

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
October 5, 2018

Election Update

National polls taken in September showed the generic ballot heavily weighted towards democratic candidates by nearly 15 points. Yet Republicans have closed the gap by nearly half that amount in the last month alone. We are seeing similar patterns in Ohio of Republican candidates moving up in the polls despite lagging fundraising efforts. Races are becoming closer and more competitive as the election looms less than 5 weeks away. The deadline for voter registration is next Tuesday, October 9th, with early voting beginning the following day. The following is a brief rundown of the top five state races:

Governor

The second gubernatorial debate held on Monday, October 1, was decidedly more civil than the first, with Mike DeWine and Richard Cordray emphasizing their political stances rather than attacking each other's records. The two differed on issues including education, criminal justice reform and healthcare but agreed on vetoing right to work legislation. The race remains virtually tied. Cordray out-raised DeWine in September with \$2.23 million compared to the Republican's \$2.04 million. To view candidate stances and policy details, view Byers Minton's **Gubernatorial Candidate Issue Update** - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wk5GU-FmUBACefADB9bXP0J7_clwm9r2/view?usp=sharing.

Attorney General

Democrat Steve Dettelbach ended September with more than \$750,000 in the bank while Republican Dave Yost closed out the month with \$404,000. After the fundraising reports were released, the two candidates traded fire over out-of-state contributions. Yost and Dettelbach have agreed to a debate on October 22nd in Cleveland.

Secretary of State

Democrat Representative Kathleen Clyde also widened the fundraising gap against her Republican opponent Senator Frank LaRose, bringing in over \$320,000 compared to his \$255,000. The candidates in this race have been noticeably civil and agree on most policy points despite the race being within a few percentage points.

Auditor

The Democratic candidate led September fundraising efforts once again, with Zach Space raising \$253,000 to Republican Representative Keith Faber's \$204,000. The Space campaign touts this fundraising amount as the most ever raised by an Ohio state auditor candidate in the September reporting period. However, Representative Faber still has \$100,000 more reserved in his war chest.

Treasurer

Following suit, Democrat Rob Richardson led fundraising totals for the month of September against Republican Representative Robert Sprague, raising \$204,000 to Sprague's \$162,000. Richardson, an attorney and former candidate for Mayor of Cincinnati, also has almost \$800,000 more cash on hand.

Other races to watch include the U.S. Senate race between Representative Jim Renacci and incumbent Senator Sherrod Brown, as well as two Ohio Supreme Court seats on the ballot.

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