(*Disclaimer: Results and projections included are based on publicly available information from the Secretary of State, which may not be fully up-to-date, and results have not been certified.)*

2026 Election Report

The Government Advantage Group 2026 Election Results report provides a summary of the results of the November 3, 2026, election for state legislative races, US Senate, US Congress, Governor, Ohio Supreme Court and other Statewide offices. This report provides additional context on the results of some of the more closely watched races. Overall turnout had over 57% of the electorate casting a ballot and set an early voting record with over 1.73 million voting before election day.

While Ohio has been trending "red" over the last several cycles, Democrats saw an opportunity to capitalize on a "blue wave". We saw several visits from President Trump stumping for the Republican slate, and former President Obama making a visit to enthuse Democratic voters. While this report doesn't list the third-party and write-in candidates, they have had an impact on this election cycle. Efforts on both sides have tried to bolster third-party candidates in an attempt to siphon votes from traditional party voters. And many voters expressed frustration with both major parties nominees and chose to vote third-party as opposed to sitting the election out.

When the results were in, Democrats certainly outperformed from the previous years. Ohio will have a Democratic Governor for the first time in 16 years, and that strong performance at the top of the ticket bolstered the other statewide office results. However, other Democratic statewide candidates trailed the numbers put up by Acton. Republicans held onto their majorities in the House and the Senate, though the Democrats gained some ground in those chambers as well, including breaking the Republican supermajority in the Ohio House. Frank LaRose was the lone Statewide Republican winning his race for State Auditor. It is interesting that in 2006, the last notable Ohio blue wave, it was Republican Mary Taylor who was the only statewide win for Auditor.

US Senate

Former Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown will be making a return to Washington two years after coming up short against Senator Bernie Mareno. This time he faced Senator Jon Husted. Husted had been appointed to the Senate to fill the seat of Vice President JD Vance. Because this race was to fill an unexpired term, Ohio will have to do this all over again in two years for the full six-year term. Will it be a rematch, or will someone else challenge Brown?
Winner: Sherrod Brown

Governor

No matter how the election went, Ohio was poised to have a new Governor for the first time in eight years. In an expensive and often times blistering race, Dr. Amy Acton and Vivek Ramaswamy battled it out for the Governor's mansion. Democrats hoped to capitalize on voter frustration, while Republicans hoped to retain their electoral dominance. Early vote counts heavily favored Democrats. While the race did tighten, it was too much for Ramaswamy to overcome. Acton will be coming into office with both chambers of the legislature holding Republican majorities. Her first major task will be getting through the state's operating budget.
Winner: Amy Acton

Congressional Races to Note

All eyes were on a rematch in Northwest between the U.S.'s longest-serving Congresswoman, Marcy Kaptur and former state legislator Derek Merrin. This race was a nailbiter in 2024 with Kaptur squeaking out a victory by a little over 1,000 votes. This time around, Merrin had a district that was recently redrawn and more favorable for Republicans. Because of a bomb threat at a voting location in Lucas County, the votes from Lucas County were delayed, making this race hard to call throughout the night. But when the results were in Kaptur clinched another win.
Winner: Marcy Kaptur

In Northeast Ohio, incumbent Max Miller faced intense scrutiny for allegations of abuse. Some members of the Republican party, including his former father-in-law Senator Bernie Moreno, called for him to step down. But he chose to stay in this race that on paper favored Republicans. Miller faced Democrat Brian Poindexter, who attracted attention and funds based on Miller's controversies. With strong Cuyahoga County turn out, Poindexter was able to flip this seat.
Winner: Brian Poindexter

In central Ohio, Congressman Mike Carey faced an unexpected competitive challenge from a well-funded former OSU professor Don Leonard. Despite strong numbers in the rural counties for Carey, it wasn't enough to overcome the strong turnout for democrats in Franklin County. Leonard came away with the unexpected victory.
Winner: Don Leonard

In another surprise, incumbent Republican Congressman Mike Turner was bested by Democrat challenger Kristina Knickerbocker. Knickerbocker had a strong advantage in Montgomery County which put her over the top. Montgomery County proved pivotal for Democrats with wins down the ticket as well.
Winner: Kristina Knickerbocker

Ohio Supreme Court

The Republicans had their sights on defeating the lone Democrat on Ohio's Supreme Court, Jennifer Brunner. Former Common Pleas Judge Colleen O'Donnell, the daughter of a former Justice prevailed in a contested primary to take on Brunner. Republican Justice Dan Hawkins won his race just two years ago to fill an unexpired term on the court, so he was on the ballot again to go for a full four-year term. He was challenged by Court of Appeals Judge Marilyn Zayas. Not only did Brunner retain her seat, but Zayas also bested Hawkins.

Winners: Jennifer Brunner and Marilyn Zayas

Other Statewide Races

All other statewide offices were also on the ballot this year. Republican candidates for Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State and Attorney General were familiar to Ohioans as they have all previously held statewide office, with the exception of former State Representative Jay Edwards running for State Treasurer. Democrats fielded candidates with more local experience, with former House Minority Leader Allison Russo being the most recognizable candidate as she ran for Secretary of State against current State Treasurer Robert Sprague. While these races were much closer than the races for Governor and US Senate, the blue wave proved too much to overcome for all Republicans with the exception of incoming Auditor Frank LaRose.
Winners: John Kulewicz (D – Attorney General); Frank LaRose (R – Auditor); Allison Russo (D – Secretary of State); Seth Walsh (D – Treasurer)

State Issue 3

This statewide ballot question as to whether Ohio should require photo ID to vote was placed on the ballot by the legislature. This is a constitutional amendment; there was not much of an organized campaign on either side. Both candidates for Governor voiced support, but there was opposition from others on the Democratic ticket. However, without organization, the measure easily passed.
Result: Passed

Ohio Senate

There were few surprises in the Ohio Senate races. With only the odd-numbered districts on the ballot this year, the Democrats had few opportunities to cut into the Republican super majority, which currently sits at 24-9. Senate Republicans had a significant fundraising advantage and were able to dedicate resources to defend the seats that were competitive. Two open seats in Northeast Ohio were the most competitive and the Democrats eyed a central Ohio incumbent for a pickup. In the end, the new Senate makeup is 22-11.

Senate District 3 – Senator Michelle Reynolds is an increasingly rare, elected Republican in Franklin County. She sought a second term, while being challenged by Stacie Baker. This district also includes more traditional Republican strongholds: Madison and Pickaway County. The Franklin County turnout was the difference maker in this race.
Winner: Stacie Baker

Senate District 13 – Representatives Gayle Manning and Joe Miller both looked to make the leap to the Upper Chamber. The Manning name is well known in the area, but the Democrats hoped the blue wave would go through this district that includes Lorain and Huron counties. It was close, but Manning ended the evening with about 2,000 more votes.
Winner: Gayle Manning

Senate District 27 – This race to replace term limited Senator Kristina Roegner (R) was one to watch. Current Representative Steve Demetreau faced off against public school Superintendent Mike Roberto. Both parties had their sights on this district which covers Portage, and parts of Summit and Geauga Counties, with Democrats seeing this as their top pick-up opportunity. With a little over 53% of the vote, Roberto will be heading to serve in Columbus.

Winner: Mike Roberto

Ohio House

With all 99 seats on the ballot both parties had to choose which races to prioritize. The Democrats eyed several pick-up opportunities to eliminate the Republican supermajority. The current House makeup is 65-34, the Democrats needed to pick up 6 seats to break the supermajority. The targeted races were mainly in suburban areas where President Trump tends to have lower approval ratings. The minority party certainly gained ground and did at the end of the night achieve their goal of eliminating the Republican supermajority. This is notable as Republicans will not be able to override vetoes from incoming Governor Amy Acton. Depending on recount results, the House makeup in 2027 appears to be 56-43.

While not in tough races, it is notable that several former legislators will be returning to service in 2026, including John Boccieri (D – 58), Christina Hagan (R – 48), Matt Lundy (D – 53), Jeff McClain (R – 87), Eugene Miller (D – 20), and Shawn Stevens (R – 61).

House District 17 –State Representative Mike Dovilla (R), whose district covers the cities of Brook Park, Fairview Park, Middleburg Heights, Rocky River, Strongsville, and part of Cleveland, was on the defensive against Megan Coy. However, the blue wave in Cuyahoga County was too much for Dovilla to overcome. Dovilla served as Vice Chairman of the powerful House Finance Committee, so this is a tough loss for Republicans.
Winner: Megan Coy

House District 29 – Not originally on most "races to watch" list, Incumbent Republican Cindy Abrams was neck and neck with challenger Jonathan Brander as the final votes were reported. This west side of Hamilton County seat was certainly impacted by the top of the ticket. This one could be going to a recount with Abrams only up by 19 votes.
Winner: Cindy Abrams (pending possible recount)

House District 31 – With incumbent Representative Bill Roemer (R) term limited both parties fielded strong candidates to face off. Mike Kahoe (R) came in with Statehouse experience having previously worked for the Department of Development. He also had LG Jim Tressel in his corner. Attorney Noah Spinner (D) comes from a family with strong community roots. This one ended up not being entirely close.
Winner: Noah Spinner

House District 35 – With Steve Demetriou in a tough race to move to the Senate, this seat was a toss-up. In a district that includes parts of Geauga, Portage, and Summit Counties with Trump not on the ballot, the Democrats felt this was their year to flip the district blue. Democrat Samantha Salamon faced off against Republican Vik Sandhu, both of whom were well funded.
Winner: Samantha Salamon

House District 36 – Current Representative Andrea White (R) was again challenged by former public school teacher Rose Lounsbury (D) in this district covering Kettering, Oakwood, Riverside, and parts of Dayton. White has been vulnerable before in this toss-up district that she won narrowly in 2024. However, this year the Democrats put this in their pickup column.
Winner: Rose Lounsbury

House District 37 – Incumbent Tom Young hasn't faced a real challenge during his time in the legislature, but the Democrats felt an opportunity in Montgomery County to apply some pressure with their candidate Tom Herner. This one could possibly go to a recount with only 134 votes separating the candidates, but it is Herner who is currently leading.
Winner: Tom Herner (pending a possible recount)

House District 39 – With Phil Plummer making the jump to the Senate, this open seat was competitive. Democrat Daquan Neal, a former legislative staffer, looked to secure a seat in the House. He was up against Republican Mark Campbell. It looks like Neal will be transitioning to a voting member of the legislature in 2027.
Winner: Daquan Neal

House District 44 – This seat currently held by Republican Josh Williams opened up when Williams chose to run in the Republican primary to unseat Marcy Kaptur. Republican Edward Schimmel and Democrat David Fournier battled it out and this one is poised for a recount. Only 56 votes separate the candidates with Schimmel having the edge in this district that contains parts of Lucas, Ottawa and Wood Counties.
Winner: Edward Schimmel (pending a possible recount)

House District 49 – State Representative Jim Thomas (R) ran against Democrat Krista Allison in this district covering parts of Canton. Both parties had their eye on this race as Thomas previously upset a Democrat to win. The Democrats thought 2026 was their year to take this seat back and they were correct.
Winner: Krista Allison

House District 52 – State Senator Nathan Manning had planned to run for this seat to return to the House. However, he was appointed to a Judgeship by Governor DeWine, making this race either party's to win. The Republicans recruited Cliff Winkel to replace Manning on the ballot. Democrat Mike Baker hoped to flip this seat to Democrat control, which he did with nearly 55% of the vote.
Winner: Mike Baker

House District 60 – Brian Lorenz (R) looked to retain this seat encompassing parts of Delaware County. However, the Delaware County Republican stronghold has shifted more blue in recent years. Democrats tapped physician Shelby Kimball to challenge Lorenz. This seat is another Democratic pickup that was a bit unexpected.
Winner: Shelby Kimball

House District 72 – Freshman Republican Heidi Workman looked to retain this Portage County seat that has shifted politically through the years. Democrat Jeff Clapper looked to flip this seat blue. In a district that includes Kent State, Democrats were hopeful. However, Workman will be returning for another term.
Winner: Heidi Workman

House District 75 – With Wood County considered to be a bellwether county to watch, incumbent Republican Haraz Ghanbari managed to outperform both Acton and Brown. Challenger Richard Rettig came close, but Ghanbari closed the night up by 126 votes.
Winner: Haraz Ghanbari

House District 89 – Representative DJ Swearingen announced he would not be seeking a fourth term to accept a job in the federal government, making this an open seat. Republicans tapped current County Treasurer Caleb Stiham to go against Easton Retzke. This seat remained solidly Republican even with the candidate changing.
Winner: Caleb Stidham

Full List of Results

(i)= incumbent
Highlighted=winner
*=possible recount
Write in and 3rd party candidates not included

House District	Republican Candidate	Democrat Candidate
1	Joel Greff	Dontavius Jarrells (i)
2		Charity Martin King
3	Bernadine Kennedy Kent	Ismail Mohamed (i)
4		Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (i)
5	Richard Cole	Meredith Lawson-Rowe (i)
6	Matthew Jackson	Christine Cockley (i)
7	William Mercier	Ukeme Awakessien Jeter
8	Kelly Hunter-Kalagidis	Anita Somani (i)
9	Bruce Euans	Munira Abdullahi (i)
10	Denise D'Angelo	Mark Sigrest (i)
11	Shawn Kaeser	Crystal Lett (i)
12	Brian Stewart (i)	Lee Yarsky
13	Billy Fronimo	Tristan Rader (i)
14	David Morgan	Sean Brennan (i)
15	Danial Conway	Chris Glassburn (i)
16	Sophia Tjotjos	Scott DiMauro
17	Mike Dovilla (i)	Megan Coy
18	Maureen Lynn	Davida Russell
19	Ed Hargate	Nicole Sigurdson
20		Eugene Miller
21	Tina Barhams	Eric Synenberg (i)
22		Darnell Brewer (i)
23	Julia Belich	Dan Troy (i)
24		Dani Isaacsohn (i)
25		Cecil Thomas (i)
26	Tom Brinkman	Ashley Bryant Bailey (i)
27	Nancy Aichholz	Rachel Baker (i)
28	Jill Cole	Karen Brownlee (i)

29	Cindy Abrams (i)*	Jonathan Bradner
30	Mike Odioso (i)	Caleb Price
31	Mike Kahoe	J. Noah Spinner
32	Jack Daniels (i)	Djordjije Popovic
33	Napoleon Rodgers Jr.	Veronica Sims (i)
34	Craig Shubert	Derrick Hall (i)
35	Vik Sandhu	Samantha Salamon
36	Andrea White (i)	Rose Lounsbury
37	Tom Young (i)	Tom Herner*
38		Desiree Tims (i)
39	Mark Campbell	Daquan Neal
40	Rodney Creech (i)	Timothy Hornbacker
41	Ian Chamberlin	Erika White (i)
42	Robert McMahon	Elgin Rogers (i)
43	David Karmol	Michele Grim (i)
44	Edward Schimmel*	David Fournier
45	Jennifer Gross (i)	Jayson Rasheed
46	Thomas Hall (i)	Benjamin McCall
47	Diane Mullins (i)	Jordan Haire
48	Christina Hagan	Nick Morris
49	Jim Thomas (i)	Krista Allison
50	Matthew Kishman (i)	Rylan Finzer
51	Jodi Salvo (i)	Amanda Fontana
52	Cliff Winkel	Mike Baker
53	Bradley Lacko	Matt Lundy
54	Kellie Deeter (i)	Brenda Buckanan
55	Michelle Teska (i)	Paul Kurtz
56	Adam Mathews (i)	Laalitya Acharya
57	Jesse Styles	Rick Walker
58	Heather Fronk	John Boccieri
59	Tex Fischer (i)	Wayne Penny Jr.
60	Brian Lorenz (i)	Shelby Kimball
61	Shawn Stevens	Vince McGrail
62	Jean Schmidt (i)	Ian Schwartz
63	Adam Bird (i)	Debbie Davidson
64	Nick Santucci (i)	
65	David Thomas (i)	John Barbo
66	Sean Hutson	Chris Nardo
67	Melanie Miller (i)	Heather Sample
68	Thad Claggett (i)	Mason Blankenship
69	Kevin Miller (i)	Amy Rigsby

70	Brian Lampton (i)	Kim McCarthy
71	Levi Dean (i)	Krista Magaw
72	Heidi Workman (i)	Jeff Clapper
73	Jeff LaRe (i)	Whitney Wood
74	Bernard Willis (i)	Darrell Jackson
75	Haraz Ghanbari (i)*	Richard Rettig
76	Marilyn John (i)	Colton Stidam
77	Meredith Craig (i)	Brooke Dillon
78	Matt Huffman(i)	Jeffrey Givan
79	Monica Robb Blasdel (i)	Bob Guy
80	Jonathan Newman (i)	Katie Koehler Wagner
81	Patti Rockey	David Swanson
82	Roy Klopfenstein (i)	Maddux McCray
83	Ty Mathews (i)	Sheila Coressel
84	Angela King (i)	Adrienne Childrey
85	Tim Barhorst (i)	Victoria Maddox
86	Ben Weber	Kent Halloran
87	Jeff McClain	Lora Covrett
88	Gary Click (i)	Aaron Jones
89	Caleb Stidham	Easton Retzke
90	Justin Pizzulli (i)	Collin Docterman
91	Bob Peterson (i)	Amy Wright
92	Mark Johnson (i)	Sarah Senff
93	Jason Stephens (i)	Jessica Harper
94	Kevin Ritter (i)	Wenda Sheard
95	Ty Moore (i)	Paul Cameron
96	Ron Ferguson (i)	Charrie Foglio
97	Adam Holmes (i)	
98	Mark Hiner (i)	Scott Grund
99	Sarah Fowler Arthur (i)	Louis Murphy
TOTAL	56	43
Senate District	**Republican Candidate**	**Democrat Candidate**
1	Craig Riedel	
3	Michele Reynolds (i)	Stacie Baker
5	Phil Plummer	Jeffrey Harris
7	Zac Haines	Cara Jacob
9	Linda Matthews	Catherine Ingram (i)

11	James Nowak	Paula Hicks-Hudson (i)
13	Gayle Manning	Joe Miller
15	Joseph Healy	Latyna Humphrey
17	Shane Wilkin (i)	Brian Deer
19	Ryan River	Scott Charland
21	Mikhail Alterman	Kent Smith (i)
23	Robert Dintaman	Bride Rose Sweeney
25	Don Roberts	Bill DeMora (i)
27	Steve Demetriou	Mike Roberto
29	Jane Timkin (i)	Thomas West
31	Al Landis (i)	Laura Sirot
33	Al Cutrona (i)	Michael Kripchak
Not on the ballot	Republican members	Democrat members
TOTAL	22	11
Congressional Races		
1	Eric Conroy	Greg Landsman (i)
2	David Taylor (i)	Jen Mazzuckelli
3	Cleophus Dulaney	Joyce Beatty (i)
4	Jim Jordan (i)	Joshua Kolasinski
5	Bob Latta (i)	Brian Shaver
6	Michael Rulli (i)	Elizabeth Kirtley
7	Max Miller (i)	Brian Poindexter
8	Warren Davidson (i)	Vanessa Enoch
9	Derek Merrin	Marcy Kaptur (i)
10	Mike Turner (i)	Kristina Knickerbocker
11	Mike Kirchner	Shontel Brown (i)
12	Troy Balderson (i)	Jerrad Christian
13	Carey Coleman	Emilia Sykes (i)
14	Dave Joyce (i)	Marie Jukic
15	Mike Carey (i)	Don Leonard
Ohio Supreme Court		
Justice	Colleen O'Donnell	Jennifer Brunner (i)
Justice	Daniel Hawkins (i)	Marilyn Zayas
Statewide Offices		

Governor/LG	Vivek Ramaswamy/Rob McColley	Amy Acton/David Pepper
Attorney General	Keith Faber	John Kulewicz
Auditor of State	Frank LaRose	Annette Blackwell
Treasurer	Jay Edwards	Seth Walsh
Sec. of State	Robert Sprague	Allison Russo
US Senate	Jon Husted (i)	Sherrod Brown