

OHIO
Winner: Democrat

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If there was ever a state that defines the term, “battleground state,” Ohio would be the leading the pack yelling “charge”. Always entertaining, the Ohio presidential race will once again be a tight race that will show the winner to be, by the slimmest of margins, the Democrats. Due to the recent influx of youth voting, the change in election results within the state and the state’s call for new policies and ideas, Ohio looks to be shifting from a pale red to light blue.

According to a recent poll, nearly eighty-four percent more Ohioans under the age of thirty turned out for their primary election than did so during the 2000 primary election (Politics Extra, 2008). Of that eighty-four percent, nearly three-fourths voted democrat (348,847 to 130,571) (Politics Extra, 2008). This burst of young voters came about in the primary; expectations for the general election in November are expected to be even higher. Although one demographic factor cannot change the electorate for one state, it may have a substantial effect in Ohio. In the past two presidential elections, the margin of victory in Ohio has been an average of three percent (about 140,000 voters). This small percent could easily sway, according to the primary numbers, towards the Democrats if the youth turnout is as expected. The percentage of youth voters represented in Ohio also rose from a smallish eleven percent in 2000, to a respectable fifteen percent in 2008 (Politics Extra, 2008). This impressive rise can be attributed to the two candidates in the Democratic Party that younger voters tend to relate to (Fernandez-Perada, 2008). More than eighty percent of those surveyed said young voters seem to be more involved in this presidential election than during past election cycles, and they cited both the excitement and importance of this election-and the increased role of Internet organizing-as factors in their engagement (Fernandez-Perada, 2008). If this holds, the under-thirty vote may turn out to be a large determining factor come November.

Over the course of the past four years, Ohioans have been making serious changes that have been flipping the political spectrum. In 2006, after nearly twenty years of having a Republican governor, Ohioans elected Ted Strickland, a Democrat, to take over (The Green Papers, 2006, Cable News Network 2006). Not to seem differentiated, Ohio then went on to elect new Democratic U.S. Senators and Congressmen/women to Washington (Miller, Lorraine C. 2007). For congress, one-hundred percent of the seats up for nomination went the Democrat who was running; additionally, the senate seat also switched from a Republican to a Democrat (Miller, Lorraine C. 2007, State Vote 2006). One cannot overlook the changes that Ohio decided upon from 2004 to 2008. The changes

clearly show that they were not happy with their current situation and decided to go in a new direction. If this trend continues will there be a call for a new presidential party in the near future?

A call for a new President is not the only thing that Ohio might be looking for. With the election looming, the main concern on the minds of the people of Ohio are the policies and ideas that will help America overall. Ohio is worried about, more than anything, the shaky economy and the war on terror (Brown, 2008). According to a recent survey, Ohioans sense a structural shakiness in the economy and have feelings of doubt about the current policies that are being thrown around in Washington (Brown, 2008). If there is any indication as to where Ohioans believe these changes will come from, it can be expected that they will choose the opposite candidate that is in office right now. Current Senator, Sherrod Brown has been having roundtable talks with fellow citizens of Ohio to see what needs to be done in order to bring about these changes, not surprisingly Senator Brown believes that a new change in the Presidency will help bring about this change (Brown, 2008). As Ohio continues to loom over these ideas, it seems that they are starting to push away from the Republican side and towards the Democrats.

This may end up to be the tightest of all of the general election states come November. But as it stands at this point in time, I believe that the Democrats will win Ohio by a margin of less than three percent and gain the much needed twenty electoral on November 4th.

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