

ITE RESEARCH REPORT

INVEST *to* ELECT

ILLINOIS

SUBJECT: Ohio Senate Race (Tim Ryan)

REPORT CURRENT AS OF: 2/12/2022

AUTHOR: Jaime Baum

- INCUMBENT
- CHALLENGER
- OPEN SEAT

PRIMARY DATE: May 3, 2023

STATE OR DISTRICT: Ohio

CANDIDATE(S) BACKGROUND:

Four Democratic candidates are running in the primary but Tim Ryan is the favorite. Ryan is a member of the U.S. House, having first been elected in 2012. He previously served in the Ohio State Senate. While raised a Catholic, he wrote an op/ed in 2015 indicating that he was no longer anti-abortion. He's considered a rank-and-file Dem. His campaign has been covered in recent weeks by the Washington Post which called him "one of the most consequential Democratic candidates in the 2022 cycle...." NPR noted in an interview with him on 2/1/22 that he is "aiming to win over working-class voters" who went for Trump. He calls himself an "economic Ohio Democrat" in the mold of Sherrod Brown. Ryan attended Bowling Green State University and received his law degree from U of New Hampshire Pierce Law Center.

Also running in the Dem primary are Morgan Harper, Traci Johnson and LaShondra Tinsley.

CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN FINANCES:

In the fourth quarter of 2021, Ryan raised \$2.9 million. He enters 2022 with \$5million in cash on hand. His campaign said that 97% of donations in October - December were \$100 or less and more than 26,000 people donated for the first time to his campaign.

OPPONENT(S) BACKGROUND:

Eight primary opponents are seeking to replace retiring Rob Portman and hold the seat for Republicans. Attention is gravitating around Josh Mandel and J.D. Vance, whose campaign has been sputtering in recent weeks.

OPPONENT CAMPAIGN FINANCES:

"Hillbilly Elegy" author JD Vance raised \$1.65 million in the 3rd quarter of 2021 (most recent figure available); Josh Mandel raised \$1.1 for the same period.

STATE POLITICAL CLIMATE:

FiveThirtyEight and Sabato's Crystal Ball are both indicating that Ohio is likely to stay Republican.

BIDEN +/- 2020

Trump won the state by 8.2 points, 53.4 to 45.2 percent.

POLITICAL REPORTS AND POLLS (e.g., Cook Political Report, FiveThirtyEight, Sabato's Crystal Ball)

SUPPORT:

- YES
- NO
- TBD

NEWSLINKS:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/02/07/jd-vance-warning-ohio-senate-race-00006310>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/02/bernie-moreno-republican-ohio-senate-race/621490/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/04/1077697902/in-ohios-senate-race-democrat-ryan-hopes-to-beat-the-odds-with-a-pitch-to-worker>