

2024 Federal Election Results Overview

In the 2024 presidential election, former President Donald Trump claimed victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, securing the presidency with 295 electoral votes as of this writing – 17 electoral votes have yet to be counted as other states continue to count votes. Trump also leads in the popular vote with 50.7% to Harris' 47.7%. In Ohio, Trump garnered 55.2% of the vote over Harris' 43.9%, achieving an 11-point lead compared to his 8-point Ohio margin in 2020.

Ohio's U.S. Senate seat also changed, with Bernie Moreno unseating incumbent Sen. Sherrod Brown by a four-point margin – 50.2% to 46.4%. This win contributed to Senate Republicans wresting control of the U.S. Senate back from Senate Democrats, though the final total is not yet known as a handful of races remain too close to call. Vice President-elect J.D. Vance will soon resign from his Senate seat, leaving Gov. Mike DeWine to appoint a successor. This appointee will serve until 2026 and face reelection in both 2026 and, if successful, 2028.

In the U.S. House, the balance of power is still uncertain. Republicans hold a slight lead nationwide, but final results are still pending in several districts. In Ohio, all incumbents were running for reelection, and all appear to have been reelected, with the exception of Rep. Marcy Kaptur, who currently leads her Republican challenger, Derek Merrin, by roughly 1,200 votes.

2024 Ohio Election Results Overview

In Ohio's state legislative chambers, Republicans continue to dominate, though with slight changes. In the House, Republicans now hold a 65-34 majority (down from 67-32). Two Democratic flipped Republican seats in Franklin County (Crystal Lett and Mark Sigrist) reduced the GOP margin, eliminating Republicans' ability to pass emergency clauses without Democrat votes (66 votes) but not enough to deny Republicans' the ability to override a governor's veto without Democrat votes (60 votes)

The Ohio Senate now stands at 24-9 (previously 26-7), following two flips by Democrats in Franklin County (Beth Liston) and Montgomery County (Willis Blackshear). All other incumbents running for reelection retained their seats.

Ohio's Supreme Court now holds a significant Republican majority at 6-1, previously at 4-3. Meanwhile, Issue 1, a highly debated ballot measure to revise who and how Ohio's state and federal legislative districts are drawn, failed with 46.2% support against 53.8% opposition.

Lame-Duck Session Agenda

As the 135th General Assembly enters the lame-duck session, the Ohio House faces a historic speaker's race between current House Speaker Jason Stephens and incoming Rep. Matt Huffman, who currently serves as the term-limited Senate President. Speaker Stephens will require support from 15 Republicans – in addition to the chamber's 34 Democrats – to retain his leadership position. An informal vote among House Republicans is scheduled for November 20.

The legislative session calendar is set for Senate meetings on November 13 and 20, as well as December 4, 11, and 18. The House this week canceled its November 20 session and will reconvene on December 4, 10, 11, and 18. Committee hearings in both chambers commence on November 12.

Several key bills await further action. Senate Bill 104, the Bathroom Bill and College Credit Plus reform measure, is pending a Senate concurrence vote, which Senate President Matt Huffman said would likely occur prior to Thanksgiving. Gov. DeWine stated he would sign the bill if it reached his desk. House Bill 432 is set for its second hearing in the Senate Education Committee next week and is slated for enactment, and Senate Bill 83 awaits a House vote, which is unlikely given the political rift between the House and the Senate.

FY 2026-27 Budget Preparation

On the budget front, the Office of Budget and Management is reviewing agency budget requests. Final funding levels and policy recommendations are expected in January, with the Executive Budget Proposal set for release on February 3. This proposal will then undergo House hearings in February through April, followed by a revised version from the House. The Senate will hold hearings from April to June and make its modifications in June, followed by a bipartisan, bicameral conference committee, which will reconcile the differences between the three versions of the budget bill. Gov. DeWine must sign the budget bill by June 30, with line-item vetoes as needed.