

Ohio Marine Trades Association  
and Government Advantage Group

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024





## 2024 Election Report

The Government Advantage Group 2024 Election Results report provides a summary of the results of the November 5, 2024, election for state legislative races, US Senate, US Congress, and Ohio Supreme Court. This report provides additional context on the results of some of the more closely watched races. Overall turnout had roughly 70% of the electorate casting a ballot, with more than 30% of registered voters choosing to vote early or by absentee ballot, setting a state record.

Former President Donald Trump sealed his expected victory of Ohio's 17 electoral votes, but Ohio pundits were anxious to see what effect that would have on the rest of the ticket. Trump-backed businessman Bernie Moreno was challenging long-serving Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown in what amounted to one of the most expensive campaigns in the country with spending topping \$500 million. It was Moreno who came out on top. While his margin of victory was not as wide as Trump's Ohio vote count, he was able to pull out the win, further solidifying Ohio as a solid red state.

With President Trump and running mate Ohio Senator JD Vance winning the electoral college, Governor Mike DeWine will be tasked with selecting Vance's replacement in the Senate.

## State Issue 1 Fails

The lone statewide constitutional amendment on the ballot dealt with how Ohio draws our district lines. The pro-Issue 1 groups argued that Ohio is a gerrymandered state, and politicians shouldn't be drawing these lines. The No side argued that those who draw the lines should be held accountable to the voters, so using elected officials is a more democratic process. Despite the Yes campaign having a financial advantage, the No campaign benefited from the Republican machine and ground game. Additionally, President Trump formally endorsed a No vote, and the electorate shot down the amendment.

## Congressional Races to Note

The US's longest-serving Congresswoman, Marcy Kaptur, was again in a race for the ages, this time facing off against state legislator Derek Merrin. Notable Republicans from across the country visited this Northwest Ohio district to boost Merrin's chances and boost their chance to retain the majority in the US House. This race was a nailbiter with Kaptur squeaking out a victory by a little over 1,000 votes. Former legislator Kevin Coughlin hoped to give Congresswoman Emilia Sykes a fight. Sykes, running to secure a second term, was able to earn a return to Washington. Other Congressional races were generally outside the window of a political index to be very competitive.

## Ohio Supreme Court

The political balance of Ohio's Supreme Court was also on the line this November. Because of recent legislative action, Supreme Court candidates now run with a political affiliation when previously it was non-partisan. The current makeup of the court is 4-3 favoring Republicans. Justice Joe Deters (R), while an incumbent, chose to challenge fellow jurist Melody Stewart (D).

Democrat Justice Michael Donnelly (D) was challenged by Court of Appeals Judge Megan Shanahan (R). While Court of Common Pleas Judge Dan Hawkins (R) faced Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Forbes (D) in a race to fill the remaining term of Deter's current position.

**Winners: Deters, Hawkins and Shanahan (shifting the court make-up to 6-1 Republican)**

## Ohio Senate

There were few surprises in the Ohio Senate races. With only the even-numbered districts on the ballot this year, the Democrats had little opportunities to cut into the Republican super majority, which currently sits at 26-7. Senate District 33 was also on the ballot for a special election on the unexpired term of Michael Rulli, who recently resigned to join Congress. Senate District 7, currently held by Republican Niraj Antani was drawn to lean Democrat in the new legislative maps, so Democrats did enjoy a pickup there with Democrat Representative Willis Blackshear making the leap to the upper chamber. The same occurred with current Representative Beth Liston making the jump to the Senate in a Franklin County seat that now leans Democrat. Senate Republicans had a significant fundraising advantage and were able to dedicate resources to defend the seats that were competitive. The two most competitive races were in Northeast Ohio. In the end, the new Senate makeup is 24-9.

**Senate District 18** - Senator Jerry Cirino, expected to be the next Senate Finance Chair, was challenged by Katie O'Neill. O'Neill is the daughter of a former Ohio Supreme Court Justice. But Cirino was able to leverage his experience and fundraising advantage to secure a decisive return to the Ohio Senate. **Winner: Jerry Cirino**

**Senate District 24** - Representative Tom Patton is looking to make a return to the Ohio Senate as he is termed out of the House. One of the few elected Republicans from Cuyahoga County, Patton has long earned support from union organizations making him highly electable in the region. Sue Durichko, a nurse, looked to reverse that course, but the veteran lawmaker will be returning to Columbus. **Winner: Tom Patton**

## Ohio House

In the House, in addition to the individual races, Statehouse politicians are watching to see how these results will impact the vote for Speaker of the House. Current Speaker Jason Stephens seized the gavel in 2023 with the vote of all House Democrats. Current Senate President Matt Huffman is making the leap back to the House and challenging Stephens for the top spot. Will the caucus remain divided between the two, or will a third consensus candidate for Speaker emerge? The caucus is supposed to meet on November 20th for an informal vote. The Democrats hoped that several pick-up opportunities would allow them to eliminate the Republican supermajority. The current House makeup is 67-32. Going into 2025 it will be 65-34, with Democrats only seeing a net gain of 2 seats, both pickups in Franklin County districts.

**House District 10** – After an issue surrounding false claims that he received a degree from MIT, incumbent Representative Dave Dobos (R) chose not to seek another term in the 10th District, which contains southwest parts of Franklin County, City Councilman Mark Sigrist (D) faced off against Brian Garvine, an attorney and former Ashville Village Council member. Democrats saw this race as a key pick up opportunity, and they were right. **Winner: Mark Sigrist**

**House District 11** – Current State Senator Stephanie Kunze (R) faced Democratic challenger Crystal Lett (D) in the race for the 11th House District, which includes the cities of Dublin, Hilliard, and parts of Columbus in Franklin County. Kunze and Lett previously went up against each other in 2020 in a highly competitive race for State Senate, with the latter falling short by only around 100 votes. But in this rematch, it was Lett that had the edge by about 2400 votes.

**Winner: Crystal Lett**

**House District 14** – Incumbent Representative and former Parma City Council President Sean Brennan (D) ran against David Morgan (R), a machinist and tool and die maker who served in the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers. This district is located entirely within Cuyahoga County, including the cities of Parma and Parma Heights. **Winner: Sean Brennan**

**House District 17** – Local activist Jessica Sutherland (D) faced off against former State Representative Mike Dovilla (R) in this district covering the cities of Brook Park, Fairview Park, Middleburg Heights, Rocky River, Strongsville, and part of Cleveland. The current seat holder Tom Patton is term-limited and won his race for State Senate. **Winner: Mike Dovilla**

**House District 23** – This district includes parts of Cuyahoga and Lake Counties. Long-time State Representative and former Lake County Commissioner Dan Troy (D) competed against small business owner and Army veteran Tony Hocesvar. Republicans saw this race as a possible pick-up opportunity. While the votes in Lake County were 50/50 the results from Cuyahoga pushed Troy into the win column. **Winner: Dan Troy**

**House District 23** – Incumbent State Representative Rachel Baker (D) was up against attorney and former judge Curt Hartman (R) in this district covering parts of Hamilton County. Baker looked to secure the seat after winning a tight race in 2022. **Winner: Rachel Baker**

**House District 28** – Karen Brownlee (D) and Jenn Giroux (R) ran in the general election for this district, which covers parts of the Cincinnati area. Jessica Miranda who previously held onto this seat resigned to accept an appointment as County Auditor, making this an open seat. Republicans have long eyed this seat as a pickup as Miranda previously won by narrow margins. **Winner: Karen Brownlee**

**House District 31** – Incumbent Representative Bill Roemer (R) faced off against Cuyahoga Falls City Schools Board of Education member AJ Harris (D) for a final term in this district covering parts of Summit and Stark counties. The race was expected to be closer, but Roemer prevailed. **Winner: Bill Roemer**

**House District 35** – Incumbent Representative Steve Demetriou (R) was up against Twinsburg City Schools Board of Education member Mark Curtis (D) in the race for House District 35, which includes parts of Geauga, Portage, and Summit Counties. With Trump performing well in this part of the state, Republicans felt confident they could hold onto the seat, and they were right. **Winner: Steve Demetriou**

**House District 36** – Current Representative Andrea White (R) was 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, but her hard work paid off and she managed to secure another term. **Winner: Andrea White**

**House District 49** – State Representative Jim Thomas (R) ran against local youth advocate Krista Allison (D) in this district covering parts of Canton. Thomas upset sitting Democrat Rep. Thomas West in 2022 and both parties had their eye on this race. While close, Thomas will be returning for another term. **Winner: Jim Thomas**

**House District 52** – State Representative and former State Senator Gayle Manning was challenged by nonprofit professional Genevieve Flieger (D) in this district that spans parts of Lorain County. In a race where Manning likely benefited from name recognition and experience, she was able to fend off the challenge and will enter 2025 in her final term.

**Winner: Gayle Manning**

**House District 60** – After the passing of long-time legislator Kris Jordan, Brian Lorenz (R) was appointed in his place to fill the remaining term. Encompassing parts of Delaware County, this Republican stronghold has shifted more blue in recent years. Democrats tapped physician Rachael Morocco to challenge Lorenz. However, Lorenz won handily. **Winner: Brian Lorenz**

**House District 64** – First-term incumbent Nick Santucci (R) and vocational rehabilitation counselor Lauren Matthews (D) went head-to-head in this district containing Warren and Niles in Trumbull County. While on paper this district should favor Democrats, the Mahoning Valley has been leaning in the last several elections with President Trump at the top of the ticket and it helped give Santucci to a decisive victory. **Winner: Nick Santucci**

**House District 72** – Republican Heidi Workman upset sitting Representative Gail Pavliga in the primary election. She then had to defend the seat in race with Democrat Nathaniel Adams. All eyes were on the impact of the student vote in this Portage County district that includes Kent state. In 2022 many students were still in remote learning, so did their being back on campus favor Democrats? In this race, it did not. **Winner: Heidi Workman**

## Full List of Results

(i)= incumbent

Bolded=winner

Write in and 3rd party candidates not included

House District	Republican Candidate	Democrat Candidate
1		<b>Dontavius Jarrells (i)</b>
2		<b>Latyna Humphrey (i)</b>
3		<b>Ismail Mohamed (i)</b>
4	Jason Allevato	<b>Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (i)</b>
5		<b>Meredith Lawson-Rowe</b>
6	Hussein Jabiri	<b>Christine Cockley</b>
7		<b>Allison Russo (i)</b>
8	Aaron Neumann	<b>Anita Somani (i)</b>
9	Brandy Seymour	<b>Munira Yasin Abdullahi (i)</b>
10	Brian Garvine	<b>Mark Sigrest</b>
11	Stephanie Kunze	<b>Crystal Lett</b>
12	<b>Brian Stewart (i)</b>	Brad Cotton
13	Robert Dintaman	<b>Tristan Rader</b>
14	David Morgan	<b>Sean Brennan (i)</b>

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Aaron Borowski  
Daniel Harrington  
**Mike Dovilla**  
Justyn Anderson (WI)  
Kenny Godnavec  
Donna Walker Brown  
Joshua Malovasi  
Milan Wesley  
Tony Hocevar  
John Sess  
Jim Berns  
John Breadon  
Curt Carl Hartman  
Jenn Giroux  
**Cindy Abrams (i)**  
**Mike Odioso**  
**Bill Roemer (i)**  
**Jack Daniels (i)**

Adam Bozic  
**Steve Demetriou (i)**  
**Andrea White (i)**  
**Tom Young (i)**

**Phil Plummer (i)**  
**Rodney Creech (i)**  
Josiah Leinbach

Wendi Hendricks  
**Josh Williams (i)**  
**Jennifer Gross (i)**  
**Thomas Hall (i)**  
**Diane Mullins**  
**Scott Oelslager (i)**  
**Jim Thomas (i)**  
**Matthew Kishman**  
**Jodi Salvo**  
**Gayle Manning (i)**  
Bradley Lacko  
**Kellie Deeter**  
**C. Michelle Teska**  
**Adam Mathews (i)**  
**Jamie Callender (i)**  
Emily Ciccone  
**Tex Fischer (i)**  
**Brian Lorenz (i)**  
**Beth Lear (i)**  
**Jean Schmidt (i)**  
**Adam Bird (i)**

**Chris Glassburn**  
**Bride Rose Sweeney (i)**  
Jessica Sutherland  
**Juanita Brent (i)**  
**Phillip Robinson (i)**  
**Terrence Upchurch (i)**  
**Eric Synenberg**  
**Darnell Brewer (i)**  
**Dan Troy (i)**  
**Dani Isaacsohn (i)**  
**Cecil Thomas (i)**  
**Sedrick Denson (i)**  
**Rachel Baker (i)**  
**Karen Brownlee**  
Joseph Salvato  
Stefanie Hawk  
AJ Harris  
Jim Colopy  
**Veronica Sims (i)**  
**Derrick Hall**  
Mark Curtis  
Rose Lounsbury

**Desiree Tims**  
Dion Green  
Bobbie Arnold  
**Erika White**  
**Elgin Rogers (i)**  
**Michele Grim (i)**  
Dave Blythe  
Landon Meador  
Benjamin McCall  
Vanessa Cummings  
Lynn Gorman  
Krista Allison  
Doremus Redvine  
Joe Rinehart  
Genevieve Fleiger  
**Joe Miller (i)**  
Brenda Buckanan  
Laura Davis  
Cleveland Canova  
Rick Walker  
**Lauren McNally (i)**  
Laura Schaeffer  
Rachael Morocco  
David Hogan  
Katie Vockell  
Tracey McCullough

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**Nick Santucci (i)**  
**David Thomas**  
**Sharon Ray (i)**  
**Melanie Miller (i)**  
**Thad Claggett (i)**  
**Kevin Miller (i)**  
**Brian Lampton (i)**  
**Levi Dean**  
**Heidi Workman**  
**Jeff LaRe (i)**  
**Bernard Willis (i)**  
**Haraz Ghanbari (i)**  
**Marilyn John (i)**  
**Meredith Craig**  
**Matt Huffman**  
**Monica Robb Blasdel (i)**  
**Jonathan Newman**  
**Jim Hoops (i)**  
**Roy Klopfenstein (i)**  
**Ty Mathews**  
**Angela King (i)**  
**Tim Barhorst (i)**  
**Tracy Richardson (i)**  
**Riordan McClain (i)**  
**Gary Click (i)**  
**DJ Swearingen (i)**  
**Justin Pizzulli (i)**  
**Bob Peterson (i)**  
**Mark Johnson (i)**  
**Jason Stephens (i)**  
**Kevin Ritter**  
**Don Jones (i)**  
**Ron Ferguson (i)**  
**Adam Holmes (i)**  
**Mark Hiner**  
**Sarah Fowler Arthur (i)**

Lauren Mathews  
Bradford Quade  
Michael Smith  
Jamie Hough  
Joseph Wilson  
Krista Magaw  
Nathaniel Adams  
Michael Scarmack (WI)  
Derek Alvarado  
Jan Materni  
Emily Adams  
Mark Gooch  
Dan Votaw  
Melissa VanDyke  
Gregory Adams  
Magdalene Markward  
Sheila Coressel  
Adrienne Childrey  
Victoria Maddox  
Lesley Verbus  
Craig Swartz  
Dianne Selvey  
Alisha Roshong  
Kate Nunnelley  
Ellen Clark  
Arthur Beatty  
Wenda Sheard  
Micah McCarey  
Scott Wilson  
Annie Homstad  
Louis Murphy

Total

65

34

**Senate District**

**Republican Candidate**

**Democrat Candidate**

2  
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**Theresa Gavarone (i)**  
**George Lang (i)**  
Charlotte McGuire  
**Bill Blessing (i)**  
**Kyle Koehler**  
**Susan Manchester**  
**Terry Johnson (i)**

Paloma De La Fuente  
Thomas Cooke  
**Willis Blackshear**  
Ty Hogan  
Dan McGregor  
Shane Marcum



# NOVEMBER 2024

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Besa Sharrah  
**Jerry Cirino (i)**  
**Tim Schaffer (i)**  
**Mark Romanchuk (i)**  
**Tom Patton**  
**Bill Reineke (i)**  
Jon Leissler  
**Brian Chavez (i)**  
**Sandra O'Brien (i)**  
**Al Cutrona (i)**

**Beth Liston**  
Katie O'Neill  
Nick Hubbel  
Kathy Salem  
Sue Durichko  
Mohamed Juma  
**Casey Weinstein**  
Iva Faber  
Michael Shrodek  
Marty Hume

Not on the ballot  
Total

10 Republican members  
24

6 Democrat members  
9

## Congressional Races

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Orlando Sonza  
**David Taylor**  
Michael Young  
**Jim Jordan (i)**  
**Bob Latta (i)**  
**Michael Rulli (i)**  
**Max Miller (i)**  
**Warren Davidson (i)**  
Derek Merrin  
**Mike Turner (i)**  
Alan Rapoport  
**Troy Balderson (i)**  
Kevin Coughlin  
**Dave Joyce (i)**  
**Mike Carey (i)**

**Greg Landsman (i)**  
Samantha Meadows  
**Joyce Beatty (i)**  
Tamie Wilson  
Keith Mundy  
Michael Kripchak  
Matt Diemer  
Vanessa Enoch  
Marcy Kaptur (i)  
Amy Cox  
**Shontel Brown (i)**  
Jerrad Christian  
Emilia Sykes (i)  
Brian Kenderes  
Adam Miller

## Ohio Supreme Court

Justice  
Justice  
Justice

**Joseph Deters (i)**  
**Megan Shanahan**  
**Dan Hawkins**

Melody Stewart (i)  
Michael Donnelly (i)  
Lisa Forbes

## Statewide Offices

US Senate

**Bernie Moreno**

Sherrrod Brown (i)