



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

RE: Ohio

DATE: August 12, 2025

OVERVIEW

When Governor DeWine appointed Jon Husted to fill Vice President Vance's Senate seat, he chose a proven conservative who reflects the Ohio of today. Democrats appear ready to reach into the past, with Sherrod Brown expected to run despite his defeat last cycle. Senator Husted has never lost a statewide race and was one of the first Senators endorsed by President Trump. He has built a strong election effort – raising \$2.9 million in the second quarter of 2025 while scaling his statewide operation for the national scene. Meanwhile, Democrats are so desperate they've pushed Sherrod Brown back into the arena fresh after being defeated by political outsider Bernie Moreno. This cycle, Brown faces an even steeper climb against a well-known incumbent with a built-in statewide name ID advantage and the full support of President Trump and Governor DeWine.

Ohio is a Republican Stronghold

After 32 years in Washington, Sherrod Brown found out the hard way that his state had changed. Ohio is not the same state many in the political press still believe it to be. President Trump has carried the state three times, expanding his vote share from 51.7% in 2016 to 55.2% in 2024. In the last election alone, President Trump improved his vote share in 85 out of 88 counties, averaging a +2.8-point gain per county, and dominating among rural and working-class voters. His +11.2-point margin in 2024 was the widest Ohio margin for any Republican presidential candidate since Reagan's historic run in 1984.

While Trump surged, Democrats lost ground receiving 203,000 fewer voters in 2024 than in 2020. That shift has redrawn the political map in the state and Senator Husted is built to win in it. He's won four statewide elections, including a 60% blowout in his 2014 re-election as Secretary of State. As Lt. Governor, the DeWine-Husted ticket won by nearly 4 points in 2018 and by over 25 points in 2022. And of the eight counties that flipped from Brown to Moreno in 2024, DeWine-Husted had already carried six of them in 2018. The trend is clear: Husted has a record of winning in places where Democrats are collapsing.

Husted's Strong General Election Standing

A recent statewide public survey by Bowling Green University further illustrates Senator Husted's standing among the electorate. The poll of 978 registered voters, conducted April 18-24, 2024, found:

- **Senator Husted leads Sherrod Brown 49% to 46%** in a potential general election matchup.
 - Senator Husted holds a **+6 point lead with Independents**, 44% - 39%.
- **Senator Husted's favorability rating is +12 overall**, with 40% favorable - 28% unfavorable.

CONCLUSION

Ohio has experienced an electoral transformation thanks to President Trump, as evidenced by Sherrod Brown's failed reelection in 2024. We will defeat him by an even wider margin the second time around with a proven winner in Senator Husted. As Ohio reddens and conservative momentum grows, Sherrod Brown's waning legacy will be that of a two-time loser – and Husted is well positioned to defeat him again.