

electionreport

GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP/COSE

OVERNIGHT REPORT * NOVEMBER 5, 2008



What it could mean for northeast Ohio business

OBAMA AND DEMS TAKE CONTROL

Significant American history that can be easily and vividly recalled as a frozen moment in time occurs so infrequently in a lifetime.

Today we have one - the first African-American president.

Regardless of your political leanings, Barack Obama's election already merits considerable mention in the good, big book called the United States. Not so many years ago, a black president was simply unthinkable. This election touches numerous chords, and we will leave it to others to explore and interpret many of those resulting impressions.

Today we try to offer an objective glimpse into what Obama's election might mean for business people in northeast Ohio.

This much is certain: The most powerful job on Earth just got more powerful.

President-elect Obama will arrive at the White House with so much more than his historical accomplishment and the friendly, if fleeting, public wonder that always greets a new president. He will also have the uncommon and considerable backing by an increased Democrat majority in the House and a broadened Democrat-majority in the Senate.

It appears as if the Democrats fell short of winning a 60-member, filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. But after eight years of George Bush, the Democrats will be clearly in charge.

In Washington, it's going to be one-party rule - on steroids.

"Remember - the business community has had a relatively easy ride for the past eight years," said a former Ohio congressman. "This shift in power shouldn't be taken for more than it is. The first 100



Obama



Biden

days are likely to be a tsunami of Democrat issues. There is a lot of pent up frustration and we're likely to see it unleashed. After the first 100 days, it will moderate to an extent. But be ready. You need to work now to educate folks about your positions."

The new reality of a bigger Democrat Senate majority shifts the landscape for the remaining Republican senators who - because of their reduced numbers - may find themselves with more frequent responsibility to try to block Democrat-led initiatives. Such situations may prove to be particularly dicey for these GOP

See *OBAMA* p. 3

BUDISH LIKELY TO LEAD OHIO HOUSE

The fading Republican influence on state government in Ohio got a bit dimmer yesterday.

Democrats took control of the Ohio House of Representatives, albeit by a slim margin. Final vote totals continued to trickle in Wednesday, but it appeared as if the Democrats could begin next year with a 53-46 majority, which is the exact margin the Republican majority holds today.

It was only four years ago that the GOP held a 60-39 majority in the House. The Ohio Senate continues to have a strong Republican majority.

By winning control of the House, Democrat Gov. Ted Strickland will for the first time be working with a legislative branch that enjoys a majority from his party. Strickland campaigned hard and successfully for numerous Democratic House candidates.

Despite this increased strength for the Democrats in the House, 2009 is not shaping up to be an easy year for governing in Ohio - where a considerable deficit is looming at the Statehouse.

"Revenues are lagging, unemployment is rising and one has to be very concerned with the auto industry," said one long-time statehouse observer who has ties to northeast Ohio. "If the auto industry gets a cold, Ohio gets pneumonia."

See *STATEHOUSE* p. 10

Ohio's Congressional delegation loses some firepower but is well positioned for the future

While deaths, retirements and defeat in the delegation have cost Ohio more than a century of experience in the House of Representatives - an institution where seniority is revered and rewarded with plum committee and subcommittee assignments - the seniority and importance of some long serving and newly-elected Ohio Democrats is rising at just the right time.

Republican House members from Ohio who are retiring include Ralph Regula, 36 years' experience and a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee; Dave Hobson, 18 years' experience and a member of the Appropriations Committee; and Deborah Pryce, 16 years' experience. Republican Paul Gillmor, who had 18 years' experience in the House, died in 2007. And Democrat Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who was in her fifth term, died earlier this year.

Rep. Steve Chabot, a seventh term Republican, was defeated by Steve Driehaus, a state representative. Driehaus is the first Democrat to represent greater Cincinnati in congress since 1994. Chabot was the ranking member on the House Small Business Committee and was a COSE ally.

See *CONGRESS* p. 4

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Table of Contents

Presidential Results

Overview 1

Local Races

Cuyahoga County Commissioner 6
 Cuyahoga County Issue 127 6

Statewide Candidates

Attorney General 7
 Justices, Supreme Court of Ohio 7

Statewide Issues

State Issues 1 & 2 8
 State Issues 3 & 5 9
 State Issue 6 10

Ohio General Assembly

Overview 1
 Ohio House of Representatives 11
 Ohio Senate 13

Federal Races

Overview 1
 U.S. House of Representatives 14
 Key U.S. Senate Races 16
 U.S. Senate Races 18

Features

2008 Election Highlights 2
 Joe Roman (GCP) Column 5
 Tim Reynolds (COSE) Column 5
 GCP PAC 19
 GCP/COSE Contacts 20

PRESIDENT

- * History is made as Barack Obama is elected to be the first African American president; one observer notes that John McCain was punished at the polls by a strong anti-Bush sentiment.
- * Obama won the electoral vote by a landslide 338 to 163 electoral votes; popular vote 62 million to 55 million.
- * According to exit polling, the national youth vote increased by only one percent this year, while new voters accounted for 11 percent- exactly the same as the last election.
- * 68% of first-time voters supported Obama, versus 31% for McCain.

U.S. CONGRESS

- * While Democrats gained seats in the U.S. Senate, it appears they will fall short of reaching a 60-seat majority that would have given them ability to silence Republican debate.
- * The Ohio delegation is evenly split as Democrats and Republicans each now have nine house seats and one senate seat.
- * Democrat John Boccieri becomes the newest congressman for northeast Ohio.
- * Long-time Congressman Steve Chabot (R)- close ally of small business- loses his Cincinnati area house seat.
- * Despite criminal convictions, Republican Alaskan Senator Stevens (R) retains seat, perhaps opening the door for Governor Sarah Palin to appoint herself as replacement.

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- * For the first time in 14 years, Democrats gain control of the Ohio House.
- * Rep. Armond Budish (D) of Beachwood likely to become Speaker of the House next year.
- * Republicans will keep their majority in the Ohio Senate.

STATEWIDE OFFICE AND ISSUES

- * Ohio voter turnout falls short of the 80 percent projection and the 5.6 million record in 2004, but surpasses the 5 million mark for the second time in history.
- * A multi-million dollar campaign led by payday lenders failed to earn support of voters as Issue 5 passed capping the interest rate payday lenders can charge at 28 percent.
- * Ohioans reject Issue 6 and the proposed casino in what was likely the most expensive campaign in Ohio history.
- * Justices Evelyn Stratton and Maureen O'Connor were awarded another term on the bench of the all-Republican Ohio Supreme Court

LOCAL RACES AND ISSUES

- * Cuyahoga County voting goes well as more than 10,000 workers and volunteers closed polls on time.
- * Peter Lawson Jones easily defeats Debbie Sutherland in the race for Cuyahoga County Commissioner.

senators on issues that have reasonable levels of support in their home states.

"Looking at this from a historical perspective helps to bring this phenomenon into clearer focus," said Carol Caruso, GCP's Senior Vice President of Advocacy. "While this may be a more dramatic expression of the political cycle, it is clearly something we've seen before.

"Our experience in this regard will help. In fact, because Northeast Ohio has been predominantly Democratic for the past few decades, we have a built-in advantage," she said. "We've been able to build solid relationships with our friends on both sides of the aisle in Washington and Columbus and have worked closely with them to ensure that the business community's views are part of the political landscape."

At the end of the day, Caruso says, the business community, Republicans and Democrats alike share in the goals of job creation and economic health. "It's true that we approach these goals differently and we will not be on the same page on all issues, but creating these partnerships and working toward this overriding goal will serve us well," she added.

Here is a quick recap of where Obama has been on major issues that would or could affect business:

***Taxes** - Increase taxes for couples making more than \$250,000 and individuals earning more than \$200,000. Favors tax rebates for low and middle income workers. Favors giving businesses a \$3,000 tax credit for each U.S. job they create. Companies could see an end to tax incentives they earn on income generated overseas.

***Unions** - Organized labor, which has contributed heavily to Obama's campaign, will be welcome at the White House for the first time in eight years. "America's trade unions clearly regard an Obama administration as a golden opportunity to reverse their long-term decline," writes *The Economist* magazine. "Mr. Obama has always been particularly close to two groups that are the bane of most businesspeople's lives - lawyers and trade unionists." A top priority for labor: Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would facilitate union organizing efforts in part by eliminating secret ballots.

***Minimum wage** - Obama favors raising it to \$9.50 by 2012.

***Energy** - Look for the Bush Administration's stubborn reluctance to acknowledge or deal with so-called global warming to rapidly melt and evaporate. Obama favors "cap and trade" legislation that establishes a ceiling - which gradually lowers with time - on emissions. Businesses that cannot achieve those new emission targets would have to buy credits. Obama wants to use revenue from the sale of those credits to promote alternative energy and other programs to lower emissions. But any rush to enact such legislation could be tempered if the nation's current, deep economic woes linger. Environmental legislation could be compromised if it is perceived as resulting in higher costs that could arguably translate into job losses.

***Health Care** - Obama wants to require that all children have health insurance. He wants employers to provide health insurance or pay a fee. Very small companies would be exempted. Smaller companies may get tax credits to help pay for health insurance. This differs from COSE's position that favors requiring that all Americans participate in a health insurance program, whether government-sponsored or through plans offered in the private sector.

Businesses should also be mindful of the "R" word - regulation - which may no longer be considered a dirty word in a Democrat-controlled Washington. Even before the election, some congressional Democrats have sent strong signals about more regulation in the financial sector following the Wall Street/banking meltdown. We may also see more efforts to make it easier to bring lawsuits, favoring the position held by trial attorneys.

But Obama's honeymoon won't last forever. It never does in Washington, a uniquely cynical city with a 24/7 news cycle that captures and sometimes outrageously amplifies every minor miscue, stumble and imperfection.

As powerful as an Obama Administration may seem today, there are festering issues the new president and Congress will inherit that could likely demand attention over any new initiatives.

Affecting just about everything is the badly listing economy. Pushing for legislation that deals with unions, the environment or even health care might fizzle - or seem inconsequential or inadequate - if the economy continues its troubled trajectory. Perhaps the economy will be on the rebound when Obama takes office in January, but many analysts are predicting a sluggish global economy throughout 2009.

And Iraq and Afghanistan - shoved off America's center stage by the election and the gyrating performance of the economy - will demand attention from a young president who is not battle-tested. The world will be watching. Changes in this arena could easily shift the nation's attention back to the war, causing Members of Congress and the new president to deal with national security and foreign policy over all other issues.

Because his short tenure in the Senate has produced a very limited voting record by which to predict how he will deal with business issues, Obama has not distinguished himself as a friend of business. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Obama has a cumulative rating of just 42 (on a scale of 100) when it comes to voting on selected issues deemed to be business-friendly. U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, by comparison, has a score of 89.

Ohio will see some benefits from an Obama presidency.

*The Democratic strength in Washington stands to benefit veteran members of Congress such as Rep. Marcy Kaptur, a Democrat from Toledo in her 13th term. She is the senior-most woman in Congress and will become the dean of the Ohio delegation. Congresswoman Kaptur is in a position to be particularly helpful to Northeast Ohio on issues involving NASA Glenn and the Great Lakes, both of which she has expressed support for.

Ohio will have two other new members in its congressional delegation next year. Steve Stivers, a Republican, won the Columbus area seat vacated by Pryce. And John Bocchieri, a Democrat state senator, won Regula's seat.

The Ohio delegation is now evenly split – the Democrats and Republicans each have nine members in the House and one member apiece in the U.S. Senate.

Even with the loss of experience, Ohio is fortunate to have several members positioned for increased influence in the next Congress.



Bocchieri

Rep. Marcy Kaptur – a Democrat from Toledo – becomes the dean of Ohio's delegation and is the senior-most woman in the U.S. House. She sits on the influential House Appropriations Committee and is also a member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development subcommittee. She is positioned to help Northeast Ohio with her support for NASA Glenn and the Great Lakes.

Rep. Tim Ryan – a Democrat from the Youngstown area – is considered by many to be a rising star even though he is beginning just his fourth term. He has forged a good relationship with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Ryan also sits on the House Appropriations Committee. With his strong support for technology and entrepreneurship, Rep. Ryan has already proven to be an ally for Northeast Ohio.

Rep. Betty Sutton – a Democrat who represents a large chunk of northeast Ohio – has also developed a good relationship with Pelosi. Known by Pelosi as a 'majority maker', Sutton (along with fellow classmate Rep. Zack Space (D, OH-18)) has the ear of the Speaker and committee assignments and resources brought back to the district demonstrate that influence.

Sutton has gotten some good, early reviews as she enters her second term in Congress. While being known for her relationship to organized labor, she has worked hard to establish a relationship with the business community. She has been an ally on issues such as the Great Lakes Compact and economic development.



Fudge

When the new congress convenes next year, Greater Clevelanders will sharply feel the loss of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones – an astute, seasoned congresswoman who would have been poised to receive good committee assignments in 2009.

However, incoming 'freshman', Warrensville Heights Mayor Marcia Fudge, who served as Tubbs Jones' Chief of Staff before becoming Mayor, is strategically placed to step in to the shoes of her former boss. Fudge will have a slight advantage by being elected to fill out the remainder of the Congresswoman's term.

She will have more seniority than the incoming freshman congressional class, which will benefit her in committee assignments.

Rep. Steve LaTourette – a Republican from Geauga County – has proven himself to be effective with his excellent work such as helping spearhead efforts to retain threatened federal jobs with the Cleveland office of the federal Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

He serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and is a candidate to move to the powerful Appropriations committee. And while indeed in the minority, his committee assignments and seniority will continue to carry the weight and firepower needed to represent the interests of Northeast Ohio.



LaTourette

But that is not to say that the business community does not face challenges in advancing its agenda. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce offers one view of how Ohio congressional representatives vote on legislation that affects business. They annually compile a score sheet for all U.S. congress representatives on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more business-friendly a representative is considered to be.

Sutton has a score of 55, Ryan earned a 43 and Kaptur got a 30. For the sake of comparison, LaTourette has an 83 and the three retiring Republican House members from Ohio all had high scores – Regula, 80; Hobson, 91 and Pryce 97.

Brown, Ohio's junior senator, has built a strong relationship with many of Northeast Ohio's business advocates, primarily as a result of his service in the House, as Ohio's Secretary of State, and in the General Assembly.

He has always been accessible to the business community and has expressed a commitment to finding solutions that are acceptable to business; even so, he has a low score of just 27 from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Another long-time observer of Ohio politics noted that Ohio's congressional delegation may find it easier now to serve the state well than it will in 2012 when the state - due to its largely stagnant population - is projected to lose two congressional seats following the 2010 census.

"One of those seats will come from northeast Ohio," he projected. "It's not that far off."

GCP, Great Lakes counterparts outline wish list for Obama



By Joe Roman, President & CEO
The Greater Cleveland Partnership

Northeast Ohio business leaders have been advocating on behalf of our region since the presidential primaries began. Banding together through the Greater Cleveland Partnership, they have created an agenda intended to attract investment and boost job creation.

Ohio is a key swing state, and the Cleveland region helps determine the outcome of the state vote. That means we took advantage of a unique opportunity to promote our priorities and speak with one voice to make sure the candidates hear and understand our message.

To add clout, we aligned our efforts with those of the Great Lakes Region Coalition. The coalition is composed of more than 30 metropolitan chambers of commerce - including the GCP - in the 12 Great Lakes states.

Our agenda includes a comprehensive immigration policy, shaped by the GCP with input from community partners. We need this policy to help our region attract skilled workers. The agenda also includes development priorities determined by our members and public-sector partners, and is endorsed by our board of directors. It addresses the clean air and clean water challenges confronting metro areas in the region.

Collectively, the Great Lakes region - which has 33 percent of the nation's population and is responsible for 32 percent of the gross national product - represents some of the most politically unpredictable and economically challenged citizens in the nation. While the presidential candidates fought hard to win votes, the President-Elect should be equally tenacious in committing to the creation of jobs and growing our region's economy.

The agenda that the GCP and the Great Lakes Region Coalition are advancing includes:

- *Improving the Midwest's transportation infrastructure, including accelerating plans for construction of the Opportunity Corridor.
- *Creating a more open and secure border with Canada.
- *Adopting a comprehensive immigration policy that can help bring talent to the region's metropolitan areas.
- *Diversifying the region's economy by boosting innovation and entrepreneurialism.
- *Harnessing the Great Lakes' economic potential, including funding to move the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and more resources to improve air and water quality.
- *Protecting and growing the role of NASA Glenn in the nation's space exploration program, including building a new runway at Plum Brook Station in Sandusky.

This isn't just another list of pet projects that states routinely send to Washington. These recommendations are necessary steps the federal government must take if the nation's economy, that of its heartland, and Northeast Ohio are to thrive in the global marketplace. Over the past 30 years, targeted investments of this scale have helped other regions in the nation grow - often at our expense.

The realities of a worldwide economy require a dramatically different approach from Washington to deal effectively with the challenges facing Northeast Ohio and other metropolitan areas in the Great Lakes region. The new president must listen to those who represent the job providers on the frontlines of global competition. As our president for at least the next four years, Obama must deliver on many of these agenda items, if economic prosperity is to be achieved and sustained.



The bottom line on Obama and small business

By Tim Reynolds
Chairman, COSE
President, Tribute Inc.



Reynolds

We hear it every campaign season from seemingly every candidate. "Small business is the backbone of the economy." Too often unfortunately, once elected, they seem to forget "Joe the Plumber" amid the barrage of competing interest group pitches.

With 2.5 million Ohio small business owners and employees - 70 million nationwide - small business has the capacity to make sure our newly elected leaders understand what a major contributor to the economy this sector is. And why they need to continue to pay attention.

The facts are staggering. Small businesses comprise 99.7% of all employers and provide 50.4% of jobs in the U.S.

Small businesses provide the majority of jobs in both inner cities (80%) and in rural areas (66%). We are everywhere, and we are politically diverse.

To support and grow small businesses, COSE focuses largely on issues related to healthcare, energy, taxes and investing in small businesses. We also get involved when critical issues like the mandated sick leave act and "card check" threaten our ability to create jobs.

Both senators John McCain and Barack Obama have spent many hours on the campaign trail listening to small businesses and others. Today, it no longer matters what they've said; it only matters what they do. We have taken a look at how some of President-Elect Obama's policies will affect our members and we are prepared to move forward as follows.

TAXES. Obama says that he would simplify tax filings so that most Americans can complete their returns quickly. He supports a \$3.5 million exemption per spouse in the estate tax. Obama has said that he would repeal Bush's tax cuts for the top one percent and eliminate income taxes on seniors earning \$50,000 per year or less.

And, he calls for the reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax but has not set his policy to date. COSE is supportive of repealing the AMT, along with the estate tax.

It is unclear if our members would benefit under Obama's plan to repeal the Bush tax cuts and not raise taxes for the "middle class".

HEALTH CARE POLICY. Small business owners with three to nine employees are currently being forced out of the market because of cost. COSE is hopeful for leadership that supports a fundamental reform of the system.

President-elect Obama supports universal coverage through a mix of private and expanded public insurance. His plan also includes an employer mandate to offer insurance, with very small business exempted, but opposes a requirement on individuals to carry insurance. Employers who don't offer adequate coverage would be required to pay between four and six percent payroll tax toward the cost of government-run programs.

Obama's plan would establish the National Health Insurance Exchange where individuals could purchase health insurance from both private and public plans. We urge President-elect Obama to reconsider his stance on employer and individual mandates. Forcing small employers to provide specific benefits not only hurts competition but growth as well.

The current system allows for individuals to "opt in" to participating in the health insurance system, leaving many healthy individuals uninsured. We are left with a system that spreads the risk amongst more of the unhealthy than healthy. COSE is supportive of finding an affordable solution to healthcare that includes letting everyone into an affordable system is critical if we want to spread the risk and lower costs.

See REYNOLDS p. 19



Cuyahoga County Commissioner

**Denotes incumbent*

Jones retains seat as County Commissioner



Jones

Peter Lawson Jones, a Democrat, beat back a spirited challenge from Bay Village Mayor Debbie Sutherland.

***PETER LAWSON JONES (D) - 62%**
Debbie Sutherland (R) - 38%

Sutherland, a Republican, ran a campaign of change that emphasized the need to make Cuyahoga County government more efficient. She wanted to abolish the current form of county government that features three commissioners and replace it with a structure that would include a county executive and a county council. Sutherland also favored having more county officials appointed instead of elected.

But Sutherland chose to run in a year that was decidedly Democratic, and that tide - as well as the always difficult task of attempting to dislodge an incumbent - proved to be too much.

Jones, who has been a commissioner since 2000, was the only commissioner who voted against the quarter percent county sales tax increase that is designed to raise money to establish a medical mart in Cleveland. On other economic development issues, however, he has been an enthusiastic supporter and has worked closely with the business community to advance a pro-jobs agenda.



New chapter for county library system

Cuyahoga County Issue 127: Cuyahoga County Public Library

A proposed tax levy to replace and increase an existing levy to benefit the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

For the Levy -59%

Against the Levy - 41%

Cuyahoga County voters approved a small but important tax increase for the Cuyahoga County Public Library.



With the system's circulation up 37% over the last five years, this increased operating fund will allow residents living in Cuyahoga County's 47 communities to continue to access up-to-date resources and materials, engage in diverse programming for all ages, and keep branches open on weekends, including Sundays, year-round.

The tax approved by voters was a replacement levy for a previous operating levy that expires at the end of 2009. The new assessment will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home less than \$2 a month in new taxes - a lower tax rate than any of the individual library systems in the County.

Endorsed by County elected officials, business leaders, organized labor and others, the Greater Cleveland Partnership and COSE urged passage of the issue, noting the vital services the Cuyahoga County Public Library provides for the county's residents.

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

Attorney General

*Denotes incumbent

Cordray elected to fill remainder of Dann's term as Attorney General



Cordray

As expected, voters selected Democrat State Treasurer Richard Cordray over Republican candidate Mike Crites to be Ohio's attorney general. Thanks to a large campaign war chest and better name recognition, Cordray handily defeated Crites, a former U.S. attorney.

RICHARD CORDRAY (D) - 56%
Mike Crites (R) - 39%

Cordray will serve the remainder of the term - through January 2011 - replacing disgraced former attorney general, Marc Dann, who was forced to resign in scandal. He replaces Nancy Rogers, appointed to serve in the interim by Governor Ted Strickland.

As state treasurer, Cordray effectively managed investments and created financial outreach programs to target the foreclosure crisis. His role in public service spans decades. He previously worked in the attorney general's office as the state's first Solicitor General, serving as senior advisor to then Attorney General Lee Fisher. Cordray also served as a state representative, taught law at The Ohio State University and was treasurer of Franklin County. The five-time *Jeopardy!* champion has argued six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cordray has pledged to focus on consumer protection issues including the Wall Street financial crisis, predatory mortgage lending and unfair credit card practices. As state treasurer, he leveraged capital for small businesses and received the 2008 Financial Services Champion Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Cordray's victory will have a domino effect on the statewide political scene. Strickland must now appoint a state treasurer to serve the balance of Cordray's term.

Justices, Supreme Court of Ohio

Ohioans reelect Justices O'Connor and Stratton

Two seats on the seven member Ohio Supreme Court bench were up for grabs as Justice Evelyn Stratton and Justice Maureen O'Connor faced competition from Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge Peter Sikora and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Joe Russo respectively.

Both incumbents were reelected. Historically, it has been rare for incumbent Justices to be defeated- the last Justice to be defeated for reelection was in 1986.

While a candidate's party affiliation is not listed on the ballot in these non-partisan races, all current Ohio Supreme Court Justices are Republican.

Stratton- recognized for her work to expedite adoptions and create special dockets for the mentally ill- faced a potentially difficult race with Sikora who focused on the need for a Democrat Justice and received the endorsement of *The Plain Dealer*. O'Connor has been perceived as a voice of reason on the Court, winning voters confidence and defeating a strong candidate in Russo.

Unlike past elections, these races received little attention, as the perception has been that the philosophical balance of the Court will not be impacted by the outcome.



O'Connor



Stratton

***MAUREEN O'CONNOR (R) - 67%**
Joseph Russo (D) - 33%

***EVELYN STRATTON (R) - 63%**
Peter Sikora (D) - 37%



STATEWIDE ISSUES

Ohio voters had some serious homework to do on a ballot crowded with important issues. Absent from the general election ballot was Issue 4, the so-called Healthy Families Act, which would have increased the number of paid sick days for workers. Thanks to the leadership of COSE, the Greater Cleveland Partnership and many other statewide business advocacy organizations - and with the help of Governor Ted Strickland - proponents of the mandatory paid sick leave initiative agreed to remove the issue from the ballot.

Voters agree to earlier filing deadlines for state ballot issues

State Issue 1: Petition Deadlines

*Create earlier filing deadlines for State ballot issues
(from 90 days to 125 days in advance).*

For the Issue - 69%
Against the Issue - 31%

Voters have changed the deadline for filing state ballot issues from 90 to 125 days before an election.

Issue 1 addresses a timing issue surrounding the right for citizens to put issues on the ballot to override legislation enacted by elected officials, to enact laws that legislators haven't passed and amend the state constitution. The process of placing an issue on the ballot can be time consuming and complicated. Thousands of signatures must be confirmed, procedures and language must be reviewed and legal challenges may arise.

Advocates for pushing up the deadlines claim that an additional 35 days will help reduce expense and confusion. And by establishing more time, the state administration can ensure ballot issues are valid, avoid wasting taxpayer money and reduce voter confusion.

Bond issue for environmental clean-ups, redevelopment approved

State Issue 2: Clean Ohio

Authorize the state to issue bonds for the Clean Ohio Program.

For the Issue - 69%
Against the Issue - 31%

Ohioans reaffirmed their support for the Clean Ohio program originally passed by voters in 2000. By approving Issue 2, voters authorized the State to sell \$400 million in bonds for the purpose of brownfield clean-up and redevelopment, and green space and farmland conservation. The issue does not raise taxes.

Continuation of the Clean Ohio Program is an integral part of the \$1.57 billion economic-stimulus package backed by Governor Strickland. Since Clean Ohio's inception, the State has spent nearly \$400 million on job-creating and green space projects throughout the state, including the clean-up of 173 polluted industrial sites that reportedly leveraged \$2.6 billion in private investments and nearly 15,000 jobs.

It is also responsible for 210 miles of new recreational biking, hiking, and walking trails, preserving 20,000 acres of farm land and protecting 26,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

The program's local impact has been noticeable. More than 22 percent of Clean Ohio funds have been invested in the Northeast Ohio region (\$85+ million). Success stories include the extension of the Towpath Trail, helping to turn the former Ohio Knitting Mills into the MidTown Technology Center, the clean-up that has been started of the Flats East Bank brownfield site and many others.





Rights of waterfront property owners strengthened

State Issue 3: Water & Private Property Protection

Amend the constitution to protect private property rights in group water, lakes and watercourses.

Ohio voters bolstered private property rights by passing Issue 3 and amending the Ohio Constitution to guarantee property owners have the right to use water that borders, or flows through or beneath their land.

Issue 3 was brought to the ballot by the Ohio General Assembly as part of a compromise to pass the Great Lakes Compact. Some in the Ohio Senate felt that the Compact infringed on private property rights by putting water in a "public trust" and designating ground water as publicly owned. They insisted on placing Issue 3 on the ballot before they would agree to send the Great Lakes Compact to the Governor for his signature.

For the Issue - 72%
Against the Issue - 28%

The Great Lakes Water Compact has been ratified by eight states, passed by the House and signed by President Bush. It is designed to prevent new diversions of Great Lakes water and requires the states involved to regulate their water usage.

Opponents of Issue 3 claimed the constitutional amendment was unnecessary, these rights are already protected, and that its "reasonable use" language may cause problems down the line.



Ohioans support State's effort to protect consumers from payday lenders

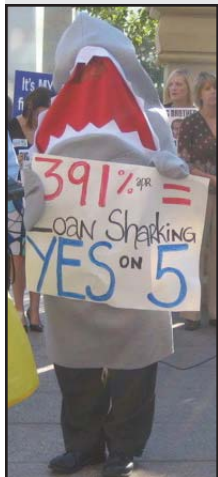
State Issue 5: Payday Lending Reforms

Repeal a law restricting payday lending in Ohio.

For the Issue - 64%
Against the Issue - 36%

Ohio voters Tuesday approved changes to payday lending laws passed earlier this year by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor Ted Strickland designed to protect Ohioans from alleged deceptive lending practices that trapped hundreds of thousands of families in a cycle of debt.

Issue 5 was put on the Ohio ballot by the national payday lending lobby in an effort to partially overturn a provision in the new law that limited the number of loans borrowers could take out in a year and capped interest rates at 28 percent, down from the 391 percent (APR) for an average short-term loan.



Payday lenders - pushing the "no" vote - reported spending an estimated \$14 million (compared to just over a quarter of a million dollars by the "yes" campaign), largely on paid media, warning the cap would mean the loss of thousands of jobs and interfere with individual choice and financial freedom.

But despite their decided financial advantage, the massive grassroots support for the issue - by bipartisan leadership across the state including Governor Strickland, Republican House Speaker John Husted, Senate President Bill Harris and county and municipal officials, every major daily newspaper in Ohio and more than 100 community, business and industry organizations -- resulted in a significant victory.



Ohio not gambling on casino

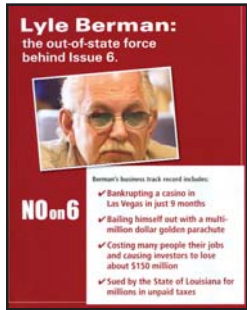
State Issue 6: Casino Gambling

Against the Issue - 63%
For the Issue - 37%

Permitting the operation of a casino near Wilmington, Ohio.

In what is probably the most expensive campaign ever waged in Ohio, voters rejected a constitutional provision that would have authorized a casino northeast of Cincinnati.

The combined total spent by both sides on this hotly contested feud - funded by out-of-state gaming companies - will exceed \$50 million.



For many months, proponents of the measure laid out a strong case for gaming, predicated on job creation and tax revenues distributed throughout Ohio. Issue 6 would have authorized one privately owned gambling casino, estimated at \$600 million, to be built and operated in Clinton County.

As recently as August, Issue 6 was headed for approval, according to some polls - not an easy feat in a state that twice previously rejected casino initiatives. The yes campaign was lead by MyOhioNow.org and a Minnesota developer behind the project.

With high stakes on both sides, it is estimated that supporters and opponents of Issue 6 were spending nearly \$1 million a day on direct mail and advertising in the final days of the campaign.

But when opposition, funded by Penn National Gaming which owns the Argosy Casino in Indiana, launched its well-executed campaign hammering largely on a provision in the proposed amendment that created a tax loop-hole for a single operator, the case for Issue 6 began to crumble and support dwindled. Every major newspaper urged a "no" vote on the initiative.

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEHOUSE from p. 1

Lagging auto sales mean fewer people working in Ohio, where General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and Honda all have substantial facilities. Continued discussions of mergers within the domestic auto industry could result in contraction that would mean more reductions to the state's manufacturing base.

Such daunting fiscal woes may make it difficult – if not impossible – for the Strickland Administration to sustain any momentum on big initiatives such as school funding. The governor, and the legislature, may simply find themselves limited - if not consumed - by the state's money problems.

For the first six months of 2009, observers note, much of the effort at the Statehouse will be devoted to hammering out a new budget amid such difficult financial constraints.

"The budget crisis is essentially going to be the framework under which they operate for the first six months," said a Cleveland-based political observer who formerly worked in the Statehouse.

He said with Obama's victory, the state may simply walk away from efforts to reform health care in Ohio – leaving it up to the federal government to do so.

One big issue that may surface is education and, specifically, changes in how public schools are financed in Ohio. Voters in Ohio may see a ballot issue on education funding.

Amid changes, good news in Columbus for northeast Ohio

As the governor and the legislature struggle to run the state, the Statehouse is providing a ray of good news for northeast Ohio.

See STATEHOUSE p. 11

For the first time in more than 70 years, the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives will likely come from northeast Ohio.

State Rep. Armond Budish of Beachwood appears to be in line to become house speaker – which could potentially yield benefits, or at least some attention, for northeast Ohio.



Budish

Budish is an attorney who is known to business advocates for his work on the House Finance Committee, and to the general public in greater Cleveland for moderating a local consumer-oriented television show and for writing a newspaper column.

Considered a moderate Democrat, he has worked hard to build a relationship with Northeast Ohio businesses and has been an ally on key issues, such as eminent domain and economic development, although the business community was disappointed by his support for efforts to mandate paid sick leave.

But Budish – or anyone else taking the house speaker’s seat these days – may be a tad handicapped by a lack of experience that is a result of the state’s recently enacted term limits.

Not so many years ago, a legislator would become speaker only after many years of serving as a mere member. Budish is beginning just his second term in the House.

“Budish is a good and serious legislator,” said the Cleveland-based political observer. “It’s not a criticism of him personally, but his experience is limited by his tenure in office, especially in areas such as the creation of a state budget.”

If he indeed becomes speaker, Budish may – at least in the early going – need to depend upon the governor’s office for direction.

While having a home-grown house speaker in Columbus would certainly be good for greater Cleveland, what will make an even bigger difference is a local legislative delegation that is committed to work together as a unit, something that Representative Budish is also committed to.

One thing is clear: the Northeast Ohio business community has a seat at the table because of the relationship we have already established.

Ohio House of Representatives

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

Ohio Senate

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

**Denotes incumbent*

Ohio House of Representatives

With the balance of power shifting to Democrats in the Ohio House, several races were key in shaping the Democrat majority played out right here in northeast Ohio.

District 16

*Jennifer Brady (D-Westlake) - 49%
NAN BAKER (R-WESTLAKE) - 51%

Republican challenger Nan Baker, a Westlake city council member and small business owner defeated incumbent Democrat State Representative Jennifer Brady in this hotly-contested race. Despite the fact this is a traditionally Republican district, many considered it a toss-up. The Democrat caucus made a concerted effort to hold on to this seat and were helped considerably by the amount of money organized labor poured into this race. But Baker and the Republicans prevailed.

District 17

***JOSH MANDEL (R-LYNDHURST) - 72%**
Robert Belovich (D-Broadview Heights) - 28%

A rare Republican victory in the 2008 election, incumbent State Representative Josh Mandel coasted to reelection in the 17th Ohio House District. Democrat challenger Bob Belovich ran an admirable campaign, but Mandel's reputation as an Iraq Veteran, an attentive representative, prolific fundraiser and a hard campaigner was too much for Belovich to overcome.

District 18

MATTHEW PATTEN (D-STRONGSVILLE) - 51%
Colleen Grady (R-Strongsville) - 49%

Democrat Matt Patten of Strongsville squeaked out a victory over Republican Colleen Grady despite Republican attempts to tie him to embattled Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora. The 18th District seat became vacant when State Representative Tom Patton declared his candidacy for the 24th Ohio Senate District seat being vacated by term-limited Robert Spada, who was going to run for this 18th District House seat. However, he withdrew from the race late, opening the race for Grady.

District 57

***MATT LUNDY (D-ELYRIA) - 58%**
Daniel Urban (R-Avon) - 42%

State Representative Matt Lundy won reelection to the 57th Ohio House District by defeating upstart challenger, Republican Dan Urban of Avon. Urban fought hard to take back this historically Republican district, but Lundy's advantage as the incumbent and a difficult environment for Republicans were just too much for his challenger to overcome. Lundy will serve his second term in the Ohio House after defeating then-incumbent Republican Earl Martin of Avon Lake in 2006.

District 58


Terry Traster (D-Amherst) - 46%
TERRY BOOSE (R-NORWALK) - 54%

Based on preliminary returns, one bright spot for Republicans occurred in the 58th House District where Terry Boose, a former Huron County Commissioner, defeated the Democrats' third choice for that seat, Terry Traster. Democrats knew this would be a tough one to win because of the scandal-plagued Democrat Matt Barrett. When Barrett resigned, Democrats appointed former Huron County judge Thomas Heydinger to replace him. Heydinger then took his name off the ballot-paving the way for Traster's defeat.

District 63

*Carol-Ann Schindel (R-Mentor) - 46%
MARK SCHNEIDER (D-MENTOR) - 54%

In another race deemed critical for party control of the Ohio House, Carol-Ann Schindel lost her bid for a second term to Democrat challenger Mark Schneider. Regarded as one of the most negative local campaigns, Schindel attempted to paint Schneider as an irresponsible Cuyahoga County prosecuting attorney that caused the release of a child rapist which may have backfired, causing a stinging rebuke by *The Plain Dealer* and more momentum for Schneider.

	District 7 - *Kenny Yuko	ENDORSED	District 8 - *Armond Budish
	District 11 - *Sandra Williams		District 13 - *Michael Skindell
	District 14 - *Mike Foley		District 15 - *Timothy DeGeeter
	District 16 - Nan Baker		District 17 - *Josh Mandel
	District 18 - Colleen Grady		District 57 - Daniel Urban
	District 62 - *Lorraine Fende		District 98 - *Matthew Dolan

In other races:

District 7
***KENNY YUKO (D-RICHMOND HEIGHTS) - 82%**
Beverly Valencic (R - Cleveland) - 18%

District 8
***ARMOND BUDISH (D-BEACHWOOD) - 87%**
Jerry V. Powell (R-Warrensville Heights) - 13%

District 9
***BARBARA BOYD (D-CLEVELAND HEIGHTS) - 87%**
Charles C. Drake (R-Cleveland Heights) - 13%

District 10
***EUGENE R. MILLER (D-CLEVELAND) - 100%**

District 11
***SANDRA WILLIAMS (D-CLEVELAND) - 85%**
Rosalind A. McAllister (R-Cleveland) - 15%

District 12
***MICHAEL DEBOSE (D-CLEVELAND) - 91%**
Bryan Glencer (R-Garfield Heights) - 9%

District 13
***MICHAEL J. SKINDELL (D-LAKEWOOD) - 75%**
Mary-Louise Kirk (R-Lakewood) - 25%

District 14
***MIKE FOLEY (D-CLEVELAND) - 73%**
David Morris (R-Brook Park) - 27%

District 15
***TIMOTHY J. DEGEETER (D-PARMA) - 100%**

District 62
***LORRAINE M. FENDE (D-WILLOWICK) - 63%**
Mike Gutierrez (R-Eastlake) - 37%

District 98
***MATTHEW J. DOLAN (R-NOVELTY) - 100%**

Ohio Senate

District 18

Grendell was unopposed for reelection.

***TIM GRENDELL (R-CHESTERLAND) - 100%**

District 24

The race to replace State Senator Bob Spada saw Republican State Representative Tom Patton easily defeat his Democrat challenger Gary Kucinich. The popularity enjoyed by Patton in his House District clearly translated to the 24th Senate District, evidenced by Patton's drubbing of Kucinich.

TOM PATTON (R-STRONGSVILLE) - 69%
Gary Kucinich (D-Cleveland) - 31%

District 28

Sawyer wins election to the Ohio Senate seat he was appointed to in 2007 to fill a vacancy. Prior to serving in the Ohio Senate, Sawyer has served as a U.S. congressman, mayor of Akron and in the Ohio House of Representatives.

***TOM SAWYER (D-AKRON) - 68%**
James Carr (R-Uniontown) - 32%

District 32

Cafaro ran unopposed for reelection.

***CAPRI CAFARO (D-HUBBARD) - 100%**



FEDERAL RACES

U.S. House of Representatives

Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election
Republican	199	172
Democrat	235	252
Independent	0	0
Undecided	0	11

As of noon on 11-5-08

U.S. Senate

Party	Pre-Election	Post-Election
Republican	49	40
Democrat	49	54
Independent	2	2
Undecided	0	4

As of noon on 11-5-08

**Denotes incumbent*

U.S. House of Representatives

Northeast Ohio Races:

District 10

Jim Trakas (R-Independence) - 39%
***DENNIS KUCINICH (D-CLEVELAND) - 57%**

If ever there was a year to run against Congressman Kucinich, this seemed to be it. After staging another futile presidential campaign, the veteran congressman won the Democratic congressional primary earlier this year with only about half the total vote. But Kucinich had little trouble Tuesday beating back a challenge from Republican Jim Trakas, a former state representative. The former Cleveland mayor was reelected to his seventh term in Congress in the 10th congressional district, which includes huge pockets of Democrat voters on the west side of Cuyahoga County.

District 11

Thomas Pekarek (R-Cleveland) - 15%
MARCIA FUDGE (D-WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS) - 85%

Following the tragic and untimely loss of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Marcia Fudge - current Warrensville Heights mayor and former chief of staff for Tubbs Jones - emerged as the clear favorite to be her replacement. Fudge easily defeated her Republican opponent Thomas Pekarek, and will be sworn-in when the 111th Congress convenes in January, 2009.

However, the remainder of Tubbs Jones' 110th Congressional term needs to be completed. To do so, the U.S. Constitution requires that members of Congress be elected, not appointed, to the seat. Therefore, voters in the 11th District will return to the polls on November 18 for a special election which will select the candidate to complete the current term. As the Democratic candidate on the ballot, and with no meaningful opposition, Fudge will be elected to serve the rest of the term.

Fudge will then be sworn in as a member of the current Congress, and as such, she will have the ability to participate in the debate in the coming two months surrounding the creation of a second Economic Stimulus Package, which could help direct funding into a district that has been severely affected by the slowed economy.

Fudge's early arrival will put her in a superior position with regard to seniority among the large crop of newly elected freshman representatives and is expected to translate into more favorable committee assignments. She has expressed a desire to serve on the Financial Services and Education & Labor committees.



Congresswoman-elect Marcia Fudge receives a phone call on election night relaying to her the early returns in her race.

District 13

David S. Potter (R-Strongsville) - 36%
***BETTY SUTTON (D-COPLEY TOWNSHIP) - 64%**

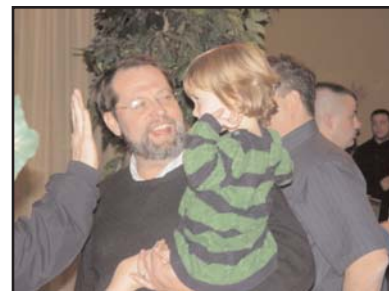
Incumbent Congresswoman Betty Sutton handily defeated David Potter for the seat formerly occupied by Senator Sherrod Brown. Sutton, who is close to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and serves on the powerful House Rules Committee, will gain even more stature in the next Congress as she gains seniority.

District 14

***STEVEN C. LATOURETTE (R-BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP) - 58%**
William O'Neill (D-South Russell) - 39%

Incumbent Congressman Steve LaTourette faced an aggressive, yet underfunded candidate in Bill O'Neill. LaTourette capitalized on his experience and a voting record that appealed to his moderately Republican leaning district. Highlighting his support of American workers and products, alternative energy, technology development and job creation, LaTourette easily defeated his opponent.

As the Congressman enters his 8th term, he has earned a significant amount of seniority within the Republican caucus and Congress as a whole. LaTourette will have seniority with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which is set to reauthorize the massive Highway Reauthorization Bill in 2009. However, he is also being courted for the powerful Appropriations Committee. While he would likely not be able to serve on both influential committees, LaTourette's presence on either committee will be beneficial for the Cleveland area.



Congressman Steve LaTourette and his daughter Emma are congratulated by a supporter at the Congressman's election night victory party held on Tuesday night.

District 17

Duane Grassell (R-Mogadore) - 22%
***TIM RYAN (D-NILES) - 78%**

Incumbent Congressman Tim Ryan coasted to reelection over his opponent in a race that was never in doubt. Ryan, elected to a fourth term, has impressed and befriended Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Ryan will continue to rise in stature both in Congress and as a member of the Appropriations Committee, a coveted assignment in Washington, and in Ohio where he is seen as a rising star in Democratic circles.

In other key Ohio races:

District 1

*Steve Chabot (R-Westwood) - 48%
STEVE DRIEHAUS (D-PRICE HILL) - 52%

Incumbent Congressman Steve Chabot, seeking his 8th term in Congress, faced the political challenge of his career in Steve Driehaus, a state representative and self-described "pro-life, fiscally conservative Democrat." The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee targeted this diverse Cincinnati-area district hoping to make the most of Obama's popularity. In the end - the anti-Republican sentiment was too much for Chabot to overcome. Chabot's loss will contribute to the reduction in Republican seniority within Ohio's delegation. In addition, he was the ranking member on the Small Business Committee and an ally to COSE and their national partner, the NSBA.

District 2

***JEAN SCHMIDT (R-LOVELAND) - 45%**
Victoria Wells Wulsin (D-Indian Hill) - 37%

In a race that early on looked to be a potential pick-up for the Democrats, Congresswoman Schmidt - who was appointed to Rob Portman's seat in 2005 when he left to take a job in the Bush Administration - was able to defend her seat and secure a victory in this closely watched race. This is her second consecutive win after beating Wulson in 2006 in this conservative-leaning district.

District 7

STEVE AUSTRIA (R-BEAVERCREEK) - 58%
Sharen Neuhardt (D-Yellow Springs) - 42%

Early projections suggested this seat was a potential steal for Democrats, but Republican and current Ohio Senate Majority Whip Steve Austria beat attorney Sharen Neuhardt by a significant margin. Austria will replace Congressman Dave Hobson, a veteran lawmaker and member of the influential Appropriations Committee, who had a positive impact on northeast Ohio for several years.

District 15

STEVE STIVERS (R-UPPER ARLINGTON) - 48%

Mary Jo Kilroy (D-Columbus) - 43%

This central Ohio race pitted State Senator Steve Stivers against Franklin County Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy in a battle to replace retiring Congresswoman Deborah Pryce. Like the 16th District race, this contest was closely followed by the national media and targeted by both parties. Kilroy was unsuccessful in her attempts to tie him to his previous work as a bank lobbyist. Kilroy had also fallen short by 1,062 votes in her 2006 bid to unseat Pryce. Stivers overcame the Democrats' tsunami despite a late entry into the race.

District 16

Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) - 46%

JOHN BOCCIERI (D-NEW MIDDLETOWN) - 54%

In the race to succeed retiring 36-year member Ralph Regula, State Senator John Bocchieri defeated State Senator Kirk Schuring. Ohio's 16th Congressional district is a battleground district and one that the national media closely monitors as a bellwether for the rest of the country. The district was targeted as a must-win seat, with both parties pouring millions of dollars into broadcast media, print ads and automated robo-calls. Bocchieri was able to leverage the struggling economy and the funding resources that flooded to his district to capture this seat.

**Denotes incumbent*

Key U.S. Senate Races

Results as of noon, 11-5-08

Alaska - *TED STEVENS - R (48%) over Mark Begich - D (47%) - TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Seeking a seventh full term in a race against Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich, Senator Ted Stevens was in the political fight of his life after his October conviction on seven corruption counts. With 99 percent of the vote in, Stevens conviction does not appear to have been enough for Alaskans to vote the senator out of office. In the final days of the campaign, Stevens seems to have made his case that people outside of Alaska were trying to determine the fate of the election. It looks like Stevens' years of service for Alaska have paid off with voters giving him the benefit of the doubt.

Political observers also believe that many Alaskans went to the polls intent on voting Republican, possibly because if Stevens steps down (or is removed), Governor Sarah Palin (better known now as Republican VP nominee) will appoint his replacement - and could appoint herself. Stevens could continue to serve for an indefinite period with a complicated appeal process anticipated, so expect this theater to drag on for a while. But Republicans will retain control of this seat.

Colorado - MARK UDALL - D (52%) defeats Bob Schaffer - R (43%)

With the retirement of Republican Wayne Allard, this race long looked to be a clear pick-up for the Democrats, and this turned out to be the case. Colorado was part of the anti-republican sentiment that swept the nation.

Georgia - *Saxby Chambliss - R (50%) versus Jim Martin - D (50%) - TOO CLOSE TO CALL

The Georgia Senate contest may well be headed to a runoff election on December 2, which is called for in Georgia law if no candidate is able to secure more than 50% of the vote. This delay could impact a variety of issues as Senators attempt to organize in the next Congress, including seniority and committee assignments.

Incumbent Republican Senator Saxby Chambliss upset Sen. Max Cleland (D) in 2002, and Democrats were hoping for revenge. Their nominee was former state Rep. Jim Martin. Chambliss had a large war chest and led in most polls, but the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee invested a significant amount of cash in the race. The Libertarian candidate, Allen Buckley, contributed to the potential runoff.

While this race may or may not be decided right away, political insiders believe Chambliss would have a significant advantage in a December runoff.

Kentucky - *MITCH McCONNELL - R (53%) over Bruce Lunsford - D (47%)

Republicans knocked off Democratic Senate Leader Tom Daschle four years ago, and the Democrats would love to have gotten revenge. In a terribly difficult climate for Republicans across the country, there was a sense that McConnell was vulnerable, and up until very recently polling data indicated a close race. However, McConnell turned up the heat in the final days and was able to keep his seat. What is less certain, however, is if he will keep his position as Minority Leader in the Senate.

Louisiana - *MARY LANDRIEU - D (52%) beats John Kennedy - R (46%)

Landrieu was the only Democrat targeted by Senate Republicans in 2008. State Treasurer John Kennedy, who recently switched parties and became a Republican, was the challenger. Landrieu was well-funded, but the declining voter turnout in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was a concern. In the end, however, Landrieu prevailed.

Minnesota - *Norm Coleman - R (42%) versus Al Franken - D (42%) - TOO CLOSE TO CALL

In the toss-up state of Minnesota, the race for Senate pitted incumbent Republican Norm Coleman against Democratic Farmer Labor party (Democrat) and comedian Al Franken, and included a wild card third party candidate in Dean Barkley of the Independence Party, who siphoned votes from Coleman (had 15% as of the writing of this report)

Coleman was one of the most vulnerable Republican Senators up for reelection in 2008. This race has been waged for over two years, with more than \$40 million spent -- an amount previously inconceivable for a state like Minnesota. This was also one of the nation's most negative races, with personal attacks and charges lobbed by both major parties, and the injection of defamation lawsuits.

With all of the votes in and a spread of less than 600 votes, there is certain to be a recount.

Mississippi - *THAD COCHRAN - R (62%) over Erik Fleming - D (38%)

In the regular Senate race in Mississippi, the Republican incumbent, Thad Cochran (R) easily defeated his Democrat opponent, Erik Fleming by a 62%-38% victory, which should assure that he will retain his seat as a ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mississippi (*special election) - *ROGER WICKER - R (55%) defeats Ron Musgrove - D (45%)

Roger Wicker was appointed to the Senate to fill the vacancy created when Sen. Trent Lott (R) resigned at the end of December 2007. The Democrats fielded a strong candidate in former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and dedicated resources in the hopes of picking up another Senatorial seat in this toss-up race. However, Wicker continued to poll strongly throughout the campaign and retained this seat for Senate Republicans.

New Hampshire - JEANNE SHAHEEN - D (52%) unseats *John Sununu - R (45%)

New Hampshire, trending Democrat as evidenced by the Dems' 'run of the tables' in the 2006 election when they captured all of the statewide offices, elected still popular former governor Jeanne Shaheen (D) in a re-match against incumbent first-term Sununu. From the outset, Shaheen led in every poll. Presidential nominee John McCain's history and past support from the 'Live Free or Die' state was not enough to help Sununu. Shaheen's win represents another pick-up for Democrats in the Senate.

New Mexico - TOM UDALL - D (61%) defeats Steve Pearce - R (39%)

For this open seat, Rep. Tom Udall easily won the Democratic primary, while his General Election opponent, Rep. Steve Pearce, won the Republican primary following a bruising and expensive primary against Rep. Heather Wilson. Heading into Tuesday's vote, Udall held a significant financial lead over Pearce. While Udall's healthy lead tightened in the closing days of the campaign, Pearce never recovered and Udall won with a significant margin of victory, putting another "win" in the column for Senate Democrats.

North Carolina - KAY HAGAN - D (53%) unseats *Elizabeth Dole - R (44%)

First-term Senator Elizabeth Dole fought for her political survival in an intense reelection battle against State Sen. Kay Hagan. Dole was largely on the defense from the beginning, having to explain her votes supportive of policies of the Bush administration. In the final days of the campaign, Dole unleashed a barrage of negative ads against Hagan, which were roundly denounced across the state and resulting in charges, counter-charges and lawsuits. In the end, Hagan secured a victory winning another seat for Senate Democrats.

Oregon - *Gordon Smith - R (48%) with slight edge over Jeff Merkley - D (47%) - TOO CLOSE TO CALL

With only 70 percent of the vote in, incumbent Republican Gordon Smith has a very slight lead over House Speaker Jeff Merkley. Smith, a formidable figure in Oregon has suffered from low approval ratings and a better-funded opponent in Merkley. Oregon has voted for the Democratic presidential nominee the last five elections.

Virginia - MARK WARNER - D (64%) wins race over Jim Gilmore - R (34%)

Virginia, which has been a solid Republican state in the last four presidential elections, turned from Red to Blue. Virginia's political terrain has changed rapidly and this open race for retiring Republican Pete Domenici's seat was fascinating to the end, flooded with financial resources and a possible pick-up opportunity for Democrats. Popular former Gov. Mark Warner (D) beat his predecessor, ex-Gov. Jim Gilmore (R). Gilmore left office a lot less popular than Warner did, and he was barely able to win even the GOP Senate nomination.

Competitive Races

“Sure Bet” Races

State	Republican	Democrat
AK	*TED STEVENS	Mark Begich
CO	Bob Schaffer	MARK UDALL
GA	*Saxby Chambliss	Jim Martin
KY	*MITCH McCONNELL	Bruce Lunsford
LA	John Kennedy	*MARY LANDRIEU
MN	*Norm Coleman	Al Franken
MS	*ROGER WICKER	Ronnie Musgrove
NC	*Elizabeth Dole	KAY HAGAN
NH	*John Sununu	JEANNE SHAHEEN
NM	Steve Pearce	TOM UDALL
OR	*Gordon Smith	Jeff Merkley
VA	Jim Gilmore	MARK WARNER

State	Republican	Democrat
AL	*JEFF SESSIONS	Vivian DavisFigures
AR	Unopposed	*MARK PRYOR
DE	Christine O'Donnell	*JOE BIDEN
ID	JIM RISCH	Larry LaRocco
IL	Steve Sauerberg	*DICK DURBIN
IA	Christopher Reed	*TOM HARKIN
KS	*PAT ROBERTS	Jim Slattery
MA	Jeff Beatty	*JOHN KERRY
ME	*SUSAN COLLINS	Tom Allen
MI	Jack Hoogendyk	*CARL LEVIN
MS	*THAD COCHRAN	Erik Fleming
MT	Bob Kelleher	*MAX BAUCUS
NE	MIKE JOHANNES	Scott Kleeb
NJ	Dick Zimmer	*FRANK LAUTENBERG
OK	*JAMES INHOFE	Andrew Rice
RI	Bob Tingle	*JACK REED
SC	*LINDSEY GRAHAM	Bob Conley
SD	Joel Dykstra	*TIM JOHNSON
TN	*LAMAR ALEXANDER	Bob Tuke
TX	*JOHN CORNYN	Rick Noriega
WV	Jay Wolfe	*JAY ROCKEFELLER
WY	*MIKE ENZI	Chris Rothfuss
WY	*JOHN BARASSO	Nick Carter





REYNOLDS from p. 5

MANDATED SICK LEAVE. Over the past year, COSE has worked to defeat the mandated sick leave initiative in Ohio. While our successful fight was at the state level, we know that there have been initial attempts to implement this flawed plan at the federal level. We expect to see legislation reintroduced in 2009.

We hope that President-elect Obama takes the time to review the work that organizations like COSE performed over the past several months and reject this flawed plan.

As we learned in Ohio, if passed, the cost to small employers to implement its provisions would be so immense that it would impact small business's ability to offer other comprehensive benefit packages. This is harmful to employees. As small business owners know, we only have so much money to go around and legislation like this limits everyone's choices.

CARD CHECK. We urge President-elect Obama to reconsider his stance on the Card Check legislation like the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act" that would turn back the clock on private voting for shops to unionize and limit an employer's ability to challenge the process.

Card Check would give unions the ability to organize employees into a labor union in a public campaign asking employees to sign authorization forms, or "cards". In the past, it has been proven that public voting methods such as this strips workers of their privacy in voicing their opinions on union representation. We hope government will protect the right of workers to vote in private.

Beyond elimination of the secret ballot, Card Check imposes a variety of standards on the organizing and collective bargaining process that are ill suited for resulting in an effective agreement between workers and management. We will work to identify these concerns and help to revise the language currently proposed that will harm employees and employers alike.

COSE looks forward to working with President Obama and his new administration.

Creating bridges of communication between small business and our elected officials is critical. Understanding the first-hand experience of small business owners helps our public officials to make sound decisions. We urge President-Elect Obama to continue meeting with small business owners on the frontlines, find out what keeps them up at night, what they need to grow their business. Small businesses are a significant part of our economy, and it is critical that he support our ability to grow and create jobs.

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:

Gary Smith
Director, Government Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
100 Public Square, Suite 210
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Greater Cleveland Partnership



Information from this report was gathered from multiple sources including interviews, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Plain Dealer, Business Week and The Economist.

*Rep. Tim Ryan, a Democrat from the Youngstown area, is regarded by most observers to be a rising star who has established a good relationship with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He will be in a position to get things done for his district and northeast Ohio. He has also worked extremely well with the business community, especially on issues involving technology and entrepreneurship. The Greater Cleveland Partnership has developed a strong working relationship with Congressman Ryan and his staff, a dynamic that will continue to serve us well.

*U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) also stands to see his influence kicked up a notch.

*For the first time since 1963, a Democrat governor from Ohio will be serving at the same time a Democrat is in the White House. And an Obama Administration will almost certainly take more interest than George Bush has in the needs of urban America, a change that could benefit northeast Ohio's urban centers.

One long-time Cleveland observer of local and state politics believes that northeast Ohio's business leadership should move quickly to build a bridge - or at least establish an open phone line - to the new administration.

"We will have to depend upon the administration," he said. "How we tap into this is important. And it's going to be very different."

One footnote: Many were touched by the graciousness of Republican presidential nominee John McCain's concession speech. McCain waged an energetic campaign, but he was arguably handicapped simply because he represented the same political party as President Bush - who has extremely low approval ratings.

McCain, you may recall, lost to Bush in the 2000 GOP presidential primary election. One Washington insider with northeast Ohio ties noted that this election wasn't an anti-Republican vote as much as it was an anti-Bush vote, as there were some distinct bright spots for the Republican party.

"John McCain lost to George Bush for the second time in his career," he said.

GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP/COSE

Joseph Roman, President & CEO
jroman@gcpartnership.com
216-621-3300

Advocacy Staff

Carol Caruso, Senior Vice President
ccaruso@gcpartnership.com
216-592-2471

Gary Smith, Director
gsmith@gcpartnership.com
216-592-2244

Nick Gattozzi, Vice President
ngattozzi@gcpartnership.com
216-592-2306

Deanne Dixon, Program Manager
ddixon@gcpartnership.com
216-592-2342

Claire Walker, VP, Business Operations, COSE
cwalker@cose.org
216-592-2417



WWW.
GCPARTNERSHIP.
COM

100 Public Square, Suite 210
Cleveland, Ohio 44113