

GRANT  STREET

C O N S U L T A N T S

THE FIVE STAR BIPARTISAN LOBBYING FIRM

Elections 2014

Pre General Analysis

!

!

June 17, 2014
Countdown 140 Days



Ohio's Political Environment

- Governor John Kasich received his lowest approval rating of 30% in January 2011. By May 2014, his approval rating increased to 56%.
- Ohio's 5.7% unemployment, which is lower than the national rate of 6.3%, continues to decline. Ohio's improving economy has been the focus of many Ohio voters.
- Voters are clearly giving Governor Kasich the credit for improving Ohio's economy and lowering taxes. Voters generally like his message but have strong opinions about the delivery of the message.
- During the last 40 months, Kasich has beaten his Democratic opponent 14 out of 15 times in various polls.



Ohio's Post Primary

- In the Ohio Senate, the Tea Party along with the Heartbeat Proponents recruited and supported six candidates against incumbent Republican Senators. All challengers were defeated by at least 60-40% margins.
- Statewide voter turnout was only 16.9%. Jackson County was the lowest with 8.28 % while the highest was Highland County with 28.9%.
- Low voter turnout affected three House incumbents. Republicans Peter Stautberg and Rex Damschroder were defeated while Democrat Zack Milkovich lost his primary. One indicted Republican, Peter Beck, received only 9% of the vote and lost his primary.
- Of the 14 House incumbents facing Tea Party challengers only one lost.
- However, Tea Party backed candidates did win 4 open seats.



Ohio's Pre General

- The most recent Quinnipiac Poll showed that, in the last 18 months, Ed FitzGerald picked up 10 favorable rating points. That's a rate of .55% of one point per month. So it will take FitzGerald another 54 months to get to 50%. Thus, by September 2018 he will be ready to run for Governor.
- Of the last sixty five Gubernatorial races, Republican candidates have won 38 races and Democrats 27.
- Six of these sixty five races were decided by one percent or less.
- All Republican incumbent Governors since 1958 have been reelected.
- Barring a scandal or a serious decline in the economy, Governor Kasich will be reelected.



Kasich's Pros and Cons



- Governor John Kasich's positives are an improving economy, nearly \$1.5 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund, major tax reform, significant education reform and funding, scandal free administration and improved health care for the middle class.
- Governor John Kasich's negatives are endorsing Senate Bill 5 that repealed collective bargaining, supporting Medicaid Expansion, increased state funding, cuts in subsidies to local governments and his tough personality.
- One of the factors working against Governor Kasich include the fact that registered D voters in Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties outnumber registered R voters by 150,000. That's before the first ballot is cast.
- In 2010, John Kasich defeated incumbent Governor Ted Strickland 49.04% to 47.04% with two third party candidates in the race who shared the remaining 2.96% .



Fitzgerald's Pros and Cons

- Ed Fitzgerald's positives are that he was elected the first Cuyahoga County Executive, he is credited with cleaning up political corruption in Cuyahoga County, improving the local economy, improving the local quality of life, he was a former FBI Agent, a former Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and the former Mayor of the City of Lakewood.
- County Executive Fitzgerald's negatives are that he fumbled the first selection of his Lieutenant Governor running mate, Cuyahoga County has this highest combined income and sales tax in the state, he lacks experience and supports President Obama.
- A factor working against Ed Fitzgerald is that he has been the declared Democratic candidate for more than 18 months yet more than 63% of the voters still don't know him.



About Ohio's 88 Counties

- From 1990 to 2010, on average 69 of Ohio's 88 counties voted Republican in at least three of last four elections for Governor. On the other hand, the Democrats claim only 12 counties that have generally voted Democratic. As a result there are only 7 toss up counties.
- The lowest voter turnout during last four elections for Governor was 47.1% while the highest was 53.2%.
- A few days ago the SOS released new voter registration by county. My second simulations reflects these changes. Based on past voting performance, with a voter turn-out of 49%, and allocation of current poll results to the toss up counties gives Kasich the win by 51.22% to 48.78% or by 2.44%.
- By reclassifying the counties to the political party they usually lean towards yields 77R to 11D counties.

