shared similar traits as they had extensive public service careers; Acton and Ramaswamy have neither held elected office, which is something they have in common. Further, there was a 'blue wave' that would see Democrats prevail in key races nationwide. DeWine would ultimately win the race with 50.7% of the vote to Cordray's 46.4%. Though fewer polls were available, here is a snapshot of polling data in the final 30 days of the 2018 General Election—

Polling in 2018 Governor's Race – Final 30 days

Polling Firm / Source	Cordray (D)	DeWine (R)	Dates	MOE
Gravis	48%	43%	10/29 – 10/30	3.5%
Emerson	49%	46%	10/26 – 10/28	4.3%
Suffolk	46%	40%	10/4 – 10/8	4.4%

As you can see, polling showed Cordray with a modest lead, including two polls giving him an advantage outside of the margin of error (Gravis and Suffolk). DeWine's 4.3% win bucked this trend and we could see a similar result in Tuesday's contest. That being said, there is significantly more polling data available in 2026 compared to 2018, and Republicans are facing greater headwinds due to voter dissatisfaction with the Trump Administration, high gas prices, and generally lower favorability for Ramaswamy (compared to DeWine). Basically, polling and prediction markets indicate that Dr. Acton will be Ohio's next Governor, but recent history suggests Ramaswamy will pull out a narrow victory.

Statewide Offices

Currently, all statewide offices are held by Republicans, and term limits are creating a game of political musical chairs. Historically, statewide contests typically follow the results of the Gubernatorial race, though there is often a significant amount of undervoting in these races, especially among Democratic voters. Public polling is sporadic in these races and candidates typically do not have strong name ID among likely voters. The challenge for down-ticket candidates is their success can be impacted by underperformance at the top of the ticket; additionally, these candidates often are second-in-line for fundraising, ad buys, and other essential campaign activities. Republicans should be relatively successful in these races, though a strong Democratic performance by Acton and Brown could carry some other candidates over the finish line.

Oho Attorney General
State Auditor and former Ohio Senate President Keith Faber (R) is running against former Upper Arlington City Councilman John Kulewicz in a race to succeed interim Attorney General Andy Wilson, who was appointed by DeWine after Dave Yost (R) resigned (at one point, Yost had considered a run for Governor but was discouraged after the Ohio Republican Party endorsed Ramasawmy). Faber ran unopposed in his primary while Kulewicz jumped in to ensure former State Representative Elliot Forhan did not receive the nomination following a series of controversial statements.

Secretary of State
State Treasurer Robert Sprague (R) faces a challenge from State Representative and former Ohio House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) in a race to be the state's chief elections officer (among other roles). Sprague had originally announced a run for Governor, but dropped out after Ramaswamy entered the contest and instead targeted the Secretary of State. Russo enjoys the most notoriety of all the down-ticket statewide candidates, though Republican voters are especially motivated by election integrity issues and therefore will be paying close attention to this race.

Auditor of State
Current Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) is running against Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell (D) in a lackluster race for a largely administrative post. The State Auditor oversees audits of public entities and local governments, though the office has historically been a launchpad for future State Attorney Generals (Petro, Montgomery, Yost, and potentially Faber). Interestingly, neither candidate is an attorney and therefore could not seek the office of AG in the future.

Treasurer of State
Former State Representative Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) and Cincinnati City Councilman Seth Walsh (D) face off for the final down-ticket statewide race. Edwards emerged from a surprisingly high-profile and competitive primary where he bested State Senator Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and former State Senator Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg). Vice President J.D. Vance endorsed Edwards in the contest while Ramaswamy and other Ohio Republicans backed Roegner. Edwards also has some connection to the HB 6 scandal as he was a close political ally of former Republican House Speaker Larry Householder. While the Treasurer of state is largely administrative, both Edwards and Walsh could be candidates for higher office in the future given their youth.

Ohio Supreme Court

Prior to the 2024 election cycle, races for Ohio's Supreme Court were nonpartisan (though both parties routinely endorsed candidates). Since the Ohio General Assembly enacted legislation to add party affiliation to these races, Republicans have steadily defeated Democratic Justices. That change was made following a series of Ohio Supreme Court decisions overturning Republican-drawn State Legislative Maps in 2021 and 2022 which saw former Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor buck her own party and side with Democrats. Currently, the Ohio Supreme Court has six Republican justices, with Justice Jennifer Brunner as the lone Democratic Justice remaining (at one point, the court had three endorsed Democrats). Brunner and Justice Dan Hawkins (R) are up for reelection this cycle, though this race is typically undervoted to the detriment of Democratic candidates. Brunner faces former Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Colleen O'Donnell and, given recent trends, Brunner faces an uphill battle to retain her seat. Hawkins faces Appellate Judge Marilyn Zayas and is expected to win reelection. Terms for the Ohio Supreme Court are six years and there are no term limits; instead, Justices face an age limit and are ineligible to run for reelection once they reach age 70.

Issue 3 – Voter ID Constitutional Amendment

In June, Ohio Lawmakers passed Senate Joint Resolution 10, which was sponsored by State Senators Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) and Jane Timken (R-Canton). The resolution places a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot to codify Ohio's current voter ID requirements into the state constitution. Formally listed as Issue 3, Ohio voters will decide on this issue along with a myriad of local options, levies, and

other ballot items. Issue 3 would not alter current law as it relates to voter ID, which was enacted in through House Bill 458 (134th General Assembly) and effective since the 2023 election. It would however raise the threshold for future changes to voter ID requirements as the Ohio Constitution would need to be amended again to revise or repeal this mandate. Given the continuing focus on election security and fraud by the Trump Administration and Republican voter support over voter ID, Issue 3 is likely more of a 'get-out-the-vote' tool than a meaningful change in state policy. While the issue received significant attention over the summer, very little has been done by either party to promote Issue 3 since Labor Day. This largely reflects changing Republican voter priorities and higher frustration with gas prices, affordability, Medicaid fraud, and immigration.

Ohio General Assembly

Ohio Senate
17 of the 33 State Senate seats are up for reelection this cycle and the current partisan split for the upper chamber is 24R – 9D. Republicans will keep their 3/5 supermajority, however there could be a net loss of one or two seats. With Senate President Robert McColley term-limited, State Senator Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) has already secured enough votes in caucus to succeed him as President next year. The Ohio Senate is tasked with confirming gubernatorial appointments for key cabinet posts as well as executive boards and commissions; this could give Reineke significant leverage if Acton prevails in the Gubernatorial contest. State Senators serve 4-year terms and are limited to 2 terms (8 years).

- 3rd Senate District: State Senator Michele Reynolds (R-Canal Winchester) faces a challenge from Reynoldsburg City Councilmember Stacie Baker in this R+7 district. The 3rd District covers southern Franklin County and all of Madison and Pickaway Counties. She should win reelection, though the race could be far closer than her 2022 win over former State Senator Tina Maharath (D-Columbus).

- 13th Senate District: With State Senator Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) facing term limits, he originally planned to seek the House seat currently held by his mother, State Representative Gayle Manning (R-Avon). However, Senator Manning was appointed to the 9th State Appellate Court by Governor DeWine, and the seat is currently vacant. State Representative Gayle Manning (R-Avon) and State Representative Joe Miller (D-Amherst) are vying the 13th District, which covers all of Lorain County and most of neighboring Huron County. While Miller enjoys strong name ID, the Manning family has successfully held office in Lorain County for nearly two decades and the seat has an R+7 index.

- 27th Senate District: This is the best chance for Democrats to flip an open Senate seat as State Senator Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) is term-limited. State Representative Steve Demetriou (R-Chagrin Falls) is running against retired educator Mike Roberto. The race covers portions of Geauga and Summit County along with all of Portage County and has an R+2 index. For Democrats, the key to this race will be tightening the margins in Portage County and driving turnout in portions of Summit County within the 27th District.

- 29th Senate District: State Senator Jane Timken (R-Canton) faces a challenge from former State Representative and Canton City Councilman Thomas West (D-Canton) in this Stark County district. Timken was appointed to replace legendary State Senator Kirk Schuring (R-North Canton), who passed away in November 2024. Timken is part of the influential Canton-area family that owns Timken Steel and previously served as Chairwoman of the Ohio Republican Party during the first Trump Administration. She previously ran for U.S. Senate, though failed to win in successive Senate Primaries against J.D. Vance and Bernie Moreno. West served 4 terms in the Ohio House and also ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Canton; he is a member of Canton City Council and hosts a popular radio show in Stark County. While the district has an R+12 index, it could be a pickup for Democrats as Timken hasn't previously appeared as a local candidate, West enjoys strong name ID, and Democrats are expected to flip one of the House seats encompassed in this Senate seat (49th District).

Ohio House of Representatives

It could be a complicated political climate for House Speaker Matt Huffman (R-Lima) after Tuesday night as Democrats have the chance to break the Republican supermajority. Currently, the Ohio House is split 65R – 34D, which means a net gain of 6 seats by Democrats would take Republicans below a 3/5 majority. This is especially notable if the Governor is a Democrat as the Ohio House could not override gubernatorial vetoes. Even if Huffman and Republicans can hold onto 60 seats, Speaker Huffman will still face issues controlling a Majority Caucus that includes former House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) and State Representative Ron Ferguson (R-Wintersville). Huffman recruited unsuccessful primary challengers against both of these members, and Stephens did enjoy support from the Democratic Caucus when he won the Speakership in 2022 (he would be defeated by Huffman in 2024). State Representatives are elected to two year terms with a 4-term limit.

- 17th House District: State Representative Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) faces a reelection challenge from Democrat and Olmsted Councilmember Megan Coy in this Cleveland-area seat. While the index is R+4, the 17th Ohio House District falls within key portions of the 7th Congressional District and Republicans are worried that controversy surrounding Congressman Max Miller and potential Democrat flip could also sink Rep. Dovilla. That being said, Dovilla did outperform Trump in this district in 2024 and previously served in the Ohio House of Representatives from to 2016 (he would lose a primary for Ohio Senate to former Republican State Senator Matt Dolan).

- 31st House District: Political newcomers Mike Kahoe (R) and Noah Spinner (D) are running to succeed term-limited State Representative Bill Roemer (R-Richfield) in this Akron-area seat. The district has a modest D+2 index and Democrats are likely to flip the seat, which falls under the 27th Senate District (Demetriou v. Roberto), another prime pickup opportunity for Democrats.

- 35th House District: With State Representative Steve Demetriou (R-Chagrin Falls) running for Ohio Senate, this is an open seat and pickup opportunity for Democrats. Samantha Salamon (D) and Vik Sandhu (R-Twinsburg) are facing off in another 0% index seat. This seat covers portions of Portage, Geauga, and Summit County.

- 36th House District: State Representative Andrea White (R-Kettering) faces a rematch against Democrat Rose Lounsbury in this Dayton area seat. While the index is D+2 and was carried by Kamala Harris in 2024, White defeated Lounsbury by 4% in her last reelection. Both Acton and Brown need to carry Montgomery County (ideally by 10 points) in order to win their respective contests; if this occurs, White could be a loss for Republicans.

- 49th House District: State Representative Jim Thomas (R-Canton) faces a tough reelection rematch from Democrat Krista Allison, who lost to Thomas by 4 points in 2024. The district has a 0% index, though Thomas did flip the seat in 2022 by defeating former State Representative Thomas West (D-Canton), who is now challenging State Senator Jane Timken (R-Canton).

- 52nd House District: With State Representative Gayle Manning (R-Avon) running for Ohio Senate due to term limits, and former State Senator Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) no longer running due to his appoint to the 9th State Appellate Court, Republicans had to scramble to find a candidate to run against first-time candidate Mike Baker (D). North Ridgeville City Councilman Cliff Winkel ultimately jumped in, however the index is 0% and Democrats should be able to flip this seat.

- 60th House District: Incumbent State Representative Brian Lorenz (R-Powell) faces a tough reelection fight in this Delaware County District with an R+2 index. Army Veteran Shelby Kimball is the Democratic nominee to flip this seat; while Delaware County has trended more Democratic in recent election cycles, it would be a notable result if Lorenz loses his reelection bid.