

November 14, 2016

Election 2016: Recap from a Historic Night

As we digest the 2016 election, it was again clear that the old adage “to win the presidency you must win Ohio” held true. Donald Trump will become the 45th President of the United States following one of the wildest election nights our nation has ever seen. Here in Ohio, Mr. Trump held on to a 52.6-43.0 percent victory. This is the largest victory margin in an Ohio presidential election since 1988 when George H.W. Bush defeated Michael Dukakis by 10.9 percent.

Rob Portman wins second term in U.S. Senate; all incumbents win U.S. Congressional races

In Ohio’s Senate race, Sen. Rob Portman routed former Gov. Ted Strickland in what was a crucial battleground state. While national Democrats initially had high hopes that they would be able to oust Portman with a high profile challenger such as Strickland, they quickly faced insurmountable fundraising deficits and outside spending on behalf of Portman’s campaign. Portman ultimately came out on top 58.3-36.9 percent. There were no surprises in any of the 16 Ohio Congressional districts, as all of the incumbent members won by comfortable margins. In Washington, our state is now represented by one Republican and one Democrat Senator and 12 Republican members and four Democrat House members.

DeWine wins open seat for Ohio Supreme Court; Fischer ahead; O’Connor unopposed

It was the race between Ohio Appellate Judge Pat Fischer and Cuyahoga Common Pleas Judge John O’Donnell that got the most attention down the stretch. As of election night, Judge Fischer was up 50.3 to 49.7 percent and appears to be the presumptive winner. The final outcome, however, won’t be determined until provisional and some additional absentee ballots are counted. Judge Fischer was the endorsed candidate of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (OCCPAC).

The second Supreme Court race was not expected to be nearly as competitive and it wasn’t. OCCPAC endorsed Ohio Appellate Judge Pat DeWine defeated another appellate judge, Cynthia Rice, 56.4-43.5 percent. Also endorsed by OCCPAC, Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor was unopposed in her bid for re-election to Ohio’s high court.

General Assembly Republicans Gain Historic Majorities

The Ohio House Republicans attained the largest majority by a caucus in history. With Jay Edwards winning the open seat for House District 94 (Athens area), replacing a term-limited Democrat, House Republicans stand with 66 seats to the Democrats’ 33.

On the Senate side, Democrat Sen. Lou Gentile was the only incumbent to lose. Political newcomer Frank Hoagland came out on top in the 30th Senate District that covers portions of

Ohio's Appalachian region. Republicans hold the majority of the Ohio Senate with 24 seats to the Democrats' nine.

OCCPAC endorses Ohio General Assembly candidates who are committed to free enterprise. All 74 General Assembly candidates endorsed by OCCPAC won their races, including seven *Chamber Choice* candidates who were in particularly competitive races. We look forward to working with all of the members, both new and returning, of the 132nd Ohio General Assembly.

[Full breakdown of the 132 General Assembly races.](#)

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