

OHIO

Rankings 2004

Democracy Index: **17th**
Compilation of our state rankings, combined for the overall score.

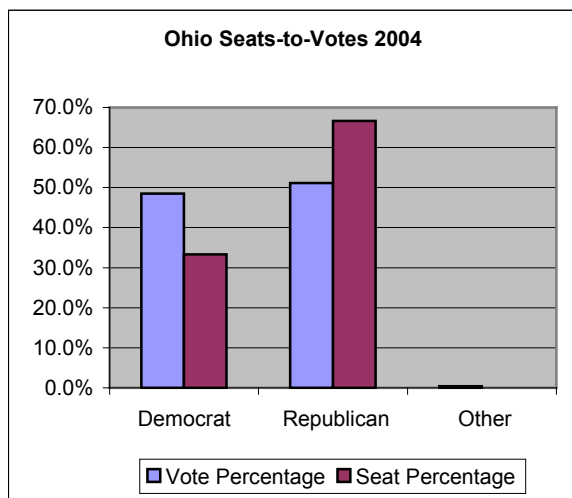
Margin of Victory: **29th (39%)**
Higher average margins of victory lead to a low ranking in this index.

Landslide: **32nd (89%)**
Large percentages of House races won by landslide margins of at least 20% lead to a low ranking in this index.

Representation: **10th (42%)**
A low percentage of eligible voters who voted for their representative leads to low rankings in this index.

Seats-to-Votes: **28th (15%)**
Large disparities in the major parties' share of votes cast as compared with their share of seats elected leads to a lower ranking.

House Turnout: **18th (62%)**
Low turnout for House races leads to a lower ranking in this index.



Facts in Focus

18 seats: 12R, 6D

- 89% of House races in Ohio in 2004 were won by landslide margins of 20% or more. The overall average margin of victory was 39% in 2004, which is actually an improvement on even higher margins in the past two elections.
- No House races were decided by less than 10% in either 2002 or 2004, and only two races by less than 20%. On the other hand, only two of Ohio's 18 House races were won by more than 40% (considered "no contest") in 2004, the lowest percentage Ohio saw in the 1982-2004 period.
- In 1992-1994, five incumbents lost their seats. Since then 70 of 71 incumbents have been re-elected.
- In 2004, barely two out of five people of the voting-eligible population in Ohio voted for the person who represents them in the U.S. House. Almost one in 12 voters in the presidential race skipped over their U.S. House race.
- Democrats received 49% of the statewide vote, an increase of 7% from 2002, but did not pick up any new seats, leaving them with only 6 of the 18 seats (33%) for U.S. representatives. Republicans received just two percentage points more in the statewide vote but hold two times the number of seats.
- This disparity is clear also in the percentage of votes wasted by Democrats for the purposes of winning seats. While only 13% of Republican votes were "wasted" in 2004, 51% of Democratic votes were "wasted". The discrepancy between Republican and Democratic votes has steadily increased since 1992, when Republicans were more likely to "waste" their votes.

- 11% of Ohio residents are black, but the state has only one African American representative, Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D), who holds 5% of the seats. Ohio has had only one other black representative.

Presidential Election Results

2004: Bush 51, Kerry 49, Other 0
2000: Gore 46, Bush 50, Nader 3
1996: Clinton 47, Dole 41, Perot 11
1992: Clinton 40, Bush 38, Perot 21

Voting-eligible Population

2004: 8,427,000
2002: 8,531,000*
2000: 8,433,000*

*Voting-age population was used for these years

	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004
Democracy Index	--	--	19.9	21.6	22.9	24.8	21.8
Voter Turnout	57%	40%	53%	40%	54%	37%	62%
Representation Index	37%	27%	34%	27%	36%	25%	42%
Wasted Votes	35%	32%	36%	33%	34%	31%	32%
% of Wasted R / D Votes	34 / 30	19 / 49	25 / 42	24 / 42	19 / 40	18 / 47	13 / 51
Drop-Off Voters	7.3%	4%	3.2%	.9%	2.4%	0.3%	7.9%
Avg Margin Of Victory	33%	40%	33%	34%	39%	40%	39%
Votes for (R-D-O%)	47-48-5	58-40-1	50-46-4	52-47-1	49-46-5	56-42-2	51-49-0
Seats for (R-D-O%)	47-53-0	68-32-0	58-42-0	58-42-0	58-42-0	67-33-0	67-33-0
Seat Changes	0	3	2	0	0	1	0
High % Turnout, District	--	47 (19)	62 (2)	49 (2)	75.1 (19)	--	--
Low % Turnout, District	--	35 (11)	45 (11)	34 (11)	45.9 (11)	--	--

Results 1994-2004	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004
U.S. House (R-D)	13-6	11-8	11-8	11-8	12-6	12-6
Landslide Index	58%	68%	89%	84.2%	83.3%	89%
Scale of Competitiveness						
Tight: < 5	4	3	0	0	0	0
Competitive: 5-10	1	0	1	2	0	0
Opportunity: 10-20	3	3	1	1	3	2
Landslide: 20-40	1	5	13	7	7	12
No Contest: 40+	7	7	4	8	7	2
Uncontested	3	1	0	1	1	2
Incumbents						
Total Running / Total Seats	18 / 19	19 / 19	18 / 19	18 / 19	16 / 18	18 / 18
Re-Election / Total Incumbent	15 / 18	17 / 19	18 / 18	18 / 18	16 / 16	18 / 18
Landslide / Total Incumbent	11 / 18	13 / 19	16 / 18	16 / 18	15 / 16	16 / 18
R. Landslide / R. Incumbent	8 / 9	8 / 13	10 / 11	10 / 10	11 / 11	10 / 12
D. Landslide / D. Incumbent	3 / 9	5 / 6	6 / 7	6 / 8	4 / 5	6 / 6
Untouchable Repeat Landslide	10	11	12	16	14	13
Uncontested Primary	10	13	14	14	10	
Elected Women	2	2	3	3	3	3
Elected Racial Minorities	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B

Results 1982-1992	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992
U.S. House (R-D)	11-10	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	9-10
Landslide Index	71%	81%	90%	95%	81%	63%
Scale of Competitiveness						
Tight: < 5	1	0	0	0	1	2
Competitive: 5-10	0	1	1	0	0	2
Opportunity: 10-20	5	3	1	1	3	3
Landslide: 20-40	10	5	5	2	8	4
No Contest: 40+	4	10	12	17	8	7
Uncontested	1	2	2	1	1	1
Incumbents						
Total Running / Total Seats	19 / 21	21 / 21	19 / 21	20 / 21	18 / 21	15 / 19
Re-Election / Total Incumbent	17 / 19	20 / 21	19 / 19	20 / 20	18 / 18	13 / 15
Landslide / Total Incumbent	14 / 19	17 / 21	18 / 19	19 / 20	15 / 18	12 / 15
R. Landslide / R. Incumbent	6 / 10	10 / 11	9 / 9	9 / 9	6 / 8	7 / 8
D. Landslide / D. Incumbent	8 / 9	7 / 10	9 / 10	10 / 11	9 / 10	5 / 7
Untouchable Repeat Landslide	11	13	15	18	15	11
Uncontested Primary	14	14	10	16	13	11
Elected Women	2	2	2	2	2	2
Elected Racial Minorities	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B

Ohio Congressional Districts Map

