

Ohio (OH) (17 votes)

Capital: **Columbus**
 Area: **44,825 sq mi. / 116,096 sq km**
 Population: **11,785,935**
 Nickname: **"The Buckeye State"**
 State motto: **"With God, all things are possible"**
 Governor: **Mike DeWine (R)**
 U.S. Senators: **Sherrod Brown (D), J. D. Vance (R)**



How will your state vote?

Predicting a vote is a challenging task. Political researchers have different opinions on how to predict an election outcome. Different formulas and methods are used, however none is perfect. Each prediction is a snapshot of the voters' opinion at a certain point in time. But with election issues and current events changing so fast, it is quite a challenge to have an accurate prediction of how the election will turn out. In the 2020 election, most political pundits and polls before Election Day accurately estimated that Democratic candidate Joe Biden would receive more votes than the Republican candidate and former President Donald J. Trump. However, Biden's victory in the Electoral College was narrower than predicted because the polls overstated Biden's support relative to Trump.

What are the most common predictors to determine how citizens will vote? Socio-economic factors are among the most important ones. They include, but are not limited to, citizens' education, income, and ethnicity. While these are often mentioned as decisive, others are important to consider as well. For example, many Americans cast their vote based on a single issue like health care, women's reproductive rights, the economy, or the environment. These voters choose their preferred candidate based on the issue most important to their identity, their social network, or personal biography, for example religious affiliation, ideology, or health. Americans also often cast their vote in a local context and are influenced by political and social issues affecting their own state. Finally, calculating voter turnout is key to an accurate prediction.

Some key variables for predicting the election outcome



Voting history

How have people in the state voted in the past? Is the state solidly red, blue, or purple? What is the expected turnout?



Ethnicity

What ethnic group does a citizen belong to? What is the ethnic make-up of the state?



Religion

How important is religion to the citizens? How often do they pray or attend worship service?



Economy

What's the current economic situation in the state? How many citizens live in poverty? How many are without a job?



Income inequality

How wide is the gap between wealthy and poor people? How much income does the top 1% in the state take home?



Education

How many people graduate from high school in your state? How many have a college degree?

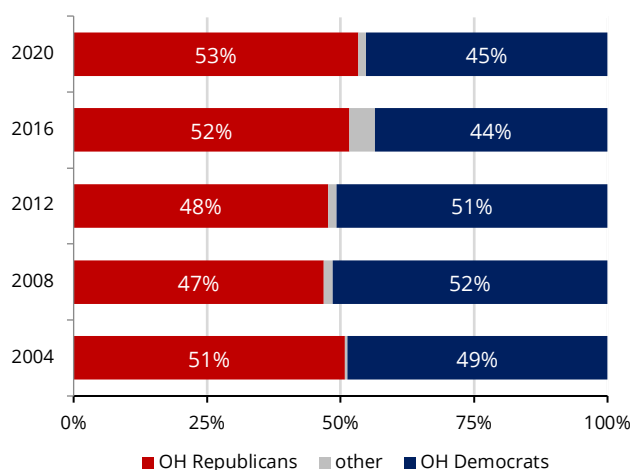


Voting history ^[2]

The home to seven former presidents, Ohio is sometimes known as the Modern Mother of Presidents.

Ohio was the first state admitted under the Northwest Ordinance, entering the Union in March, 1803. It participated in its first presidential election in 1804. Ohio has been a major battleground in recent elections due to the closeness of the vote and its wealth of electoral votes (currently 18). This was particularly true in 2004, when the state put George W. Bush over the top in a close 2 percent victory over John Kerry. 2016 saw Donald Trump defeat Hillary Clinton by over 8 points, the largest here there since 1988. Trump won over Joe Biden by a nearly identical amount in 2020.

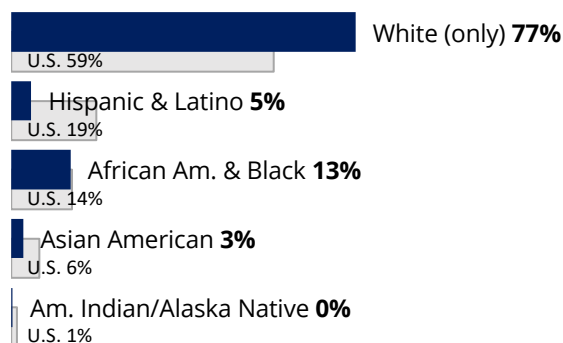
Election results in Ohio (2004–2020): ^[2]



Voter turnout 2020:



Ethnicity ^[3]



(U.S. average in grey)



Religion ^[4]

OH is the 17th most religious state overall

58% of adults in OH are "highly religious," based on an overall index

Religious profile of Ohio

56% (17th) say religion is very important in their lives

38% (16th) say they attend worship at least weekly

57% (16th) say they pray daily

67% (15th) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



Economy ^[4]

13.4% (13th highest) poverty rate

3.7% (34th lowest) unemployment rate

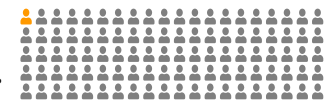


Income inequality ^[6]

The **top 1%** take home **16% of all the income in OH.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



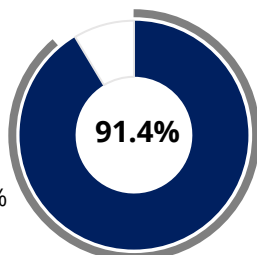
16% of the income



Education ^[3]

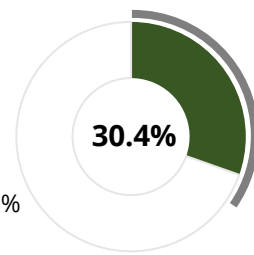
High school degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 87.7%



Bachelor's degree or higher
persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 34.3%





More information on Ohio*



State information

Official state website: <https://ohio.gov/>



Media



Ohio Political News:

<https://www.politico.com/news/ohio>



Ohio Politics Podcast:

<https://player.fm/podcasts/Ohio-Politics>



Democrats and Republicans in the state

Democratic Party



<http://ohiodems.org/>



<http://www.youtube.com/OhioDems>



<https://twitter.com/OHDems>



<https://www.instagram.com/ohdems/>



no official site

Republican Party

<http://www.ohiogop.org/>

<http://www.youtube.com/GOPOhio>

<https://twitter.com/ohiogop>

<https://www.instagram.com/theohiogop/>

no official site

* Please note, these are third-party resources, Teach About U.S. is not responsible for this content.

Sources:

1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#)
2. Voting history text: adapted from 270towin.com
3. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
4. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#)
5. Poverty and unemployment rate: [Poverty Rates by State](#) & [Unemployment Statistics Map](#)
6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#)