

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ohio Senate Election is Close: But Democrat Lee Fisher Has An Edge**

**Raleigh, NC**—The Ohio Senatorial election looks close. Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher and former Congressman and Bush administration official Rob Portman are neck and neck; Fisher is just two points ahead of Portman; 40:38. Four months out from the election 22% of the voters remain undecided.

Neither candidate has high favorability or unfavorable ratings, suggesting they both are unknown throughout the state. Portman lacks popularity even amongst his own party. 50% of Republicans say they are unsure of their opinion of Portman. In contrast to the 40% of Democrats who have no opinion of Fisher. The large number of undecided voters is directly related to Fisher and Portman's lack of visibility. With so many undecided voters it is essential that both candidates increase their exposure.

Democratic nominee, Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, has an edge—he's not from Washington. Ohio voters overwhelmingly prefer Columbus politicians to Washington insiders; 59:15.

Fisher would be well advised to stay an arms length away from Obama; Ohioans aren't fans of the President. 42% of voters approve of the President's job performance and 54% disapprove. Retiring Senator George Voinovich should retire in silence; his support won't help fellow Republican Portman either. Only 21% of voters gave the Senator high marks.

“If Fisher focuses on his Ohio roots and his work in Columbus, while highlighting Portman's long history in Washington, he could easily win over Ohio voters, said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Ohioans are clearly tired of national politicians and want someone who will represent Ohio in Washington.”

*PPP surveyed 482 Ohio voters from June 26-27. The survey's margin of error is +/- 4.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.*

*If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.*



## Ohio Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 42%  
*Disapprove*..... 54%  
*Not Sure*..... 4%

**Q2** Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or are you not sure?

*Support*..... 38%  
*Oppose*..... 53%  
*Not Sure*..... 9%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator George Voinovich's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 21%  
*Disapprove*..... 48%  
*Not Sure*..... 31%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Lee Fisher?

*Favorable*..... 28%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 27%  
*Not Sure*..... 45%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rob Portman?

*Favorable*..... 22%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 25%  
*Not Sure*..... 53%

**Q6** The candidates for US Senate this fall are Democrat Lee Fisher and Republican Rob Portman. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*Lee Fisher*..... 40%  
*Rob Portman*..... 38%  
*Undecided*..... 22%

**Q7** Do you think that Columbus politicians or Washington politicians are better equipped to deal with Ohio's problems?

*Columbus politicians*..... 59%  
*Washington politicians* ..... 15%  
*Not sure*..... 26%

**Q8** Who did you vote for President last year?

*John McCain*..... 44%  
*Barack Obama*..... 50%  
*Someone Else/Don't Remember*..... 6%

**Q9** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

*Liberal*..... 18%  
*Moderate*..... 45%  
*Conservative*..... 37%

**Q10** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 50%  
*Man*..... 50%

**Q11** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 44%  
*Republican*..... 38%  
*Independent/Other*..... 18%

**Q12** If you are white, 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 84%  
*African American* ..... 12%  
*Other*..... 4%





**Q13** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29.....	4%
30 to 45.....	27%
46 to 65.....	43%
Older than 65.....	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	42%	6%	76%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	91%	19%	64%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	3%	5%	3%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	38%	4%	71%	16%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	92%	16%	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	4%	12%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	21%	23%	20%	16%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	45%	52%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	31%	32%	28%	48%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	8%	47%	16%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	39%	16%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	53%	37%	58%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Portman Favorability</b>				
Favorable	22%	37%	9%	23%
Unfavorable	25%	11%	38%	16%
Not Sure	53%	53%	53%	61%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>				
Lee Fisher	40%	8%	70%	23%
Rob Portman	38%	69%	10%	42%
Undecided	22%	23%	20%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>				
Columbus politicians	59%	78%	44%	52%
Washington politicians	15%	2%	27%	10%
Not sure	26%	20%	29%	39%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	42%	84%	52%	9%
Disapprove	54%	13%	45%	85%
Not Sure	4%	2%	3%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>38%</b>	79%	49%	6%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>53%</b>	15%	39%	88%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	6%	13%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>21%</b>	23%	25%	15%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>48%</b>	56%	45%	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>31%</b>	22%	30%	37%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	50%	36%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	15%	25%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>45%</b>	34%	39%	58%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Portman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	10%	17%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>25%</b>	37%	34%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>53%</b>	53%	50%	58%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>				
<b>Lee Fisher</b>	<b>40%</b>	72%	52%	10%
<b>Rob Portman</b>	<b>38%</b>	10%	27%	65%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>22%</b>	18%	21%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>				
<b>Columbus politicians</b>	<b>59%</b>	41%	56%	72%
<b>Washington politicians</b>	<b>15%</b>	30%	20%	2%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	29%	24%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>42%</b>	45%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>54%</b>	52%	56%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	3%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Health Care</b>			
<b>Support</b>	<b>38%</b>	41%	36%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>53%</b>	48%	58%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	12%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	21%	20%	22%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	44%	52%
<b>Not Sure</b>	31%	36%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	24%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	19%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	57%	34%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Portman Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	20%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	20%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	53%	60%	47%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>			
<b>Lee Fisher</b>	40%	38%	42%
<b>Rob Portman</b>	38%	38%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	25%	19%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>			
Columbus politicians	59%	59%	60%
Washington politicians	15%	12%	18%
Not sure	26%	29%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	42%	79%	5%	33%
Disapprove	54%	18%	94%	58%
Not Sure	4%	3%	2%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
Support	38%	72%	5%	28%
Oppose	53%	15%	91%	63%
Not Sure	9%	13%	4%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>				
Approve	21%	22%	18%	26%
Disapprove	48%	50%	52%	35%
Not Sure	31%	29%	30%	39%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	47%	9%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	13%	41%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	40%	49%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Portman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	10%	33%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	32%	17%	23%
<b>Not Sure</b>	53%	58%	50%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>				
<b>Lee Fisher</b>	40%	69%	14%	25%
<b>Rob Portman</b>	38%	10%	69%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	21%	17%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>				
<b>Columbus politicians</b>	59%	47%	73%	60%
<b>Washington politicians</b>	15%	22%	9%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	32%	17%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	42%	39%	63%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	58%	31%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	3%	6%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	38%	34%	63%	59%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	56%	31%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	10%	6%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	21%	23%	-	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	46%	69%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	31%	30%	31%	41%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	25%	44%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	26%	38%	18%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	49%	19%	41%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Portman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	23%	13%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	21%	50%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	53%	56%	38%	50%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>				
<b>Lee Fisher</b>	40%	34%	75%	50%
<b>Rob Portman</b>	38%	43%	13%	18%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	23%	13%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>				
<b>Columbus politicians</b>	59%	64%	38%	32%
<b>Washington politicians</b>	15%	10%	50%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	26%	13%	50%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	42%	58%	35%	43%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	32%	63%	54%	46%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	11%	1%	2%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Health Care</b>					
<b>Support</b>	38%	37%	33%	40%	41%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	53%	60%	51%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	11%	7%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Voinovich Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	21%	16%	18%	24%	19%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	53%	56%	45%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	31%	32%	26%	31%	37%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Fisher Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	32%	26%	27%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	21%	33%	26%	23%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	47%	40%	47%	47%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Portman Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	16%	13%	23%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	26%	35%	20%	23%
<b>Not Sure</b>	53%	58%	53%	57%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Fisher/Portman</b>					
<b>Lee Fisher</b>	<b>40%</b>	47%	41%	38%	41%
<b>Rob Portman</b>	<b>38%</b>	21%	41%	38%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>22%</b>	32%	18%	24%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Columbus vs. Washington Politicians</b>					
<b>Columbus politicians</b>	<b>59%</b>	74%	56%	58%	63%
<b>Washington politicians</b>	<b>15%</b>	5%	24%	13%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	21%	20%	29%	27%

