



DECISION
2006

Election Report

Overnight Report

Ohioans change course

Ohio voters on Tuesday fled from the Republican Party, electing Democrats to positions of power in a state where politics has long been controlled by the GOP.

Just two years ago, President Bush was reelected because he carried politically moderate Ohio.

But on Tuesday, Buckeye State voters - faced with Ohio's flat economy, an Iraq war that is dragging on and a long list of Republican woes in Columbus and Washington - redeemed their red state credentials and voted blue:

- Democrats won the governor's seat and the secretary of state's office for the first time since 1990.

- Sherrod Brown became Ohio's first Democratic U.S. senator since John Glenn retired in 1999.

- Ohio Democrats gained a U.S. House seat that had been held by the GOP.

- Republicans maintained a majority in the Ohio Legislature, but the margin of that majority was reduced, particularly in the House of Representatives.

- Democrats won the Ohio attorney general's office for the first time since 1994.

A bright spot for Ohio Republicans was Mary Taylor, who was elected state auditor on a difficult day for the GOP.

Ohio politics is about to change, at least to a degree. Republicans are still firmly entrenched -- they continue to control the state Legislature, they have more members in Ohio's U.S. congressional delegation, they control the Ohio Supreme Court and one of two U.S. senators is a Republican.

But substantial Democratic victories Tuesday may give pause to an Ohio business community that has become accustomed to dealing with a Republican-dominated Statehouse that has housed a GOP governor for the past 16 years.

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Strickland

Fisher

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VOTERS APPROVE WAGE HIKE

Ohio voters approved increasing the state's minimum hourly wage, boosting it from \$5.15 to \$6.85.

The higher wage - supported by labor unions - passed despite an organized attempt to defeat it. The measure was opposed by such groups as the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE), the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, The Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio Manufacturers' Association.

Opponents focused not upon the wage increase, but rather that the initiative took the form of a constitutional amendment, an automatic inflation factor and infringed upon privacy rights of employees and business owners.

See WAGE HIKE p. 2



Democrats poised to control U.S. House, Senate

Senate hinges on Virginia



Brown

Across the nation, the protest vote against George Bush, the Iraq war and the sluggish economy proved insurmountable for Republicans. The Democrats won control of the U.S. House and could be headed for a Senate majority.

However, the race to determine the final Senate results will likely have the nation hanging for weeks. The contest for the Virginia Senate seat between Republican incumbent

George Allen and Democratic challenger James Webb has Webb slightly ahead in what will likely result in a recount after absentee ballots are tabulated.

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CBS news projected Democrat Joe Tester the winner in a razor tight Montana race against incumbent Conrad Burns (R) at approximately 1 p.m. today. As it stands, with Montana in hand, Democrats have a slight advantage over the Republicans in the Senate. The Democrats need Virginia to take the Senate -- and control of both chambers -- and they are poised to do so.

If the Senate ultimately shifts political power, Tuesday's election marks the first time since 1994 that Americans voted as dramatically for change. In that year, the nation gave the

See DEMOCRATS p. 4





WAGE HIKE from p. 1

While the Ohio General Assembly increased the state's minimum wage to match the federal minimum earlier this year, the proponents were still frustrated by the state's failure to raise it to the amount they thought appropriate and thus circulated petitions to get the measure on the ballot as a constitutional amendment.

As COSE Chairman Lou Licata reported, "Issue 2 would cause a massive reporting burden on small business owners. Recently, *Money Magazine* named Ohio the 38th worst state for small business. The burden created by Issue 2 will add to the already unfriendly small business environment in Ohio -- not to mention that amending the constitution should be a cautious decision not used as a reaction by a special interest group."

Employers are required to maintain and make available employee records for three years including name, address, occupation, number of hours worked and amount paid over that time.

There is dispute over who, other than the employee and employer, would have access to those records. COSE and Ohioans to Protect Personal Privacy, a group formed to oppose the measure, argued that the ballot language suggests groups such as unions trying to organize a workplace could access such records.

Proponents of the measure disagree.

Peter Swire, a law professor specializing in privacy issues at The Ohio State University, said the amendment creates no privacy problems. Swire said that the language in the measure simply allows people who have permission from an employee to gather that employee's information from the employer.

The new hourly wage takes effect Jan. 1, 2007. However, Ohio can expect to see the constitutionality of this amendment challenged even before then.

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Recent years have brought changes that the business community certainly welcomed, including the elimination of the tangible personal property tax, tort reform (with caps placed on damages), and reforms in workers compensation.

How will life change for an Ohio business community that will be forced to work with Democrats in Columbus for the first time in many years?

"There will be obvious anxieties," said a Republican who was a cabinet member for a former Ohio governor. That former cabinet member also said that if improvements are going to happen in Ohio, there will have to be a continuing partnership between business and state leaders.

Business will almost certainly continue to have a seat at the table in the Statehouse, though others who are a part of the Democrats' constituency - such as organized labor - might also be at that same table.

How did Ohio's mood swing so sharply away from the Republicans in just two years? It's a seemingly simple question that is not easily answered.

Some Ohio Republicans believe the GOP's troubles at the polls on Tuesday stemmed from problems that have been simmering for some time and, in some instances, even before Bush won the state in 2004.

"The dynamics were set for this race way in advance," said a veteran Cleveland political observer.

At the federal level, Iraq and its uncertainties have arguably become a millstone for many incumbent Republicans.

Perhaps of more importance to Ohio voters is the state's sputtering economy, which has had to absorb the loss of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the past five years.

The jobless rate in Ohio is higher than the nation's. And as business and government leaders toil to redirect Ohio's economic focus, the state's economy is still significantly tied to troubled industrial behemoths such as General Motors and Ford.

Republicans have had control of the Statehouse for 12 years. Ohio's fortunes have not seemingly improved under their control. In an October *New York Times* poll of Ohio voters, 49 percent rated the state of the national economy positively, compared to 60 percent in a national poll. Sixty-five percent of the Ohioans polled said their state's economy was bad. Frustrated, worried voters may have relieved some of their anxieties at the ballot box Tuesday by rejecting the party in power.

But as if Iraq and Ohio's economic woes weren't enough to dissuade voters from voting Republican Tuesday, the GOP contributed to its own problems by heaping scandal after scandal atop those already troubled waters.

The *Wall Street Journal* wrote last month that Republican gubernatorial nominee Ken Blackwell's "real problem isn't his opponent so much as Ohio's disastrous GOP governor, Bob Taft, and a state party establishment that has self-destructed."

But replacing Republicans with Democrats does not guarantee a quick fix. One Cleveland Republican who closely watches state politics said Democrats will soon learn the depth of the problems facing Ohio: "It's not like there are a lot of easy answers to the problems, and the Republicans have chosen not to do it," he said. "The problems are so deep in this state."

Some Ohio Republicans complain that the state GOP was unable to prevent a fragmenting gubernatorial primary last May, where Blackwell won but arguably at significant cost. Blackwell appealed to the state's most conservative voters but he alienated others - including moderate Republicans and Independents - in the process.

After the primary, he either never tried or was unable to swing back toward the middle of the state's political spectrum - which is where he needed to be if he had any hope of winning the general election.

"Blackwell emerged as a negative campaigner who was too far out there on too many issues," said a long-time Columbus political observer. "He turned off a lot of people."

The election of "Ds" Ted Strickland and Jennifer Brunner (secretary of state) could also affect the dynamics of an important body known as the Apportionment Board which draws up the boundaries for the state's legislative districts. The five-member board includes the governor and the secretary of state - and Democrats are positioned to have a majority.

Though the four-year terms of the newly-elected statewide officeholders expire at the end of 2010, conventional thinking holds that the incumbents will have the advantage for reelection - which would put them in office when the Apportionment Board next meets in 2011.

Can you say gerrymander?

TERM LIMITS: GOOD IDEA - MIXED RESULTS *Is it time for a change?*

*By Carol Caruso, Senior V.P., Advocacy,
Greater Cleveland Partnership*

Ohio's term limits, which have been in place now for six years, have resulted in dramatic impact but little progress for Ohio. This year, voters will fill the empty seats of 14 representatives (14%) and seven senators (21%) in the Ohio General Assembly.

Ohio Term Limits: 8 years

- Two 4-year terms for Governor, Lt. Gov. and other Constitutional offices
- Two 4-year terms for Ohio Senate
- Four 2-year terms for Ohio House

Clearly, any business faced with such a high turnover rate would be challenged, especially if those leaving were productive and successful team members. In addition to the constant "on the job training", many talented and committed people who may be interested in serving in the legislature are discouraged because the relatively brief period of time they could potentially serve might not be worth the effort.

The conditions that prompted demands for term limits had some merit. So-called career politicians would stay in office for decades, becoming part of a predictable system that was run by a few legislators. Even so, voters had the opportunity to "term limit" ineffective legislators simply by not re-electing them.

Despite proponents' claims, term limits have not helped to create a "citizen legislature" in which legislators also hold other jobs. Very few citizen legislators -- or "part-time legislators" -- have been elected under term limits and most have served in other elected offices. Term limits have also demonstrated minimal impact on diversity as the percentage of women, minorities and age of legislators has changed very little.

A closer look at the measurable results of term limits is enlightening. According to a 2004 study by the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics and the Center for Policy Studies at the University of Akron, "...party caucuses and legislative leaders have become more deeply involved in recruiting legislative candidates, raising funds and running legislative campaigns...new candidates for office are both more partisan and more ideological than in the past."

While the Bliss study revealed that 72 percent of Ohioans thought term limits were a good idea, 81 percent of close observers to the General Assembly (former legislators, support staff, lobbyists and journalists) realized that term limits - if not an outright calamity - needed some tinkering.

There is growing consensus among the legions of advocates who work daily with the General Assembly that it is time to rethink term limits. Some argue that under term limits, lobbyists and interest groups have increased power and influence as a result of decades of watching laws being made and deals being cut. Others say that lawmakers are forced to quit, "term-limited out the door", just when they may be getting up to speed.

Our current system is far from perfect. By the time legislators finally learn the intricacies of state government and what makes Columbus tick, term limits kick them - and their knowledge and energy - out the door. If we must maintain term limits, we should make the terms longer. Regardless, we have to make an adjustment -- for Ohio's sake, and for the sake of the public.

GOP control of both the U.S. House and Senate for the first time in 40 years.

While political observers predicted the House of Representatives would likely change hands, the Senate remained more of a long shot for Democrats, despite the toxic national sentiment against the Republicans.

The closely contested states that apparently quashed Republican control of the Senate were Missouri, Montana and possibly Virginia (*pending certified results*).

Only last year, as noted by the *Washington Post*, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said: "It would take a miracle for the Democrats to regain control of the chamber in next year's elections."

The battle for power truly rested with the Senate as the majority in that chamber does not just control their own agenda, but the entire congressional agenda. This includes judicial appointments and matters important to the business community such as tax issues.

Ohio, considered safely red just one year ago, proved on Tuesday to be one of the toughest environments for Republicans. Incumbent Republican Senator Mike DeWine lost his bid for a third term to Congressman Sherrod Brown known for his liberal voting record.

Like other Democratic challengers from coast to coast, Brown's campaign and advertisements stoked voter unrest over "more of the same" focusing on the unpopularity of the war and economic concerns. DeWine, considered a fiscal moderate, struggled to disassociate himself from the state's recent GOP scandals and did not receive the full backing of the Republican Party which aligned itself more closely with hardcore conservatives.

It will be interesting to watch the role former Democrat Joe Lieberman plays in the next Congress. Lieberman, who lost the Democratic race in the Connecticut Senate primary, easily won the general election, primarily with a huge vote by Republican voters. Lieberman has made noises that he is returning to Washington as an Independent. The role that he can play can be "enormously significant" said a veteran political insider. He could have significant leverage and influence in an evenly split Senate.



Pelosi

In the House of Representatives, Democrats picked up 26 seats (as of 2 p.m. today). The shift in power paves the way for California Democrat Nancy Pelosi to become the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Committees will be chaired by John Dingell (Energy and Commerce), John Conyers (Judiciary) and Charlie Rangel (Ways and Means).

For Ohio, the election results mean the state will lose significant House and Senate leadership positions, at a time when Ohio's economy lags the nation's.

"Any objective observer would agree that Ohio has one of the most unbelievably powerful delegations in the beltway," said one Cleveland businessman. "At a time when the state's business and industry needs all the help it can get, and despite the fact Ohio will lose leaders -- which could hurt the state -- it was more important for voters to send a message to Washington: You're not doing enough for us."



Sutton

With DeWine's departure, Ohio is losing its critical seat on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. The Democratic win means other key leadership posts held by Ohioans will be lost - including those of House Majority Leader John Boehner and House Republican Conference Chair Deborah Pryce -- demoting the Ohio federal delegation from among the top three most powerful.

An upside for Greater Cleveland is the rise in seniority for Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, already a member of the influential Ways and Means Committee, and Toledo's Marcy Kaptur, a Democrat and member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Northeast Ohio's congressional delegation got a new member Tuesday with the election of Democrat Betty Sutton to the seat vacated by Sherrod Brown in his Senate bid. Sutton, a labor lawyer and former state representative, will represent the 13th Congressional District which includes parts of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Medina and Summit counties. The district is considered to be fertile territory for Democrats - John Kerry carried it in the 2004 presidential race even though he lost Ohio to George W. Bush.

OHIOANS FOLD ON ISSUE 3



Casino gambling just does not seem like a good fit for Ohio as voters defeated Issue 3 on Tuesday.

It's the third time since 1990 that voters in the Buckeye State have rejected a proposal to expand legalized gambling.

Issue 3, also known as Learn and Earn, had significant support from the public and private sectors in Greater Cleveland - a part of the state that would have benefited the most from passage of the issue - as well as from Toledo and Cincinnati.

Had it passed, Issue 3 would have permitted thousands of slot machines at the state's seven race tracks and two in downtown Cleveland casinos. It also would have created a college scholarship fund for all Ohio students, generated new economic development funds, and established the most well-funded problem gambler treatment and prevention program in the country -- all without raising taxes.

Issue 3 ran into resistance in Columbus where officials feared Cleveland would be at a competitive advantage when attracting visitors and conventions. The opponents, although at a 20:1 funding disadvantage, were able to generate substantial negative coverage of Issue 3. The majority of Ohio's major newspapers also opposed the measure.

Some critics focused on the casino site selection process which would have designated the specific casino locations in Ohio's Constitution.

Additional opposition formalized on the moral front where Sen. George Voinovich and others warned that expanding gambling would create new problem gamblers.

The Learn and Earn campaign was not able to educate voters about the complicated components of Issue 3, nor was it effective in reassuring voters that the taxed revenue would be safe from mismanagement.

While Ohio is rapidly becoming a regional non-casino gambling oasis, Ohioans regularly travel to Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, Canada and soon, Pennsylvania, to gamble - spending an estimated \$900 million annually to do so.



The Greater Cleveland Partnership is committed to working through the public-private partnership that coalesced in support of Issue 3 and joining with Ohio's other metropolitan chambers and business organizations to find solutions to some of the challenges Issue 3 would have helped to address. These include finding the resources to support economic development and making college more affordable to Ohio students without raising taxes. The improvements to Ohio's tax structure that were achieved in the 2005 tax reform must be preserved and deepened if the state is to compete for business investment and jobs.

Strickland crosses finish line first

Now must sprint into January

Governor-elect Ted Strickland won't be able to wave a wand and make everything right in northeast Ohio. But the new Democratic administration in Columbus is expected to partner with officials in Cleveland and other parts of this Democrat-rich region that is sometimes regarded with disdain by downstate Republicans.

"The county commissioners and the mayor - all Democrats - will be able to call a department director (in state government) and the director will at least know who they are," said one Cuyahoga County Democratic officeholder. "I don't have any relationships with any directors now."

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher will be a loud voice for northeast Ohio. Fisher, from Shaker Heights, is very well-known among public officials and business leaders in Cuyahoga County, giving Democratic leaders a high level of contact that has not existed in the Republican administration of Gov. Bob Taft for the past eight years.

Fisher's clout will no doubt extend beyond serving as a conduit between Columbus and Cleveland. Of all of the incoming Democratic statewide officeholders, Fisher, by far, has the most significant experience in Columbus having served as attorney general and state legislator. Strickland, a congressman with no executive experience at the public level, will no doubt lean on Fisher for advice and counsel - especially in the critical early days of the new administration.

Northeast Ohio - by virtue of its Democratic leanings - will almost certainly have more avenues of access, as Strickland will no doubt hire department directors and others from the Cleveland area.

Transition no small task

"They're going to have to build another southbound lane on I-71," quips one Cleveland-area Republican, predicting there will be a rush of Democrats from Cleveland looking for work in Columbus.

Strickland will have to fill hundreds of mid- to high-level state jobs. Democrats have been out in the cold in Columbus during 16 years of Republican leadership, and the governor will no doubt look north to Cuyahoga County to find competent Democrats to fill state posts.

Some officials who served for the last Democratic governor, Richard Celeste, may return to Columbus to work in the Strickland administration. Close observers of state government will especially be watching Strickland's picks for two pivotal slots - the governor's chief of staff and the state budget director.



Blackwell

Raga

Strickland won't have to hit the ground running - he will have to be sprinting weeks before he takes the oath of office.

Many believe Strickland - who must submit his first state budget by March 15 - must set a tone quickly at the Statehouse where he will be forced to work with a Republican-controlled Ohio General Assembly. The new governor must reach out to moderate Republican members in the Legislature while at the same time show that he can't be pushed around. Such deft maneuvering will, at best, be difficult and require just the right touch.



Ted Strickland 60%
Kenneth Blackwell 37%

See GOVERNOR p. 7

Strickland will be under pressure early to demonstrate that he is indeed the strong leader that Ohio so desperately needs.

Similarly, some think that if Strickland attempts significant change - such as advancing a major initiative on public education or addressing Ohio's mounting woes with higher education - he must do so in 2007, when he has lingering momentum from his decisive win over Republican Ken Blackwell.

"Somewhere he has to have a win," said a Democrat in Cleveland who closely watches the Statehouse. "If he doesn't get it in his first year, he could be left paralyzed by the Republicans."

What should business make of Strickland?

For 16 years, Ohio business representatives have been talking with Republican governors in Columbus. That is about to change, and business leaders will be watching closely to determine how significant that change will be.

Strickland has been criticized by some for not advancing more specific proposals during the gubernatorial campaign. Indeed, his "Turnaround Ohio" plan offers a series of rosy goals. By 2010, for example, Strickland wants to achieve job growth in Ohio that matches or exceeds the national average. By 2015, he wants to raise Ohio's per capita income rate above the national average.

Neither is an easy task to accomplish. He has said that he wants to establish a Governor's Business Council, which will involve quarterly meetings with business leaders from every city and region of Ohio. He also wants to create the Governor's Ohio Jobs Strike Force, connecting struggling businesses with the capital, tools and training needed to rebound from economic emergencies.

Regarding health care, Strickland has said he wants to set up a free-market clearinghouse for private health insurance where all uninsured Ohioans - regardless of income - can buy health coverage.

Some political observers understand why Strickland didn't extend himself and offer more specifics during the campaign. Anything that included any kind of controversy could have provided campaign fodder for Blackwell and the Republicans. Polls showed for months that Strickland was leading Blackwell.

So Strickland played it safe, talking about alternative energy, the need to end corruption in government and the creation of something called the Knowledge Bank - which would add a small amount of state money into Ohio families' college savings plans.

While his relatively safe campaign strategy is understood by some, others think Strickland may have missed an opportunity by not offering more specific plans that had more substance. Had he done that, he could argue that the state's voters in fact endorsed such proposals when they elected him - giving such plans the super-charged boost of having a public mandate.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which rates all members of Congress by examining their votes on business-related legislation, gave Strickland a grade of 44 percent, fifth worst among Ohio's 18-member U.S. House delegation.

But Strickland has also demonstrated a willingness to listen to business. Strickland and his staff have shown interest in the nationally-recognized healthcare program offered by the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and have met repeatedly with COSE officials. The COSE healthcare program insures 200,000 people in northeast Ohio.

Throughout his campaign, Strickland and his team have engaged in a dialogue with business leaders about their concerns. While business may not always agree with the Governor-Elect on issues, most observers are confident that the lines of communication will remain open.

STATEWIDE WINNERS

Auditor of State

Barbara Sykes (D) 49%
Mary Taylor (R) 51%



Mary Taylor

Republican Mary Taylor held back a strong Democratic tide in Ohio Tuesday and won the election for state auditor, defeating Democrat Barbara Sykes. Both candidates are from Summit County, and both are state representatives. Their race was a nasty one, complete with complaints and lawsuits filed over campaign tactics. As auditor, Taylor is responsible for overseeing audits of Ohio's local governments and public institutions and if reelected in 2010, will sit on the state's Apportionment Board, a five-member body that will redraw legislative districts in 2011.

State Treasurer

Richard Cordray (D) 58%
Sandra O'Brien (R) 42%



Richard Cordray

The lowest profile of the non-judicial, statewide races saw Democrat Richard Cordray defeat Republican Sandra O'Brien, who beat incumbent Treasurer Jennette Bradley in the GOP primary. Cordray is Franklin County treasurer and previously served as a state representative.

Attorney General

Marc Dann (D) 52%
Betty Montgomery (R) 48%



Marc Dann

The Democratic tsunami that washed over Ohio Tuesday swept Marc Dann into the attorney general's office. Dann - a Democratic state senator from the Youngstown area - beat Republican Betty Montgomery who had been generally regarded as the GOP's strongest candidate for non-judicial, statewide office this year. Montgomery is the current state auditor and was previously elected as Ohio's first female attorney general in 1995, defeating Democratic incumbent Lee Fisher.

According to *The Plain Dealer*, "no statewide race in Ohio features the hostility of this one". Dann capitalized on the Bureau of Workers' Compensation scandal, claiming that Montgomery missed opportunities to expose fraud, costing taxpayers millions. Meanwhile, Montgomery painted Dann as a criminal defender rather than a criminal prosecutor, asserting that he protects child molesters. In an interesting twist, Lee Fisher used a similar ad against Montgomery in his failed attempt to maintain the seat in 1994.

Secretary of State

Jennifer Brunner (D) 55%
Greg Hartmann (R) 41%



Jennifer Brunner

For the first time since 1990, the Democrats have won the secretary of state's office. The Democratic landslide at the polls Tuesday extended itself to the secretary of state seat left vacant by Ken Blackwell who ran for governor. Democrat Jennifer Brunner, a former Franklin County judge, defeated Republican Greg Hartmann, clerk of Hamilton County courts.

As secretary of state, Brunner will oversee elections and business filings in Ohio and if reelected in 2010 will sit on the state's Apportionment Board - a five-member body that will redraw legislative districts in 2011.

Supreme Court Justice

Unanimous verdict: GOP rules top court

In a Democratic year for Ohio, Republicans can still find refuge at the Ohio Supreme Court.

Perhaps it is because judicial candidates aren't identified on the ballot by party affiliation, but Ohio voters - who largely turned their backs on the GOP Tuesday - elected two Republican judges to the state's highest court.

That means that all seven of the court's justices are Republicans.

Voters reelected Terrence O'Donnell, a Republican from Rocky River, who was opposed by Democrat William O'Neill from Chagrin Falls. While O'Donnell ran campaign ads on television, O'Neill - arguing there is too much money that influences judicial races - refused to accept campaign contributions.

Voters also elected Republican Robert Cupp of Lima to the open seat that had been held by the court's lone Democrat, Alice Robie Resnick. Cupp, a district appeals court judge, is a former state senator. He defeated Democrat Ben Espy of Columbus, also a former state senator.

TERRENCE O'DONNELL 59%
William Michael O'Neill 41%

ROBERT CUPP 54%
Ben Espy 46%



O'Donnell

Cupp

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election
Republicans	22	21
Democrats	11	12
Independent	0	0

Ohio Senate

Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election
Republicans	60	53
Democrats	39	46
Independent	0	0

Ohio House of Representatives

See OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY p. 10



Republicans maintained control of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives Tuesday which means Democratic Governor-elect Ted Strickland is going to have to forge working relationships with at least some GOP legislators.

Unofficial results showed the Republican majority in the Senate dropping by one - to 21-12. Republicans failed to retain District 13 which is represented by Republican Jeff Armbruster who did not seek reelection. The largely Democratic district includes Lorain and Huron counties and part of Seneca County.

The GOP also maintained control of the Ohio House, though they lost seven seats Tuesday to the Democrats. The Republicans will have a 53-46 majority in the House next year, compared to their current advantage of 60-39. The increased number of Democratic representatives will mean it will be more difficult for the House to override a Strickland veto.

OHIO SENATE

**Denotes incumbent*

13th District
SUSAN MORANO

Martha Wise (R-Avon) 37%
Susan Morano (D-Lorain) 63%

The 13th District will no longer remain in GOP control as Democrat Susan Morano handily defeated Republican Martha Wise for the seat vacated by term-limited Republican Jeffry Armbruster. Encompassing Lorain and Huron counties and a portion of Seneca, District 13 is considered to be marginally Democratic and has been difficult for Republicans to retain. Republicans spent little money on this race which pitted Morano, a nurse who received support from organized labor, against Wise, who serves on the Ohio Board of Education.

21st District
SHIRLEY SMITH

Richard Norris (R-Cleveland) 15%
Shirley Smith (D-Cleveland) 85%

This heavily Democratic district - which includes a large part of Cleveland's east side, suburbs such as Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, and a portion of Cleveland's near west side - saw state Rep. Shirley Smith, a Democrat, easily defeat Republican Richard Norris. Smith is one of several Ohio House members attempting to move to the Ohio Senate. The seat is now held by C. J. Prentiss who is leaving due to term limits.

23rd District
DALE MILLER

Howard Shrimpton (R-Parma) 19%
*Dale Miller (D-Cleveland) 68%

As expected, Democratic incumbent Dale Miller coasted to victory over Republican challenger Howard Shrimpton and Independent Jim Craciun in this heavily-Democratic district that includes parts of Cleveland's west side, Lakewood and Parma. Miller, a former state representative and Cleveland councilman, was appointed to the Ohio Senate seat earlier this year after Dan Brady resigned to work for Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.

25th District
LANCE T. MASON

David Lynch (R-Cleveland) 23%
Lance T. Mason (D-Cleveland) 77%

Term limits prevented Democrat Eric Fingerhut from seeking reelection, leaving the seat open in this heavily-Democratic district which covers many eastern Cuyahoga County communities including Beachwood, Euclid, Garfield Heights and Shaker Heights. On Tuesday, voters chose Democrat Lance Mason - a current state representative - over former Euclid Mayor David Lynch.

27th District
KEVIN COUGHLIN

*Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls) 52%
Judy Hanna (D-Akron) 48%

This competitive seat, located largely in Summit County, saw Republicans spend large amounts of money to retain Senator Kevin Coughlin. Their efforts were successful as Coughlin defeated Democrat Judy Hanna, a part-time teacher. Coughlin is chairman of the Health, Human Services & Aging Committee and serves on the Energy & Public Utilities and Highways & Transportation committees.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Northeast Ohio Races

** Denotes incumbent*

16th District
JENNIFER BRADY

Edward F. Herman (R-Rocky.River) 49%
Jennifer Brady (D-Westlake) 51%

In Republican-dominated District 16, Ed Herman, a former Republican candidate for U.S. Congress, was heavily favored over Democrat Jennifer Brady, but he lost in a nail-biter. While the race was competitive, Herman was the expected successor to replace term-limited Republican Sally Conway Kilbane. Kilbane currently chairs the House Ways and Means Committee and served as an architect of the recent state tax reform, advancing the tax reforms favored by the GCP/COSE.

17th District
JOSH MANDEL

Josh Mandel (R-Lyndhurst) 67%
Roger J. Goudy (D-Solon) 33%

While Democratic candidate Roger Goudy performed better than many expected in this evenly-divided district, there were no surprises in last night's results. Republican Party phenom Josh Mandel will replace term-limited Republican Jim Trakas. Politically savvy 29-year-old Mandel raised nearly \$500,000 - more than any other member of the House with the exception of Speaker Jon Husted and ten times more than Goudy. Mandel earned a reputation as a strong fundraiser and an excellent campaigner that convinced voters he will get things done.

Mandel is expected to advance quickly in the House Republican caucus and has expressed an eagerness to work more closely with Democrats in the northeast Ohio delegation.

18th District
TOM PATTON

*Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) 59%
John M. Celebrezze (D-North Royalton) 41%

Despite facing an opponent with a politically strong name and being the target of Democratic leadership in advertisements and grassroots campaigning, Republican Tom Patton was reelected to the Ohio House. Patton will begin his fourth and final term in District 18 which slightly favors the Democratic Party. Currently, Patton serves on the Finance Committee and is expected to do so in the next General Assembly.

57th District
MATT LUNDY

*Earl J. Martin (R-Avon Lake) 44%
Matt Lundy (D-Elyria) 56%

As with many incumbents in this year's election, Republican Earl Martin faced a challenging reelection to the Ohio House. With the out-migration of residents from Cuyahoga County to Lorain County, District 57 has become increasingly more favorable for Republicans. In spite of improving numbers, the Democrat landslide at the top of the ticket brought Matt Lundy over the finish line.

63rd District
CAROL-ANN SCHINDEL

Carol-Ann Schindel (R-Painesville) 52%
*Tim J. Cassell (D-Madison) 48%

Republicans put forth a strong, and ultimately successful, attempt to unseat Tim Cassell, the incumbent Democrat for District 63. The GOP felt Cassell was ripe for the picking after he won the seat by less than one percentage point in 2004. Additionally, Cassell was the subject of some very strong Republican television advertisements based on his DUI conviction this year. Cassell was targeted as one of very few potential "pick-ups" for the Republicans and, in the end, Carol-Ann Schindel, an accountant and small business owner, emerged victorious.

69th District
WILLIAM G. BATCHELDER

William G. Batchelder (R-Medina) 55%
Jack Schira (D-Brunswick Hills) 45%

The race in District 69 to replace current House Finance Chair Charles Calvert was hardly a competition. Former State Representative and Appellate Court Judge William Batchelder -- who will replace Calvert in this solidly-Republican district -- is the bigger story. Batchelder, a well-respected member of the Republican Caucus, served as the Speaker Pro Tem when he left the House in the late 1990s. Batchelder knows the system and state government very well and will surely serve as a very influential member of the Ohio House.

98th District
MATT DOLAN

*Matt Dolan (R-Novelty) 57%
Raymond Ku (D-Bainbridge Township) 43%

Republican incumbent Matt Dolan coasted to victory and will begin his third term in January. Dolan worked hard in this election cycle to raise money for other caucus candidates throughout the state and will likely emerge as a Republican leadership prospect in the 127th General Assembly. Dolan is well-respected by his colleagues and has earned a solid reputation for his ability to resolve difficult issues.

Congressional results a mixed bag for Ohio

Ohioans clamoring for political change, like the rest of the nation, are getting their wish. Statewide candidates, with all but a few exceptions, went to the Democrats in a landslide.

The Democratic wave is expected to have a dramatic impact on Ohio businesses - whose priorities have been advanced by the Republican majority. Ohio business will likely face an uphill effort to gain support from a Democratic majority that will control the agenda for the U.S. Congress.

It is too early to know what the changes will mean - but the Democrats have promised a new direction for Ohio and the nation - and time will tell if they fulfill this promise.

If the Senate and House become Democratic majorities (Senate pending the Virginia Senate race recount), Ohio will lose some key leadership positions.

Three Republican Ohio representatives - southwest Ohio's John Boehner and David Hobson and northeast Ohio's Ralph Regula - currently sit in the "Top 10 Power Ranking" as rated by Congress.org. Observers wonder if this is the final term for long-serving members Hobson and Regula. Boehner and Deborah Pryce will lose their posts as House Majority Leader and House Republican Conference Chair, respectively.

While the loss of Mike

DeWine's influential seat on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee cannot be ignored, the entrée of so many freshmen also means that seniority will help tenured congressional representatives - including Ohio's own Senator George Voinovich - move up the ranks, though he is expected to have less firepower if in the minority.

The political shift will increase clout for some of Ohio's Democrats, including Greater Cleveland's Stephanie Tubbs Jones who already claims a seat on the powerful Ways and Means Committee and Toledo's Marcy Kaptur, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Another likely winner of "influence" is Youngstown's Tim Ryan, a darling of the Democratic Party. Look for Ryan to move up in leadership for Ohio.

The news was certainly not all bad for Ohio Republicans. GOP candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives fared much better in Ohio than their counterparts around the country. Political observers speculated that up to a third of Ohio's House of Representatives delegation could flip from "R" to "D". In the end, only one seat, in Bob Ney's former district, went to Democratic candidate Zack Space (D).

New members joining the U.S. House from Ohio include Jim Jordan (R), Betty Sutton (D), Charlie Wilson (D) and Space. Republican Pryce was not expected to win in the 15th Ohio District targeted by the

Democratic Party, but eeked out a victory with 51 percent of the vote.

In one of the most prominent northeast Ohio races, labor lawyer Betty Sutton (D) beat Lorain Mayor Craig Foltin (R) in the race for the seat vacated by Sherrod Brown in his successful run for U.S. Senate. Sutton presented herself as the anti-corruption candidate and said she is dedicated to trying to create jobs in the district. Sutton was elected with the help of Emily's List, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that encourages its members to send campaign contributions to female, pro-choice Democratic candidates.

Congressman Steven LaTourette (R) glided to victory over law professor Lewis Katz (D). Even with the shift in the House majority, LaTourette will still play an influential roll on the powerful Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, as well as its subcommittees. Through his work on this committee, northeast Ohio and the 14th Congressional District has seen significant investment in the region.

Red Ohio goes Brown

DeWine falls victim to Iraq, Bush and GOP protest vote

Congressman Sherrod Brown - able to tie Senator Mike DeWine to the anti-Bush, anti-Republican sentiment - prevailed over the two-term incumbent senator in what was dubbed the "most important political race in the country" by noted *New York Times* columnist David Brooks. The contest proved to be a weathervane for races across the country that had Republicans everywhere running against a tide of anti-GOP backlash.

With DeWine's departure, Ohio is losing its critical seat on the Senate's powerful Appropriations Committee. During DeWine's tenure on this influential committee, \$275 million was appropriated to Cuyahoga County and a total of \$1.2 billion was designated statewide. While the clout of some of Ohio's Democrats will certainly rise, this election was certainly a net loss in terms of Ohio's power and prestige in Washington.

However, the shift to the Democratic Party also means that the relevance of tenured senators like George Voinovich will be elevated. Voinovich's seniority will position him to be on increasingly powerful committees, potentially including the Finance Committee, despite the fact that he'll be in the minority if Democrats hold their Senate majority pending the Virginia results.

"Incumbency is an advantage, but in times of war, economic dislocations and deep divisions with the country it can be a burden."

- The Youngstown Vindicator (10/29/06),
in its endorsement of DeWine

Freshman Sherrod Brown, though in the majority, will have to work his way up the Senate ladder to earn opportunities to serve on prominent committees. One political observer predicted those opportunities would not present themselves for perhaps six years.

The impact of Brown's victory on Ohioans and its businesses remains to be seen and how much support he'll get for his initiatives, out of the box, is a definite uncertainty.

Brown believes passionately that the North American and Central American free trade agreements should be renegotiated. Brown is also expected to focus on universal health care. It's too soon to tell how small business organizations like COSE could be affected by either. One Cleveland Republican speculated that both are optimistic as a junior member of the Senate, from either party, will not be able to achieve any demonstrable change soon.

Brown has opposed several tax cuts and other issues affecting small business that COSE members have endorsed.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Brown voted to support business just 33 percent of the time, which was second lowest among Ohio's 18-member U.S. House delegation (only Dennis Kucinich got a lower rating).

One close Brown insider said, "businesses will be surprised at (Brown's) willingness to listen and reach out. He will look at issues where he can work together (with business)." And he says "conservatives will be pleased by

Sherrod Brown	56%
Michael DeWine	44%

See *BROWN* p. 15

Brown's commitment to fiscal discipline. His record backs this up."

Brown has already contacted the Greater Cleveland Partnership and northeast Ohio companies to discuss issues of concern to business.

And while he isn't viewed as the "business candidate", GCP insiders recognize that having two senators from northeast Ohio can help. "We're better off than people in Cincinnati," one quipped. "We'll have a strong northeast Ohio voice in Washington. And while Sherrod might not always be saying what we want him to, it's up to us now to convince him why our priorities should be his priorities. And his relationship with Ted Strickland can also help."

Brown says he will follow through with his proposal to push for alternative energy and connect it with Ohio business. He notes that companies involved in alternative energy technology will help boost the state's economy, create jobs and lower energy prices.

How did DeWine lose the edge?

Just one year ago, many considered a DeWine loss just a remote possibility.

Indeed, the tables turned slowly for DeWine, considered a moderate fiscal conservative who won endorsements from all but one of the state's major daily newspapers. Just over six weeks ago, Brown's lead was statistically insignificant, but growing. He capitalized on the tainted Republican climate that found DeWine falling short in his attempts to distinguish himself as an independent-minded senator that works to find common ground between Republicans and Democrats.



DeWine

DeWine's efforts to characterize his opponent as weak on security were also unsuccessful.

Brown echoed a message that has resonated across the nation: "If you want to stay the course in Iraq...If you want to continue the economic policies, healthcare policies and education policies of the Bush (and Taft administrations), then you should vote for the incumbent."

Brown, not surprisingly, also had the advantage of a massive grassroots, union-backed "Get Out the Vote" effort, carried out in conjunction with other statewide Democrats. The Republican Party, however, in recent years has made significant strides in its GOTV campaigns and stepped up efforts in Ohio this year to turn out its supporters in the three days leading up to the election. This - in conjunction with DeWine's media buy and strategy - thinned Brown's lead but was not enough to overcome the anti-GOP sentiment.

What's next for DeWine?

DeWine, 59, is certainly young enough to return to politics. Perhaps a run for governor in 2010 - an office he has always coveted - is in the cards. There will be several other Republicans that will want a shot at the state's top prize, and it is too early to predict what might happen -- but Ohio should not be surprised to see the DeWine name on the ballot again.

Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election	Change
Republican	55	49	-6
Democrat	44	48	+4
Independent	1	2*	+1
Undecided	-	1	-

U.S. Senate *Indeps. will be caucusing with Dems.

Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election	Change
Republican	232	194	-38
Democrat	202	228	+26
Independent	1	0	-1
Undecided	-	13	-

U.S. House of Reps. (as of 2 p.m., 11/8)

Missouri - CLAIRE McCASKILL - D (50%) beats *Jim Talent - R (47%)

While Democrats recognized this as a "must-win" race in order to take control of the Senate, Republicans were confident that incumbent Republican Senator Jim Talent would prevail. They were wrong. Talent and State Auditor Claire McCaskill ran neck and neck in the final months leading up to the election. The national tide in the weeks prior to the election tipped the scales with McCaskill declaring victory well after midnight. Actor Michael J. Fox appeared in an ad supporting McCaskill and stem cell research.

Montana - JON TESTER - D (49%) over *Conrad Burns - R (48%) (99% Reporting)

Incumbent Senator Conrad Burns was his own worst enemy in the U.S. Senate battle in Montana. Negative press coverage surrounding Burns' relationship with lobbyist Jack Abramoff fueled voter distrust in the incumbent. Democratic candidate and President of the Montana Senate, Jon Tester, who despite having a reputation for being a "more liberal than average Montana voter", squeaked out a defeat over Burns declaring victory mid-day on November 8.

New Jersey - *Robert Menendez - D (53%) defeats Thomas H. Kean, Jr. - R (45%)

The race for New Jersey Senator was one of the few in the country where the incumbent Democrat was at risk. Democrat Robert Menendez was appointed to this seat after Jon Corzine was elected Governor last year. Kean, a state senator, relied on assistance from the Republican National Committee to match the Democrats voter turnout program. In the end, Menendez was able to fend off personal attacks by his opponent leading to his comfortable victory to retain the Senate seat.

Pennsylvania - ROBERT CASEY JR. - D (59%) wins race over *Rick Santorum - R (41%)

In an election that became a referendum against conservative Rick Santorum, State Treasurer Bob Casey Jr. won a decisive victory. For months, incumbent Republican Santorum trailed Casey, a Democrat, in the polls. Casey, the son of former Governor Robert P. Casey, capitalized on his father's widely-respected name to make this race competitive. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported last month that "Casey has a better-than-even chance in a state that has not elected a Democratic U.S. senator since 1962. Ending the career of Santorum was so important to national Democrats that they began badgering Casey to run soon after he was elected treasurer in 2004 with the most votes of any candidate in Pennsylvania history."

Rhode Island - SHELDON WHITEHOUSE - D (53%) beats *Lincoln Chafee - R (47%)

Incumbent Republican Senator Lincoln Chafee's name recognition and noted GOTV effort carried him to victory in the primary election, but he was unable to maintain the momentum on Tuesday. Chafee, one of the most liberal of the Republican senators, lost to former state Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse who led in most polls leading up to Election Day.

Tennessee - BOB CORKER - R (51%) beats Harold Ford, Jr. - D (48%)

When Majority Leader Bill Frist chose not to seek reelection in order to pursue his presidential ambitions, he was probably sure his Tennessee seat would remain in Republican hands. However, the close race between Republican Bob Corker, the former Mayor of Chattanooga, and Democrat Harold Ford, a five-term member of Congress, kept Republicans on the edge of their seats. The National Republican Senatorial Committee even used hard-hitting ads about Ford partying with Playboy bunnies. Corker won by a small margin.

Virginia - James Webb - D (50%) vs. *George Allen - R (49%) TOO CLOSE TO CALL

What was said to be an easy win for incumbent Republican George Allen and a springboard into his campaign for president has the nation, and possibly the Senate Democratic majority, on hold until December. A recount is expected but can not be requested until later in November. Democrat and former Secretary of the Navy James Webb was slightly ahead -- by less than one percent - on election night. In the final months of the campaign trail, racism allegations surfaced against Allen, thinning the strong lead he held over Webb.

**National U.S. Senate
Competitive Races**

State	Republican	Democrat
AZ	*JON KYL	Jim Pederson
CT	Alan Schlesinger	Ned Lamont *JOE LIEBERMAN (I)
FL	Katherine Harris	*BILL NELSON
HI	Cynthia Thielen	*DANIEL AKAKA
MD	Michael Steele	BEN CARDIN
MI	Mike Bouchard	*DEBBIE STABENOW
MN	Mark Kennedy	AMY KLOBUCHAR
MT	*Conrad Burns	JON TESTER
MO	*James Talent	CLAIRE McCASKILL
NE	J. Peter Ricketts	*E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NV	*JOHN ENSIGN	Jack Carter
NJ	Thomas Kean Jr.	*ROBERT MENENDEZ
OH	*Mike DeWine	SHERROD BROWN
PA	*Rick Santorum	ROBERT CASEY
TN	BOB CORKER	Harold Ford
RI	*Lincoln Chafee	SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
VT	Richard Tarrant	BERNIE SANDERS (I)
VA	*George Allen	James Webb
WA	Mike McGavick	*MARIA CANTWELL
WV	John Raese	*ROBERT BYRD

“Sure Bet” Races

State	Republican	Democrat
CA	Richard Mountjoy	*DIANNE FEINSTEIN
DE	Jan Ting	*THOMAS CARPER
IN	*RICHARD LUGAR	Steve Osborn (L)
ME	*OLYMPIA SNOWE	Jean Hay Bright
MA	Ken Chase	*EDWARD KENNEDY
MS	*TRENT LOTT	Erik Fleming
NM	Allan W. McCulloch	*JEFF BINGAMAN
NY	John Spencer	*HILLARY CLINTON
ND	Dwight Grotberg	*KENT CONRAD
TX	*KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON	Barbara Ann Radnofsky
UT	*ORRIN HATCH	Pete Ashdown
WI	Robert Lorge	*HERB KOHL
WY	*CRAIG THOMAS	Dale Groustage

(NOTE: Virginia race undecided)



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ohio Delegation

**Denotes incumbent*

District 1:
STEVE CHABOT

*Steve Chabot (R) 53%
John Cranley (D) 47%

Longtime incumbent Congressman Steve Chabot faced a difficult challenger in Cincinnati Councilman John Cranley. Like his Republican counterparts, Chabot was presented with challenges predicated on an unpopular president and an electorate disenchanted by GOP scandals, investigations and a desire to see a change in Republican control.



Chabot

In spite of these difficulties, Chabot defeated Cranley by a comfortable margin. Chabot serves on the committees of Small Business (Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports), Judiciary and International Relations. Chabot has been supportive of GCP and COSE issues.

District 4:
JIM JORDAN

Jim Jordan (R) 60%
Richard Siferd (D) 40%

The retirement of Congressman Mike Oxley, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, was a loss to the business community. This open seat pitched Republican state Senator Jim Jordan against Democratic attorney Richard Siferd in a race that did not receive the attention of the national parties.

Jordan, the better-known and better-financed candidate, defeated Siferd. Jordan's service, most recently on the Judiciary and Agriculture committees in the state legislature, may be an indication of where he will serve in Congress.

District 6:
CHARLIE WILSON

Chuck Blasdel (R) 38%
Charlie Wilson (D) 62%

The departure of Congressman Ted Strickland to pursue the Ohio governorship created an open seat that many thought could result in a "pick up" for Republicans. The race pitted Republican state Representative Chuck Blasdel against Democratic state Senator Charlie Wilson. This race garnered much early attention from the national political parties, including a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney on behalf of Blasdel.

Wilson, forced to run a primary "write-in" campaign due to a filing error, won the Democratic primary, gaining more votes than his Republican opponent who was listed on the ballot. This dramatic result delivered national Republican money targeted at GOP races believed to be winnable. National Democratic money soon followed suit, and Wilson prevailed.

District 12:
PATRICK TIBERI

*Patrick Tiberi (R) 61%
Robert Shamansky (D) 39%

In another closely watched race, incumbent Republican Congressman Pat Tiberi faced off against millionaire, Democrat and former Congressman Bob Shamansky. In a tough year for Republicans, Tiberi took nothing for granted and used his significant campaign war chest to aggressively deliver his message and respond to his opponent's attack ads. In a play right out of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's book, Shamansky attempted to link Tiberi to an unpopular president through clever ads. Additionally, Shamansky self-funded his campaign to the tune of \$1.4 million.

With the election results in, Tiberi's record and reputation as a common sense congressman withstood the Democratic wave of the 2006 mid-term elections. As a member of the House Financial Services and the Education and the Workforce committees, Tiberi has been supportive of the Greater Cleveland Partnership's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.

District 13:
BETTY SUTTON

Craig Foltin (R) 39%
Betty Sutton (D) 61%

The departure of Congressman Sherrod Brown to pursue a bid for U.S. Senate created an open seat in District 13. As a result, a crowded field of Republicans and Democrats emerged for the primary, including candidate retreat and shopping mall heiress Capri Cafaro.

Primary results pitted Republican Lorain Mayor Craig Foltin in a general election contest against attorney and former Ohio House member Betty Sutton, a Democrat. The contest started out as an aggressive effort by Republicans, highlighted by a fundraising visit from Vice President Dick Cheney, to recapture a long-held Democrat seat. Sutton overcame this early effort and was able to link the D.C. "culture of corruption" to Foltin due to indictments and convictions within his mayoral administration.

In the end, Sutton utilized her past experience and relationships, while capitalizing on the missteps of her opponent, to carry her candidacy to substantial victory. With a background as a labor lawyer, Sutton is expected to seek committee assignments focused on labor and health care, as well as economic development.

District 15:
DEBRA PRYCE

*Debra Pryce (R) 52%
Mary Jo Kilroy (D) 48%

The highest ranking Republican female member of Congress, Debra Pryce, faced off against popular Democratic Franklin County Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy in an evenly split district. This mid-Ohio race was a priority because of Pryce's prominence within the Republican Conference, a target of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and other left-leaning special interest groups. Throughout the campaign, Pryce had to fend off attacks from her opponent and special interests which attempted to tie her to an unpopular president, failed Republican leadership and other scandals, including Representatives Bob Ney and Mark Foley.

In the end, Pryce was able to use her campaign war chest to narrowly defeat her opponent and stem the tide of anti-Republicanism and the influence of special interest expenditures in this race. While victorious, this campaign cycle will likely result in a leadership change within the Republican Conference, which will affect Pryce's leadership role.

District 18:
ZACK SPACE

Joy Padgett (R) 38%
Zack Space (D) 62%

In former Congressman Bob Ney's 18th District, state Senator Joy Padgett emerged from a multiple-candidate, special Republican primary to face City of Dover Law Director and Democrat, Zack Space. This race saw an incredible influx of money from outside groups as Republicans toiled to hold onto the seat, and Democrats saw yet another opportunity to capture a seat previously thought impossible.

In the end, Space was successful in leveraging the negative publicity of the Bob Ney situation and independent expenditures to win a seat for the Democrats. Space's experience as an attorney, law director and small business owner may provide guidance as to his desired committee assignments.



**STATE & CUYAHOGA
COUNTY ISSUE RESULTS**



STATE ISSUE 2: OHIO FAIR MINIMUM WAGE AMENDMENT



Against Issue 2 - 44%
For Issue 2 - 56%

This proposed constitutional amendment would raise the state minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.85 per hour beginning January 1, 2007.

See WAGE HIKE, p. 1, for analysis of results

STATE ISSUE 3: LEARN AND EARN AMENDMENT



Against Issue 3 - 57%
For Issue 3 - 43%

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow up to 31,500 slot machines at seven horse racing tracks and at two downtown Cleveland locations.

See VOTERS FOLD, p. 5, for analysis of results

OHIOANS SEE THROUGH SMOKE SCREEN, APPROVE ISSUE 5

STATE ISSUE 4 : SMOKE LESS OHIO



Against Issue 4 - 64%
For Issue 4 - 36%

This proposed constitutional amendment would prohibit smoking in enclosed areas except tobacco stores, private residences or nonpublic facilities, separate smoking areas in restaurants, most bars, bingo and bowling facilities, separated areas of hotels and nursing homes and race tracks.

STATE ISSUE 5: SMOKE FREE OHIO



Against Issue 5 - 42%
For Issue 5 - 58%

The proposed law would prohibit smoking in virtually all public places and in places of employment.

Don't smoke 'em if you got 'em, unless you're at home, in a tobacco shop or at your private club.

Ohio voters Tuesday passed a sweeping anti-smoking issue that prohibits smoking in virtually every public place.

Issue 5 - supported by health groups such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association - was competing with Issue 4, a less stringent anti-smoking measure supported by the hospitality industry and tobacco companies. Issue 4 was also known as Smoke Less Ohio while Issue 5 was known as Smoke Free Ohio.

Because Issue 4 was a proposed constitutional amendment, it would have superseded Issue 5 if both had passed. But voters rejected Issue 4 in favor of the more rigid Issue 5.

Issue 4, which supporters referred to as the "common sense" approach to placing limits on smoking, would have allowed smoking in bars, bowling alleys, race tracks, bingo halls and restaurants that had separate lounge areas.

Issue 5 prohibits smoking in all of those areas. Supporters of the issue argued that workers at establishments that allow smoking are constantly exposed to potentially harmful secondhand smoke.

If Issue 4 had passed, it would have nullified local anti-smoking laws in 21 Ohio cities - including Columbus. The passage of Issue 5 lays to rest the smoking debate and provides certainty and uniformity across the Buckeye State.

VOTERS GIVE ARTS & CULTURE A BOOST



Cuyahoga County Issue 18: Arts & Culture

This proposed tax increase on cigarettes of thirty cents per pack for 10 years would support arts and cultural organizations in Cuyahoga County.

Against the Tax Levy - 44%
For the Tax Levy - 56%

Issue 18 will raise an estimated \$20 million annually for arts and culture in Cuyahoga County, thanks to voters who approved a sin tax measure to award grants to artists and arts and culture organizations throughout the county.

Greater Cleveland is nationally recognized for the strength and quality of its arts and culture. Such organizations support more than 10,000 good-paying jobs and generate more than \$1 billion in annual economic activity for our region.

Recognizing the positive economic impact the arts have on northeast Ohio and that arts and culture organizations cannot be solely supported by our private sector, Greater Cleveland Partnership and COSE - along with a number of other community organizations and public officials - endorsed this issue.

Issue 18 will implement a tax on cigarette sales in Cuyahoga County of 30 cents per pack for 10 years. After 10 years, there is the option to put a renewal levy on the ballot. By Ohio law, revenue can only be used to support Cuyahoga County's arts and culture assets.

A panel of art experts from outside the county will consider applications for the money and make recommendations to the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, who will give final approval on grant distribution.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTED



Cuyahoga County Issue 19: Health & Human Services

A proposed tax levy to replace a portion of an existing levy to benefit Cuyahoga County's Health and Human Services.

Against the Tax Levy - 38%
For the Tax Levy - 62%

Cuyahoga County voters approved a small property tax increase Tuesday for health and human services.

The levy - which was Issue 19 on the countywide ballot - finances a variety of health care services for the poor and the elderly. Money from this tax will also help finance MetroHealth Medical Center, the county's public hospital. MetroHealth Medical Center offers Life Flight, a severe burn treatment center and an emergency trauma center.

The tax approved by voters was a replacement levy for a previous health and human services tax. The new assessment will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home less than \$4 a month in new taxes.

The Greater Cleveland Partnership and COSE urged passage of the issue, noting the vital services health and human service agencies provide for the county's residents.



'06 ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

GOVERNOR:

- Ted Strickland (D) trounces Ken Blackwell (R) in race for Ohio governor.

STATEWIDE OFFICES & ISSUES:

- Secretary of state to transition from Republican Ken Blackwell to Democrat Jennifer Brunner.
- Democrat Marc Dann defeats Republican Betty Montgomery in hostile battle for Ohio attorney general.
- State Auditor-Elect Mary Taylor is the only Republican elected to statewide, non-judicial office.
- Former Congressman Tom Sawyer (D) crushed incumbent Deborah Owens Fink (R) in race for District 7 state school board.
- Issue 3, the gaming initiative, was defeated despite strong support in Cuyahoga County.
- No/Yes votes on Issues 4 and 5, respectively, ban smoking in all public buildings.
- An increase in the minimum wage (Issue 2) was approved despite privacy concerns. Ohio is one of six states that will raise minimum wage, joining 18 other states with a wage higher than \$5.15/hour.

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Republicans maintain majority in Ohio Legislature, but advantage is reduced, particularly in the House.
- Three Republican reps - John Boehner, David Hobson and Ralph Regula - currently sit in the "Top 10 Power Ranking". This will change come January.

U.S. CONGRESS:

- Democrats take control of Congress for the first time since 1994.
- Ohio GOP candidates for U.S. House fare better in Ohio than other parts of the country. Only one Ohio seat - Bob Ney's former district - went from Republican to Democratic control. Republicans Patrick Tiberi, Debra Pryce, Steve Chabot and Jean Schmidt won.
- Sherrod Brown (D) coasts to U.S. Senate victory with more than 70 percent of the vote in Cuyahoga County.
- Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will become the first female Speaker of the U.S. House.
- The Democratic majority in the U.S. House is expected to diminish Ohio leadership posts held in D.C.
- Ohio Democrats, including Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Marcy Kaptur, will gain power in the new majority.
- The dead heat Virginia Senate race will likely leave the nation hanging until the results of a recount in mid-December.
- Senate close calls - Republican incumbent Jim Talent loses Missouri to Claire McCaskill; Republican candidate Bob Corker edges out Harold Ford in Tennessee.
- No Senate surprises - Previously vulnerable incumbent Robert Menendez (D) defeats Tom Kean (R) in New Jersey; Pennsylvania incumbent Rick Santorum (R) thrashed by Bob Casey Jr. (D); Sitting Republican Lincoln Chafee loses to Sheldon Whitehouse (D) in Rhode Island.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY:

- Residents give nod to arts and culture (Issue 18) and health and human services (Issue 19). Both issues were supported by GCP and COSE.
- Republican Joan Synenberg overcame the judicial "name game" and beat Christine Russo, a dominant but less credentialed political name, for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

ELECTION FACTOIDS:

- Ohio congressman Steve Chabot from Cincinnati was one of many voters sent home because his driver's license did not match their voting address.
- Campaigns nationwide spent more than \$2.1 billion, breaking all previous records.



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INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF NORTHEAST OHIO

There's strength in numbers. By pooling our resources, the Greater Cleveland Partnership Political Action Committee (GCP PAC) is helping to make Northeast Ohio a more competitive place to do business.

The GCP PAC is a volunteer, non-partisan organization helping to strengthen the collective voice of the business community, increasing our ability to advance our region's agenda for economic growth and making us more effective on public policy issues.

Contributions to the PAC are strictly voluntary. Although there is no minimum amount one can give, state campaign finance law restricts individual contributions to \$10,000 annually. Corporate checks may not be accepted. PAC contributions will only be made to state and local candidates. The PAC is prohibited from making contributions to federal candidates.

The PAC is just one of many GCP advocacy tools available to help the organization facilitate economic growth and create jobs in Greater Cleveland. Being a member of the PAC allows an individual to help promote the region's business agenda in the legislative process and provides special access to unique GCP events and other benefits.

For more information on the GCP PAC, please contact Gary Smith at 216-592-2244 or gsmith@gcpartnership.com. Contributions may be sent to:

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Greater Cleveland Partnership



POWER FOR NORTHEAST OHIO

DEMOCRATS from p. 4

What's next for America?

Based on last night's election results, political observers are beginning to make predictions on what may or may not get done legislatively when the new Congress reconvenes in January.

With the majority also comes the power to convene hearings and investigations. How much time and energy the Democrats will devote to such activities is unknown, but it will have an impact on their abilities to accomplish legislative goals.

With Democratic control of the House and Senate, the business community could expect to see a shift in legislative focus. Democrats have identified an agenda that includes a minimum wage increase, earmark reform and 9-11 Commission Report implementation. It's likely that President Bush's tax cuts and the Patriot Act will get revisited, while other Bush agenda items will never be considered. In the final two years of the Bush presidency, the administration will be confronted by a sometime hostile Congress with the political will to advance its agenda.

*The Greater Cleveland Partnership's mission is to serve
as the catalyst for economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio.*