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Ohio General Election Results and Recap

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It was a monumental night for Ohio Democrats as they enjoyed their biggest electoral success in 20 years. Democrats swept all but one statewide office, flipped multiple Congressional seats, and broke the GOP supermajority in the Ohio House of Representatives. This recap is based on reported votes to the Ohio Secretary of State's office as of 9:00am on Wednesday, November 4th.

Ohio Congressional Races

Even without their dominant performance in Ohio, Democrats were on track to secure majorities in both chambers of Congress. U.S. Senator Jon Husted (R), who was appointed to replace J.D. Vance in January 2025, lost his special election last night to former U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D). Brown received 2,301,042 votes (50.01%) to Husted's 2,077,748 votes (45.15%)—

Polling Firm / Source	Brown (D)	Husted (R)	Dates
Election Result	*50%*	*45%*	*11/3*
Trafalgar Group	47%	45%	10/31 – 11/1
Atlas Intel	51%	44%	10/28 – 11/1
NY Times / Sienna	49%	44%	10/26 – 11/1
InsiderAdvantage	49%	47%	10/29 – 10/30
YouGov	50%	48%	10/26 – 10/29

Additionally, a GOP SuperPAC funding nearly $2 million in mailers in Ohio promoting Socialist Candidate Greg Levy in an attempt to syphon votes from Brown; this maneuver had little impact as Levy received less than 100,000 votes. Since this was a special election, Brown will be sworn in next week and Democrats will need to defend this seat in 2028. There is speculation that Brown might not run for a full term in two years; he will be 76 years old and may opt to allow a younger candidate to jump in.

Despite the fact that Republicans have controlled the redistricting process for the past 25 years, Democrats were able to flip three Congressional seats and protect longtime Democratic Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur in the 9th District. In the 9th District, Kaptur leads Merrin 52.7% to 47.3%; a much more comfortable margin than their first matchup and a significant overperformance based on the district's partisan index. Key flipped seats are as follows—

District (Region)	Republican Incumbent	Democratic Challenger	Margin
7th District (NE Ohio, Cleveland area)	Max Miller	Brian Poindexter	D+10%
10th District (SW Ohio, Dayton area)	Mike Carey	Kristina Knickerbocker	D+2%
15th District (Central and Western Ohio)	Mike Turner	Don Leonard	D+7%

Heading into election night, Ohio's Congressional delegation was split 10R – 5D; the margin now stands at 8D – 7R, which is a stunning shift given that the current Congressional map was drawn my Republicans to produce a 12R – 3D outcome. Democrats have not held a majority of U.S. House seats in Ohio in decades. The most surprising result is Congressman Mike Turner's defeat in the 10th district. Turner was first elected in 2002 after serving as Mayor of Dayton for a decade; he was a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and former Chairman of the Intelligence Committee who was pivotal in bringing appropriations and defense projects to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Given Turner's defeat and other results in key statehouse races, Montgomery County appears to have undergone a seismic shift in its political makeup.

Statewide Contests

Former Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD (D) made history and secured a relatively comfortable win in an expensive and contentious race for Ohio Governor. She defeated Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy (R) by a margin of 52.31% to 44.38% and secured more votes (2,404,178) than any other statewide Republican candidate. While this result mirrors some recent polling, a D+7% outcome in a statewide race is stunning given President Trump carried Ohio by 11 points in 2024 (an 18% swing).

Polling Firm / Source	Acton (D)	Ramaswamy (R)	Dates
Election Result	*52%*	*44%*	*11/3*
Atlas Intel	52%	44%	10/28 – 11/1
NYTimes / Sienna	49%	43%	10/26 – 11/1
Insider/Advantage	49%	46%	10/29-10/30
YouGov	53%	46%	10/26 – 10/29
Suffolk University	48%	44%	10/21 – 10/26

Acton made history my becoming the first woman to be elected Governor in Ohio (former Lt. Governor Nancy Hollister is technically the first female Governor in Ohio history, having served as Governor for 11 days after former Governor George Voinovich was elected to the U.S. Senate). Early in the Primary process, Republicans were criticized for pushing Husted and former Ohio AG Dave Yost out of the race and clearing the field for Ramaswamy; however, it does not appear likely that the outcome would have been much different if Republicans had nominated a different candidate.

Democrats also swept most statewide offices; however, the margins are much closer. Based on a quick analysis of vote totals, it would appear that a significant portion of voters (at least 100,000) who voted a straight Republican ticket for Governor, signaling a higher level of opposition to Vivek Ramaswamy than down ticket Republicans. Despite that trend, Republicans lost all statewide offices except for Auditor of State, where current Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) holds a narrow lead; ironically, this mirrors that last Democratic statewide sweep in 2006, where former State Auditor Mary Taylor (R) was the lone Republican to win statewide.

Statewide Office	Republican	Democrat	Result
Ohio Attorney General	Keith Faber	John Kulewicz	D+>1%
Auditor of State	Frank LaRose	Annette Blackwwell	R+1%
Secretary of State	Robert Sprague	Allison Russo	D+3%
Treasurer of State	Jay Edwards	Seth Walsh	D+1%
Supreme Court Justice	Colleen O'Donnell	Jennifer Brunner	D+3%
Supreme Court Justice	Daniel Hawkins	Marilyn Zayas	D+2%

Democratic AG Candidate John Kulewicz leads State Auditor Keith Faber (R) by 28,407 votes as of 7:30am the morning after the election. It is unlikely that Faber will pick up enough provisional and overseas ballots to overcome that gap (currently there are approximately 102,148 outstanding ballots to count), however we will continue to watch this race. Turning to the Ohio Supreme Court, Democrats defending their lone seat (Brunner) and added a seat (Zayas), taking the majority on the court to 5R – 2D. Lastly, Issue 3 (Voter ID Constitutional Amendment) passed by a wide margin: 65.3% to 34.7%.

Ohio General Assembly

Democrats made modest gains in the Ohio Senate but enjoyed significant wins in the Ohio House of Representatives. For now, Democrats have flipped two Senate seats and currently have gained 9 House seats—

House/Senate District	GOP Incumbent	Republican	Democrat	Margin
3rd Senate District	Michele Reynolds	Michele Reynolds	Stacie Baker	D+3%
27th Senate District	Kristina Roegner	Steve Demetriou	Mike Roberto	D+7%
17th House District	Mike Dovilla	Mike Dovilla	Megan Coy	D+5%
31st House District	Bill Roemer	Mike Kahoe	Noah Spinner	D+14%
35th House District	Steve Demetriou	Vik Sandhu	Samantha Salamon	D+11%
36th House District	Andrea White	Andrea White	Rose Lounsbury	D+13%
37th House District	Tom Young	Tom Young	Tom Herner	D+>1%
39th House District	Phil Plummer	Mark Campbell	Daquan Neal	D+3%
49th House District	Jim Thomas	Jim Thomas	Krista Allison	D+10%
52nd House District	Gayle Manning	Cliff Winkel	Mike Baker	D+10%
60th House District	Brian Lorenz	Brian Lorenz	Shelby Kimball	D+4%

Ohio Senate Republicans had a quiet night as both the 3rd and 27th Districts were expected to flip; State Representative Gail Manning (R-Avon) did win her race for the open 13th Senate District, defeating State Representative Joe Mller (R-Amherst) by 50.7% to 49.3%. Incoming Senate President Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) will preside over a 22R – 11D majority in the 137th General Assembly. There are also three House races with a Republican incumbent that are too close to call and likely heading to a recount; in each race, Republicans hold a narrow lead though provisional and other outstanding ballots will likely favor Democrats—

House District	GOP Incumbent	Republican	Democrat	Vote Margin
29th District	Cindy Abrams	Cindy Abrams	Jonathan Bradner	19 votes
44th District	Josh Williams	Ed Schimmel	David Fournier	56 votes
75th District	Haraz Ghanbari	Haraz Ghanbari	Richard Rettig	126 votes

This gives Democrats a potential pickup of 12 seats, which could take the margin in the Ohio House of Representatives from 65R – 34D to 53R – 46D. Democrats also narrowly missed flipping two seats: House District 68 (Rep. Thad Claggett) and House District 72 (Rep. Heidi Workman). Lastly, Democrats likely missed a prime pickup opportunity in the 64th District, where State Representative Nick Santucci (R-Niles) ran unopposed. Governor-elect Acton carried Trumbull County by 7%, and this race likely would've been a Democratic pickup. The most important takeaway from Statehouse races is, regardless of potential recounts, Democrats have already secured enough wins to eliminate the Republican supermajority in the Ohio House of Representatives. This will make it impossible for Republicans to override Gubernatorial vetoes.

More pressingly, these outcomes could create challenges for House Speaker Matt Huffman (R-Lima) to maintain control in the 137th General Assembly. Assuming Democrats pick up 10 seats, they would then have 44 seats and need only 7 Republican votes to elect a new Speaker. Huffman came to power after defeating former House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill), who is still in the House Majority Caucus. Stephens notably won his Speakership without securing a majority of votes from his own caucus and instead relying on support from the Democratic Caucus. While many of the 'Blue 22' House Republicans who backed Stephens have departed, there are still a handful who could help unseat Huffman. This effort could be further bolstered by other disgruntled House Republicans who blame Tuesday's defeats on Huffman and his political team. House Minority Leader Dani Isaacsohn (D-Cincinnati) would likely embrace any effort to gain additional influence in the Ohio House of Representatives.