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Ohio Senate Race Continues To Look Like Toss Up

PPP's newest Ohio poll finds a toss up in the race for Senate- Rob Portman is ahead of Ted Strickland by an inconsequential 2 point margin at 43/41, with plenty of voters still undecided.

The closeness of the race is a reflection of Portman being pretty undefined to voters even after more than four years in the Senate. 35% approve of the job he's doing, 35% disapprove, and 30% don't have an opinion either way. There are actually more voters with an opinion about Strickland- 77%- even with his having been out of office for a while now- than Portman. Voters are pretty evenly divided in their attitudes toward Strickland with 39% rating him favorably and 38% unfavorably. This is pretty clearly shaping up as a contest between two candidates who voters have mixed feelings about.

Strickland leads Portman by 10 points with independents at 41/31. The reason that Portman still has the small overall advantage is that 15% of Democrats say right now that they're crossing over to vote for Portman, while only 9% of Republicans say they'll go across party lines to support Strickland.

“We’ve polled the Ohio Senate race twice this year now,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “And both times we’ve found the candidates within two points of each other. Rob Portman hasn’t done much to solidify his position during his first term and that has the race looking like a toss up.”

The Democratic primary is not shaping up as much of a contest. Strickland leads P.G. Sittenfeld by 52 points, getting 65% to his challenger's 13%. We also tested to see if Portman would be in any danger against a well known primary challenger but the answer appears to be no- he would lead former Secretary of State Ken Blackwell 57/24 in a hypothetical contest. Sherrod Brown is Ohio's more popular Senator, coming in with an approval rating 8 points higher than Portman's at 43%, with 36% of voters disapproving of him.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 859 Ohio voters, including 411 Republican primary voters and 360 Democratic primary voters, between June 4th and 7th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.3%, for the Republicans it's +/-4.8%, and for the Democrats it's +/-5.2%. 80% of participants responded via the phone, while 20% of respondents who did not have landlines conducted the survey over the internet.



Ohio Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Sherrod Brown's job performance?

Approve 43%
Disapprove..... 36%
Not sure 21%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rob Portman's job performance?

Approve 35%
Disapprove..... 35%
Not sure 30%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ken Blackwell?

Favorable..... 21%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 47%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of P.G. Sittenfeld?

Favorable..... 9%
Unfavorable 17%
Not sure 75%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ted Strickland?

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 23%

Q6 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Republican Rob Portman and Democrat P.G. Sittenfeld, who would you vote for?

Rob Portman..... 46%
P.G. Sittenfeld..... 28%
Not sure 26%

Q7 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Republican Rob Portman and Democrat Ted Strickland, who would you vote for?

Rob Portman..... 43%
Ted Strickland 41%
Not sure 15%

Q8 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Republican Ken Blackwell and Democrat Ted Strickland, who would you vote for?

Ken Blackwell 36%
Ted Strickland 46%
Not sure 18%

q9 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Someone else / Don't remember 8%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 13%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 17%

q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 40%
Republican..... 37%
Independent / Other 23%



Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	82%
<i>African American</i>	12%
<i>Other</i>	5%

Q14 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	27%
<i>46 to 65</i>	37%
<i>Older than 65</i>	23%

Q15 Mode

<i>Phone</i>	80%
<i>Internet</i>	20%



	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Brown Approval				
Approve	43%	69%	14%	33%
Disapprove	36%	15%	61%	27%
Not sure	21%	16%	24%	40%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Portman Approval				
Approve	35%	22%	55%	13%
Disapprove	35%	47%	22%	30%
Not sure	30%	31%	23%	58%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Blackwell Favorability				
Favorable	21%	12%	33%	12%
Unfavorable	32%	43%	22%	22%
Not sure	47%	46%	45%	66%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Sittenfeld Favorability				
Favorable	9%	15%	3%	-
Unfavorable	17%	16%	19%	12%
Not sure	75%	69%	78%	88%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Strickland Favorability				
Favorable	39%	62%	17%	16%
Unfavorable	38%	20%	60%	33%
Not sure	23%	18%	23%	52%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Portman/Sittenfeld				
Rob Portman	46%	17%	84%	28%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	52%	3%	13%
Not sure	26%	31%	13%	59%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Portman/Strickland				
Rob Portman	43%	12%	85%	21%
Ted Strickland	41%	73%	7%	26%
Not sure	15%	15%	8%	53%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Blackwell/Strickland				
Ken Blackwell	36%	7%	73%	19%
Ted Strickland	46%	77%	12%	29%
Not sure	18%	15%	15%	51%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Brown Approval						
Approve	43%	70%	62%	48%	24%	16%
Disapprove	36%	16%	15%	26%	51%	70%
Not sure	21%	14%	23%	26%	25%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman Approval						
Approve	35%	16%	21%	25%	51%	63%
Disapprove	35%	54%	43%	37%	25%	20%
Not sure	30%	30%	36%	38%	25%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blackwell Favorability						
Favorable	21%	12%	7%	13%	30%	43%
Unfavorable	32%	46%	42%	31%	26%	22%
Not sure	47%	42%	51%	56%	44%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sittenfeld Favorability						
Favorable	9%	14%	15%	6%	5%	6%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	18%	13%	22%	17%
Not sure	75%	71%	68%	81%	73%	76%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Strickland Favorability						
Favorable	39%	58%	55%	47%	18%	23%
Unfavorable	38%	15%	27%	29%	57%	58%
Not sure	23%	28%	18%	24%	25%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman/Sittenfeld						
Rob Portman	46%	11%	25%	36%	71%	82%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	64%	45%	28%	8%	10%
Not sure	26%	25%	30%	36%	21%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman/Strickland						
Rob Portman	43%	12%	15%	31%	75%	78%
Ted Strickland	41%	72%	70%	47%	13%	15%
Not sure	15%	16%	15%	22%	12%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blackwell/Strickland						
Ken Blackwell	36%	9%	11%	24%	64%	67%
Ted Strickland	46%	73%	73%	53%	18%	20%
Not sure	18%	18%	16%	24%	18%	13%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Brown Approval			
Approve	43%	46%	39%
Disapprove	36%	28%	44%
Not sure	21%	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman Approval			
Approve	35%	30%	41%
Disapprove	35%	34%	36%
Not sure	30%	36%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blackwell Favorability			
Favorable	21%	18%	24%
Unfavorable	32%	29%	36%
Not sure	47%	53%	40%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sittenfeld Favorability			
Favorable	9%	9%	8%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	19%
Not sure	75%	76%	73%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Strickland Favorability			
Favorable	39%	39%	39%
Unfavorable	38%	33%	43%
Not sure	23%	27%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman/Sittenfeld			
Rob Portman	46%	39%	55%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	33%	22%
Not sure	26%	29%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman/Strickland			
Rob Portman	43%	39%	48%
Ted Strickland	41%	43%	39%
Not sure	15%	18%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blackwell/Strickland			
Ken Blackwell	36%	29%	44%
Ted Strickland	46%	48%	43%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Brown Approval				
Approve	43%	70%	19%	34%
Disapprove	36%	17%	59%	31%
Not sure	21%	13%	23%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	35%	23%	57%	20%
Disapprove	35%	47%	20%	38%
Not sure	30%	30%	22%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Blackwell Favorability				
Favorable	21%	15%	31%	14%
Unfavorable	32%	44%	22%	29%
Not sure	47%	41%	47%	57%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Sittenfeld Favorability				
Favorable	9%	16%	4%	2%
Unfavorable	17%	18%	18%	13%
Not sure	75%	66%	78%	84%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Strickland Favorability				
Favorable	39%	58%	21%	37%
Unfavorable	38%	24%	56%	32%
Not sure	23%	17%	23%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Portman/Sittenfeld				
Rob Portman	46%	20%	83%	34%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	53%	5%	22%
Not sure	26%	27%	13%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Portman/Strickland				
Rob Portman	43%	15%	82%	31%
Ted Strickland	41%	72%	9%	41%
Not sure	15%	13%	9%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Blackwell/Strickland				
Ken Blackwell	36%	11%	70%	23%
Ted Strickland	46%	75%	14%	45%
Not sure	18%	14%	15%	32%





	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Brown Approval				
Approve	43%	42%	44%	48%
Disapprove	36%	37%	26%	33%
Not sure	21%	20%	30%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	35%	37%	23%	42%
Disapprove	35%	34%	38%	34%
Not sure	30%	29%	39%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Blackwell Favorability				
Favorable	21%	22%	14%	12%
Unfavorable	32%	32%	39%	28%
Not sure	47%	46%	47%	60%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Sittenfeld Favorability				
Favorable	9%	7%	14%	11%
Unfavorable	17%	17%	17%	12%
Not sure	75%	75%	69%	77%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Strickland Favorability				
Favorable	39%	38%	52%	36%
Unfavorable	38%	40%	25%	36%
Not sure	23%	22%	23%	28%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Portman/Sittenfeld				
Rob Portman	46%	52%	12%	40%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	24%	56%	27%
Not sure	26%	24%	32%	33%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Portman/Strickland				
Rob Portman	43%	48%	12%	45%
Ted Strickland	41%	37%	72%	32%
Not sure	15%	14%	17%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Blackwell/Strickland				
Ken Blackwell	36%	41%	5%	31%
Ted Strickland	46%	42%	72%	46%
Not sure	18%	18%	22%	22%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Brown Approval					
Approve	43%	36%	43%	45%	44%
Disapprove	36%	18%	36%	41%	37%
Not sure	21%	47%	21%	15%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman Approval					
Approve	35%	29%	33%	36%	41%
Disapprove	35%	26%	28%	40%	40%
Not sure	30%	45%	40%	24%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blackwell Favorability					
Favorable	21%	5%	17%	27%	24%
Unfavorable	32%	38%	31%	33%	29%
Not sure	47%	57%	52%	40%	47%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sittenfeld Favorability					
Favorable	9%	15%	13%	5%	6%
Unfavorable	17%	8%	15%	21%	17%
Not sure	75%	77%	72%	74%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Strickland Favorability					
Favorable	39%	44%	34%	43%	37%
Unfavorable	38%	18%	40%	42%	40%
Not sure	23%	38%	26%	15%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman/Sittenfeld					
Rob Portman	46%	29%	47%	48%	53%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	29%	28%	30%	24%
Not sure	26%	43%	25%	22%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman/Strickland					
Rob Portman	43%	30%	40%	45%	53%
Ted Strickland	41%	43%	42%	44%	36%
Not sure	15%	27%	18%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blackwell/Strickland					
Ken Blackwell	36%	18%	32%	38%	47%
Ted Strickland	46%	55%	48%	46%	37%
Not sure	18%	28%	20%	16%	15%





	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Brown Approval			
Approve	43%	45%	36%
Disapprove	36%	40%	17%
Not sure	21%	15%	47%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Portman Approval			
Approve	35%	38%	24%
Disapprove	35%	38%	22%
Not sure	30%	24%	54%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Blackwell Favorability			
Favorable	21%	23%	13%
Unfavorable	32%	33%	28%
Not sure	47%	44%	59%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Sittenfeld Favorability			
Favorable	9%	6%	19%
Unfavorable	17%	18%	12%
Not sure	75%	76%	69%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Strickland Favorability			
Favorable	39%	42%	28%
Unfavorable	38%	40%	31%
Not sure	23%	18%	41%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Portman/Sittenfeld			
Rob Portman	46%	49%	36%
P.G. Sittenfeld	28%	30%	20%
Not sure	26%	21%	44%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Portman/Strickland			
Rob Portman	43%	46%	33%
Ted Strickland	41%	44%	31%
Not sure	15%	10%	36%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Blackwell/Strickland			
Ken Blackwell	36%	38%	28%
Ted Strickland	46%	48%	38%
Not sure	18%	14%	34%





Ohio Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of P.G. Sittenfeld?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 69%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ted Strickland?

Favorable..... 60%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 17%

Q3 (Democrats) If the Democratic candidates for US Senate were P.G. Sittenfeld and Ted Strickland, who would you vote for?

P.G. Sittenfeld..... 13%
Ted Strickland 65%
Not sure 22%

Q4 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 22%
Somewhat liberal 36%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 10%
Very conservative 4%

q5 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 59%
Man..... 41%

Q6 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 74%
African American..... 19%
Other..... 6%

Q7 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 36%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 22%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sittenfeld Favorability						
Favorable	13%	16%	16%	7%	-	26%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	14%	13%	40%	25%
Not sure	69%	65%	69%	80%	60%	49%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Strickland Favorability						
Favorable	60%	65%	62%	69%	19%	59%
Unfavorable	23%	18%	23%	19%	50%	18%
Not sure	17%	18%	15%	13%	31%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sittenfeld/Strickland						
P.G. Sittenfeld	13%	13%	16%	6%	21%	10%
Ted Strickland	65%	75%	68%	63%	37%	69%
Not sure	22%	12%	16%	30%	42%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sittenfeld Favorability			
Favorable	13%	12%	14%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	20%
Not sure	69%	71%	67%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Strickland Favorability			
Favorable	60%	56%	66%
Unfavorable	23%	22%	25%
Not sure	17%	22%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sittenfeld/Strickland			
P.G. Sittenfeld	13%	11%	16%
Ted Strickland	65%	64%	67%
Not sure	22%	25%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Sittenfeld Favorability				
Favorable	13%	12%	15%	9%
Unfavorable	18%	18%	20%	6%
Not sure	69%	69%	65%	86%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Strickland Favorability				
Favorable	60%	63%	49%	61%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	29%	25%
Not sure	17%	16%	22%	14%





	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Sittenfeld/Strickland				
P.G. Sittenfeld	13%	13%	12%	18%
Ted Strickland	65%	67%	58%	71%
Not sure	22%	21%	30%	11%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sittenfeld Favorability				
Favorable	13%	20%	7%	10%
Unfavorable	18%	13%	22%	18%
Not sure	69%	67%	70%	72%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Strickland Favorability				
Favorable	60%	47%	66%	71%
Unfavorable	23%	32%	22%	10%
Not sure	17%	21%	12%	19%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sittenfeld/Strickland				
P.G. Sittenfeld	13%	15%	14%	8%
Ted Strickland	65%	62%	66%	69%
Not sure	22%	23%	20%	23%





Ohio Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rob Portman's job performance?

Approve 53%
Disapprove..... 25%
Not sure 22%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ken Blackwell?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 44%

Q3 (Republicans) If the Republican candidates for US Senate were Ken Blackwell and Rob Portman, who would you vote for?

Ken Blackwell 24%
Rob Portman..... 57%
Not sure 20%

Q4 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 0%
Somewhat liberal 5%
Moderate..... 23%
Somewhat conservative..... 37%
Very conservative 34%

q5 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q6 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 27%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 27%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman Approval						
Approve	53%	26%	39%	34%	59%	62%
Disapprove	25%	74%	40%	29%	20%	23%
Not sure	22%	-	21%	37%	21%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blackwell Favorability						
Favorable	34%	-	24%	18%	33%	47%
Unfavorable	22%	74%	31%	26%	21%	20%
Not sure	44%	26%	45%	56%	47%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blackwell/Portman						
Ken Blackwell	24%	74%	5%	15%	20%	35%
Rob Portman	57%	26%	58%	62%	60%	50%
Not sure	20%	-	37%	24%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman Approval			
Approve	53%	47%	59%
Disapprove	25%	21%	28%
Not sure	22%	32%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blackwell Favorability			
Favorable	34%	28%	39%
Unfavorable	22%	19%	26%
Not sure	44%	53%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blackwell/Portman			
Ken Blackwell	24%	23%	24%
Rob Portman	57%	54%	60%
Not sure	20%	23%	16%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman Approval				
Approve	53%	47%	53%	60%
Disapprove	25%	23%	25%	25%
Not sure	22%	29%	22%	15%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blackwell Favorability				
Favorable	34%	20%	39%	37%
Unfavorable	22%	29%	21%	17%
Not sure	44%	50%	39%	45%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blackwell/Portman				
Ken Blackwell	24%	11%	30%	26%
Rob Portman	57%	66%	50%	60%
Not sure	20%	24%	20%	14%

