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Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* Poll of Ohio Voters Shows Trump Leading Biden, Despite Legal Woes

BOSTON—A Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* poll shows the race for president in Ohio is only slightly different from the 2020 actual outcome, with former President Donald Trump currently leading the field in the Buckeye state.

In a hypothetical matchup, Donald Trump (44%) led Joe Biden (38%) by six points, almost matching his eight-point romp in Ohio over Biden in 2020. In the poll, 2% expressed interest in Green Party hopeful Cornel West, while 9% would choose an independent candidate, and 6% were undecided.

But those voters were less loyal to Trump’s chief challenger, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, if he were to become the Republican nominee for president. In a Biden-DeSantis match-up, DeSantis (39%) narrowly led Biden (37%), with 2% of participants supporting West, 10% voting for an independent, and 10% undecided.

In the poll, 92% of DeSantis voters would vote for Trump, if he is the nominee, while just 83% of Trump voters would shift their support to DeSantis. Instead, 8% would vote for a third-party candidate, 6% are undecided, and even 3% of Trump voters would select West, the Green Party candidate.

“The difference between a solid Trump lead and a soft DeSantis lead is Trump voters,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. “Some of these voters are holding back on DeSantis with a ‘Trump or bust’ mentality, signaling a stronger loyalty to Trump than the Republican Party.”

“Assuming that every Trump voter will automatically get in line behind another Republican nominee is a big mistake. Some of these voters will only stand with Trump and could walk away from the Republican Party,” Paleologos said.

In the US Senate race, Republicans are split on their choice for the party’s nominee. In a hypothetical GOP Primary ballot test between Matt Dolan, Bernie Moreno, and Frank LaRose, 57% were undecided.

Among the three GOP hopefuls, LaRose appears to be the most competitive at this early stage, polling in a statistical dead heat with incumbent Senator Sherrod Brown (45%-45%). Brown (46%) leads Dolan (43%) by three points and leads Moreno by over seven points, 48%-41%.

Nearly 51% approve of Brown’s job performance, however even among those who approve of him 16% would not vote for him in the Brown-LaRose matchup.

Methodology

The statewide survey of 500 Ohio voters was conducted July 9-12 using live telephone interviews of households where respondents indicated they were planning to vote in the 2024 presidential election. Each area’s quota and demographic information—including party affiliation, gender, race, and age—was determined from 2020 exit polls and American Community Survey census data. The 88 Ohio counties were grouped into five general regions. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/-4.4 percentage points. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

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