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Suffolk University/USA TODAY Network Ohio Poll: In Ohio, Weak Economy and President Trump Appear to Drag Down the GOP's Candidates

Voters strongly disapprove of new tariffs and data center tax incentives

BOSTON— In Ohio, a state that President Donald Trump won by double-digits, Democrat and former US Senator Sherrod Brown is edging out incumbent Republican Senator Jon Husted in a midterm race for the seat. In the state's governor's race, Democrat Amy Acton currently shows a sizeable lead over Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, according to a Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* Network Ohio statewide poll of likely voters.

In the race for US Senate, Brown (47%) leads Husted (44%), which is within the poll's margin of error, as well as Libertarian William B. Redpath (2%), and No Party candidate Greg Levy (1%), with 6% percent of voters currently undecided. Among voters statewide who said they were not affiliated with a party, Brown leads Husted by a whopping 55% to 28%.

In the race to replace Republican Governor Mike DeWine, Democratic nominee Amy Acton has a commanding 50%-41% lead over Republican Vivek Ramaswamy among voters across the state, followed by Libertarian Party Don Kissick (3%), with 5% undecided.

Pessimism over the Ohio economy, negative feelings about the direction the state is heading, and disapproval of President Trump's job performance are contributing to Ramaswamy's uphill fight in the statewide poll. The majority of voters (54%) said Ohio was on the "wrong track," rated Ohio's economy as fair/poor (76%), with President Trump receiving a 35% job approval rating.

However, a separate midterm bellwether poll of Portage County diverged with the statewide results and showed Husted leading Brown 48%-44%, and Ramaswamy leading Acton 49%-46%. Both findings are well within the bellwether's margin of error at +/- 5.6%.

"Portage Country is demographically older and whiter than the composition of the statewide electorate, signaling a slightly better outcome for Republicans of all offices there," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. "If the official state midterm results diverge too dramatically from this bellwether's early predictions, it will be telling about how analysts look at future Ohio races."

Strong support of measure requiring photo ID to vote

The statewide poll shows overwhelming support for Issue 3, a proposed amendment to the state constitution requiring a photo ID to vote, by a margin of 61% to 31%.

Overwhelming opposition to tax incentives for data centers

Voters overwhelmingly disapprove of Ohio continuing to provide tax incentives for new data centers. The opposition crossed all party lines with consistent opposition from Republicans (52%), independents (76%), and Democrats (92%).

Methodology

The survey of 500 likely Ohio general election voters was conducted September 23-27, using live telephone interviews of households where respondents indicated they were very or somewhat likely to vote 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 September 23-27 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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