

President Obama Will Help Clinton's Battleground Game by Energizing the Youth Vote

Clinton Battleground Strategy: Obama's Impact on College Campuses



Ohio

- Obama is very popular among certain Democratic coalitions in Ohio that are not as sold on Clinton as post-convention polling would suggest.
- Ohio Democrats are pulling for Obama to make appearances at Ohio State and the University of Cincinnati.



Florida

- Florida has had trouble in the past driving college-age voter turnout.
- According to Susan MacManus, a University of South Florida government professor, having Obama "at college campuses in general ... would help bring back some of the millennials that are not on the Clinton train yet."



Michigan

- Michigan has a huge college-age population that contributed to Bernie Sander's primary upset in that state.
- According to former Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard, Obama attending "Any university community in Michigan would be good. Ann Arbor, Lansing, Kalamazoo—Michigan, Michigan State, Western Michigan. It would help drive turnout. It would move Bernie people quicker to her ... We need to get those numbers strengthened."

Analysis

- Democrats in many battleground states echo a desire for Obama to focus on solidifying the party base behind Clinton.
- They especially want the President to focus on college campuses and areas with big African-American populations.
- This reflects party fears that turnout among young and black voters will not be as strong as in 2008 and 2012.
- Obama is on vacation and then will spend time in China and Laos in September as well as New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly. Therefore, he probably will not have time to campaign regularly until October, when most schools will be in the middle of fall semester.

Sources: George Condon Jr., "Where Obama Can Help Clinton the Most," *National Journal*, August 9, 2016; *The Noun Project*, August 8, 2016.

President Obama Can Present Clinton as a Stable and Coolheaded Alternative in Battleground Suburbs

Clinton Battleground Strategy: Obama's Impact in the Suburbs



Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania has a large population of college-educated moderates in the suburbs surrounding the state's two major cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.
- This population is one of the areas where Trump is weakest.
- The strategy according to a seasoned Democratic operative is for Obama to set up "the contrast for stability and smart and unflappable."



Ohio

- The suburbs of central Ohio, Franklin and adjoining counties, are very important targets for any candidate trying to win Ohio.
- Obama was the first Democrat to carry Central Ohio since 1964.
- Clinton will likely have Obama go there to appeal to moderates and capitalize on the lead she already holds over Trump in that region.
- Trump lost Franklin County in the primaries by 40 points, while Clinton beat Sanders by 10 points in the region.

Sources: George Condon Jr., "Where Obama Can Help Clinton the Most," *National Journal*, August 9, 2016; *The Noun Project*, August 8, 2016.