SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
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Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* Poll: In Ohio Senate Race, Democrat Sherrod Brown Holds Three-Point Lead Over Republican Jon Husted

Bellwether poll suggests Senate and gubernatorial races are both neck and neck

BOSTON—With less than one week remaining until the 2026 midterm elections, crucial races for both US Senate and governor remain close in the swing state of Ohio, according to a recent poll from Suffolk University and the *USA TODAY* Network Ohio.

In the statewide race for US Senate, Democrat Sherrod Brown leads Republican Jon Husted 47% to 44%, with 3% going to other candidates, and only 4% remaining undecided. The race margin has not changed since the September Suffolk poll, when Brown led Husted 47% to 44%.

For governor, Democrat Amy Acton leads Republican Vivek Ramaswamy 48% to 44%, with 4% choosing Libertarian Don Kissick, and 3% still undecided. This marks a shift from September, when Acton led Ramaswamy 50% to 41%.

The Portage County bellwether shows a tight race for Senate, with Brown at 49% and Husted at 48%; the gubernatorial candidates are statistically tied at 47%.

Ramaswamy attack ad falls flat
Seventy-two percent of likely voters statewide say they have seen or heard about the Ramaswamy campaign's controversial ad featuring Acton's estranged mother, but fewer than 1% say it shifted them from Acton to Ramaswamy. In fact, 2% of those who have seen or heard

about the ad say they were Ramaswamy voters before the ad, but now support Acton. In Portage County, 71% have seen or heard about the ad, with 5% saying it changed their vote, again mostly toward Acton (4% to 1%).

Voters also hold Ramaswamy responsible for the tone of the race. Half of likely voters statewide (50%) say Ramaswamy has run the more negative campaign, compared with 15% who say Acton has. Among voters who have seen the ad, that gap widens to 59% to 13%. In Portage County, 51% say Ramaswamy has run the more negative campaign, compared with 17% for Acton.

Methodology

The survey of 500 likely Ohio general election voters was conducted October 21-26, using live telephone interviews of households where respondents indicated they were very or somewhat likely to vote or had already voted in the November general election. The margin of error is +/- 4.4 percentage points at a 95% level of confidence. The midterm bellwether of 300 voters of Portage County was fielded October 21-26, and has a margin of error of +/- 5.6 percentage points. Results 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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