

Sherrod Brown converts U.S. Senate campaign account into PAC amid 2026 speculation

By **Sabrina Eaton**
Cleveland.com

WASHINGTON, D. C. - A week after launching [a new non-profit](#) to promote the “Dignity of Work” issues he took up in Congress and on the campaign trail, former U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown converted his campaign fundraising account into a political action committee called “Dignity of Work” PAC.

A spokesperson for the Columbus-area Democrat said that transforming his longtime “Friends of Sherrod Brown” account into a PAC doesn’t mean Brown won’t try to return to the legislative body where he served for 18 years. She said he’s made no decisions about his political future. Over the weekend, [he visited Wisconsin](#) to mobilize voters in its hotly contested Supreme Court election.

[Washington, D.C.-based campaign finance attorney Brett Kappel](#) said the type of PAC that Brown is forming is a “hybrid PAC.”

That means it can accept \$5,000 contributions from individuals each year and use those funds to make its own contributions to favored candidates and other political committees.

The PAC can also accept unlimited contributions from U.S. corporations, unions and citizens, and use them to make independent expenditures on behalf of candidates and causes Brown cares about, though it can’t pass that money along to candidates, said Kappel.

“If he was going to run again, he wouldn’t have gone through the trouble of converting this into a hybrid PAC,” said Kappel, adding that if Brown did decide to run for office again, he could always launch a new account.

Kappel said the PAC could direct any of the funds it raises to Brown’s new nonprofit Dignity of Work Institute, though the money cannot be used to benefit Brown personally.

Brown spent more than 30 years in Congress, including three terms in the U.S. Senate. Last November, he lost his reelection bid to Westlake Republican Bernie Moreno, who [won 50.1% of the vote compared to 46.5% for Brown](#).

His contest with Moreno was the second most expensive Senate race in the country last year, [according to statistics compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics](#), exceeded only by Texas. Brown raised more than \$100 million and had \$394,230 left in his Senate campaign coffers at the end of 2024, Federal Election Commission records show.

Before entering Congress, Brown was a state legislator and Ohio Secretary of State. During his time in Congress, he was an advocate for the labor movement, and a staunch opponent of trade deals. He argued the North American Free Trade Agreement enriched multinational corporations at the expense of workers.

Because of his long track record winning statewide elections in Ohio, he is seen as a potential candidate for governor or the U.S. Senate seat that Columbus-area Republican Jon Husted will be defending in 2026.

Last week, Brown told reporters he had not decided whether he'll seek public office again, and that the new Dignity of Work Institute was not "part of those plans, period." He said the institute is non-partisan, non-political and is "initially non-ideological in terms of recommendations."

"I don't know what I'm going to do in the future, except I'm going to be focusing on the raising money and hiring and gathering information and more data about workers for the Dignity of Work Institute," said Brown.