
THE OHIO POLL*

FOR RELEASE

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LIKELY VOTERS GIVE STRICKLAND NARROW EDGE OVER KASICH; FISHER AND PORTMAN ALSO CLOSE

Cincinnati, OH--The latest Ohio Poll finds close races for Ohio governor and United States Senate among likely voters. The Poll also finds President Obama's overall approval rating is now lower among Ohio adults than last fall, while Governor Strickland's overall approval rating is higher.

These findings are based on the latest Ohio Poll, conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati between May 11 and 20, 2010.

On the heels of a recent report showing one in four American households do not have a landline telephone, the Ohio Poll has announced a change in the telephone survey methodology that has been employed since 1981. *Beginning with this Ohio Poll, all Ohio Polls will include interviews with both landline telephone and cellular phone users.*

2010 OHIO GUBERNATORIAL RACE: STRICKLAND 49% - KASICH 44%

The May 2010 Ohio Poll finds Governor Ted Strickland (D) will begin the summer months of the 2010 campaign with a narrow edge over former U.S. Rep. John Kasich (R). Forty-nine percent of Ohio likely voters say they will vote for Strickland for governor, 44 percent say they will vote for Kasich and an additional seven percent are undecided or intend to vote for another candidate on the ballot.

Many observers are keeping a close eye on the political activities of those who identify with the "Tea Party" movement. The majority (54%) of voters say they neither support nor oppose the Tea Party movement. Tea Party supporters, who currently make up 29 percent of likely voters, express voting preferences similar to those of Republican voters. Both groups currently stand solidly behind Kasich. Self-identified Tea Party opponents, who make up about 18 percent of likely voters, express voting preferences similar to those of Democratic voters – and stand solidly behind Strickland.

2010 OHIO U.S. SENATE RACE: FISHER 47% - PORTMAN 46%

The Poll also finds the race for U.S. Senate enters the summer in a virtual tie: Forty-seven percent of Ohio likely voters say they will vote for Lt. Governor Lee Fisher (D) for U.S. Senate, 46 percent say they will vote for former U.S. Rep. Rob Portman (R) and an additional seven percent are undecided or intend to vote for another candidate on the ballot.

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In a pattern similar to the gubernatorial race, while Democrats and self-identified Tea Party opponents stand solidly behind Fisher, Republicans and Tea Party supporters currently stand solidly behind Portman.

2010 OHIO ELECTIONS: EARLY SUMMARY

This Poll suggests that there could be many different stories to tell about the electorate before and after Election Day arrives this November. Will Independent voters once again be the key to who wins and who loses these close races? How will turnout among Tea Party supporters or opponents impact these races? Will we see a gender gap in this year's contests? Will political ideology play a role? How will the economy factor into voter decisions?

These results provide only a snapshot of very early impressions likely voters have of candidates for governor and U.S. Senate. The dynamics of these races may change as voters learn more about the candidates, their respective campaign messages and issue positions. The Ohio Poll will continue to monitor developments in these races through the remainder of the 2010 election season.

PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL APPROVAL AMONG OHIO ADULTS

The latest Ohio Poll also asked Ohio adults, including both those likely to vote and those unlikely to vote in this year's elections, their opinions of the performances of President Barack Obama and Governor Ted Strickland.

OBAMA APPROVAL RATING FALLS TO 46 PERCENT

President Obama has now seen his approval ratings drop in each of the Ohio Polls conducted since he assumed the presidency. President Obama's approval rating among Ohioans is now 46 percent. An additional 49 percent disapprove of Obama's performance and five percent neither approve nor disapprove.

The president's approval rating is now 17 percentage points lower than his initial approval rating in April 2009 (63%).

As was the case in October 2009, more Ohioans disapprove (51%) than approve (44%) of Obama's handling of the economy.

STRICKLAND APPROVAL RATING RISES TO 55 PERCENT

The latest Ohio Poll finds Governor Strickland's approval rating among Ohioans has improved since October 2009. Strickland's current approval rating stands at 55 percent. An additional 35 percent disapprove of the governor's performance and 10 percent neither approve nor disapprove.

The governor's overall approval rating is seven percentage points higher than in the October 2009 Ohio Poll.

More Ohioans also now approve of Strickland's handling of the economy than was the case last fall. At the present time, 46 percent of Ohioans approve of his handling of the economy, while 46 percent disapprove and an additional 8 percent neither approve nor disapprove.

The percentage of Ohio adults approving of the governor's handling of the economy is five points higher than in the October 2009 Ohio Poll.

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 between May 11 and May 20, 2010. The Ohio Poll includes interviews with both landline telephone users and those who rely solely on a cell phone for telephone service.

FOR QUESTIONS ASKED OF OHIO LIKELY VOTERS: A random sample of 668 likely voters from throughout the state was interviewed by landline and cellular telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.8 percent.

FOR QUESTIONS ASKED OF OHIO ADULTS: A random sample of 898 adults from throughout the state was interviewed by landline and cellular telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.3 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.

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

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

Respondents to the Ohio Poll were asked:

- “Suppose the election for governor was being held today and the candidates were: Ted Strickland, the Democrat, and John Kasich, the Republican. Which would you vote for?”
- “Suppose the election for U.S. Senate was being held today and the candidates were: Lee Fisher, the Democrat, and Rob Portman, the Republican. Which would you vote for?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling his job as president?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the economy?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Strickland is handling his job as governor?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Strickland is handling Ohio’s economy?”
- “Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, an opponent of the Tea Party movement, or neither?”

2010 Ohio Gubernatorial Election (Likely Voters)

	May 2010
Ted Strickland (D)	49%
John Kasich (R)	44
Other	1
Undecided	6
(N=)	(621)

2010 Ohio U.S. Senate Election (Likely Voters)

	May 2010
Lee Fisher (D)	47%
Rob Portman (R)	46
Other	1
Undecided	6
(N=)	(613)

Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement (Likely Voters)

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	Neither/ Support Nor <u>Oppose</u>	
May 2010 (Latest)	29%	18%	54%	(N=641)

President Obama -- Overall Job Approval (Ohio Adults)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	Neither/ <u>Don't Know</u>	
May 2010 (Latest)	46%	49%	5%	(N=890)
October 2009	52	45	3	(N=799)
April 2009	63	32	4	(N=815)

President Obama -- Approval Handling the Economy (Ohio Adults)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	Neither/ <u>Don't Know</u>	
May 2010 (Latest)	44%	51%	4%	(N=891)
October 2009	45	53	2	(N=805)
April 2009	56	42	2	(N=816)

Governor Strickland -- Overall Job Approval (Ohio Adults)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2010 (Latest)	55%	35%	10%	(N=893)
October 2009	48	37	15	(N=795)
April 2009	56	34	10	(N=803)
May 2008	61	25	14	(N=1303)
April 2008	64	24	12	(N=802)
May 2007	68	16	16	(N=799)

Governor Strickland -- Approval Handling the Economy (Ohio Adults)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2010 (Latest)	46%	46%	8%	(N=894)
October 2009	41	49	10	(N=798)
April 2009	48	45	6	(N=808)
May 2008	51	38	11	(N=1299)
April 2008	50	41	9	(N=799)

2010 Ohio Gubernatorial Election -- Strickland v. Kasich (Likely Voters)

		Strickland	Kasich	Other	Don't Know
Ohio Likely Voters		49%	44%	1%	6%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	62%	37%		2%
	30 to 45	44%	46%	1%	9%
	46 to 64	47%	46%	3%	5%
	65 and over	53%	42%	0%	4%
Race	African-American*	95%	5%		0%
	White	44%	48%	2%	7%
Sex	Male	47%	44%	2%	7%
	Female	51%	44%	1%	5%
Education	Less than high school*	63%	24%	6%	7%
	High school graduate	53%	41%	1%	4%
	Some college	47%	45%	1%	8%
	College graduate	38%	57%	1%	4%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	48%	44%	0%	8%
	Northwest Ohio*	56%	38%	2%	4%
	Central Ohio	41%	51%	7%	1%
	Southeast Ohio*	57%	35%	1%	7%
	Southwest Ohio	50%	44%	0%	6%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	88%	7%	2%	4%
	Independent*	44%	30%	5%	20%
	Republican	14%	82%	0%	4%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	10%	85%	3%	2%
	Oppose	84%	11%	2%	3%
	Neither	59%	34%	1%	7%
Ideology	Liberal	86%	10%		4%
	Moderate	56%	33%	3%	8%
	Conservative	29%	69%	0%	2%

Ohio Poll #121, May 2010
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

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

2010 Ohio U.S. Senate Election -- Fisher v. Portman (Likely Voters)

		Fisher	Portman	Other	Don't Know
Ohio Likely Voters		47%	46%	1%	6%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	54%	46%		
	30 to 45	43%	49%		7%
	46 to 64	46%	47%	3%	4%
	65 and over	51%	41%	0%	8%
Race	African-American*	95%	4%		1%
	White	42%	50%	1%	6%
Sex	Male	43%	48%	2%	7%
	Female	51%	45%	0%	5%
Education	Less than high school*	56%	24%	7%	13%
	High school graduate	51%	46%		3%
	Some college	47%	48%	0%	5%
	College graduate	38%	55%	1%	6%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	47%	44%		9%
	Northwest Ohio*	56%	40%	2%	3%
	Central Ohio	48%	44%	5%	3%
	Southeast Ohio*	52%	45%	1%	3%
	Southwest Ohio	41%	55%	0%	3%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	87%	8%	2%	3%
	Independent*	35%	44%	0%	20%
	Republican	10%	84%	1%	5%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	12%	82%	3%	4%
	Oppose	85%	12%		3%
	Neither	53%	40%	0%	6%
Ideology	Liberal	91%	8%		2%
	Moderate	53%	39%	2%	6%
	Conservative	24%	70%	1%	6%

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President Obama -- Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		46%	49%	5%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	45%	44%	12%
	30 to 45	43%	53%	4%
	46 to 64	49%	49%	2%
	65 and over	51%	48%	0%
Race	African-American	95%	5%	
	White	42%	52%	6%
Sex	Male	44%	51%	5%
	Female	48%	47%	5%
Education	Less than high school	42%	50%	8%
	High school graduate	54%	42%	4%
	Some college	41%	56%	3%
	College graduate	45%	50%	5%
Registered to Vote	Yes	49%	48%	4%
	No	36%	55%	9%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	43%	50%	7%
	Northwest Ohio	44%	54%	2%
	Central Ohio	42%	49%	9%
	Southeast Ohio*	46%	53%	1%
	Southwest Ohio	55%	43%	2%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	75%	22%	3%
	Independent	46%	49%	6%
	Republican	19%	79%	2%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	11%	89%	0%
	Oppose	90%	9%	1%
	Neither	50%	44%	6%
Ideology	Liberal	80%	19%	0%
	Moderate	55%	42%	2%
	Conservative	29%	68%	3%

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President Obama -- Approval Handling the Economy

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		44%	51%	4%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	38%	51%	11%
	30 to 45	43%	52%	5%
	46 to 64	45%	54%	1%
	65 and over	53%	47%	1%
Race	African-American	90%	8%	2%
	White	40%	55%	5%
Sex	Male	42%	54%	4%
	Female	46%	49%	5%
Education	Less than high school	34%	57%	8%
	High school graduate	53%	44%	3%
	Some college	39%	58%	2%
	College graduate	45%	50%	5%
Registered to Vote	Yes	47%	49%	3%
	No	30%	60%	10%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	42%	51%	7%
	Northwest Ohio	45%	55%	0%
	Central Ohio	44%	47%	8%
	Southeast Ohio*	39%	61%	
	Southwest Ohio	49%	50%	1%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	71%	25%	4%
	Independent	40%	57%	3%
	Republican	20%	79%	1%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	10%	89%	1%
	Oppose	85%	12%	3%
	Neither	47%	48%	5%
Ideology	Liberal	72%	27%	1%
	Moderate	53%	45%	3%
	Conservative	28%	70%	2%

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Governor Strickland -- Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		55%	35%	10%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	64%	20%	16%
	30 to 45	52%	36%	12%
	46 to 64	49%	46%	5%
	65 and over	60%	33%	7%
Race	African-American	77%	20%	3%
	White	52%	37%	11%
Sex	Male	57%	36%	8%
	Female	54%	34%	12%
Education	Less than high school	63%	28%	9%
	High school graduate	59%	30%	11%
	Some college	52%	37%	11%
	College graduate	46%	47%	7%
Registered to Vote	Yes	54%	38%	8%
	No	61%	22%	17%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	54%	34%	13%
	Northwest Ohio	66%	25%	9%
	Central Ohio	50%	39%	11%
	Southeast Ohio*	50%	43%	7%
	Southwest Ohio	57%	37%	5%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	69%	25%	5%
	Independent	64%	25%	11%
	Republican	40%	50%	10%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	26%	65%	8%
	Oppose	77%	17%	6%
	Neither	61%	29%	10%
Ideology	Liberal	67%	26%	7%
	Moderate	59%	32%	9%
	Conservative	51%	41%	8%

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Governor Strickland -- Approval Handling the Economy

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		46%	46%	8%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	55%	33%	12%
	30 to 45	42%	47%	10%
	46 to 64	38%	59%	3%
	65 and over	52%	39%	8%
Race	African-American	54%	43%	3%
	White	44%	48%	9%
Sex	Male	50%	44%	6%
	Female	42%	48%	10%
Education	Less than high school	50%	40%	10%
	High school graduate	48%	43%	9%
	Some college	43%	49%	8%
	College graduate	43%	51%	6%
Registered to Vote	Yes	46%	48%	7%
	No	46%	38%	16%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	43%	44%	12%
	Northwest Ohio	64%	36%	
	Central Ohio	35%	52%	13%
	Southeast Ohio*	46%	48%	6%
	Southwest Ohio	47%	50%	3%
Partisan Identification	Democrat	62%	33%	6%
	Independent	43%	48%	9%
	Republican	33%	62%	6%
Support/Oppose Tea Party Movement	Support	18%	77%	5%
	Oppose	71%	24%	4%
	Neither	50%	41%	9%
Ideology	Liberal	62%	34%	4%
	Moderate	50%	42%	9%
	Conservative	40%	55%	5%

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