

# Battleground State: Ohio is One of the Closest Races in the Country for Trump and Clinton

## Presidential Candidate Strategy in Ohio



### Ohio From Clinton's Perspective

- Clinton's strategy is focused on driving turnout in cities and appealing to moderates in the suburbs.
- The message to persuade Republicans to flip is "on social issues and national security, Trump can't be trusted, and his rhetoric toward women and minorities – including disabled people – is disqualifying."
- The Clinton campaign and one of the top Super PACs behind her, Priorities USA, have run ads on this theme.
- Clinton's campaign is targeting the same Ohio demographics that drove Obama's success in the state. The campaign will aim to bring African Americans, women, Latinos, and organized labor into her support base.
- While labor leadership is behind Clinton, the campaign will have to defend against some in the "labor community" who are drawn to Trump.
- Cuyahoga County (Cleveland area) is a major bellwether for Ohio. According to party operatives, anywhere above 260,000 votes in the county for Democrats would guarantee the state for Clinton.



### Ohio From Trump's Perspective

- Ohio is one of Trump's most promising battleground states, in which **he is neck and neck with Clinton at 41.8% to her 43.8%.**
- Trump is doing better than Republicans have historically in Ohio's Democratic strongholds.
- Stuart Garson, chairman of the (Cleveland area) Cuyahoga County Democrats, says his focus will be defending against Trump's appeal to "what historically might be referred to as Reagan Democrats."
- Trump does have a strained relationship with Ohio state party leadership, especially after his campaign chairman said Gov. Kasich "embarrassed his state" by skipping the RNC Convention and withholding his endorsement.
- Trump's main base in Ohio is in the eastern and southeastern counties, filled with blue-collar towns and many coal miners who are angry with Clinton for her pledge to put coal miners "out of business."

Sources: Katie Glueck, "How Ohio will be won," POLITICO, July 31, 2016; POLITICO's Battleground States Polling Average, August 15, 2016; Darren Samuelsohn, Katie Glueck, Kyle Cheney, Daniel Strauss, "25 battleground counties to watch," POLITICO, August 8, 2016.

# Battleground state: key Ohio counties are too competitive to predict

## Key battleground counties in Ohio

County	Past elections	Population	Registered voters	Analysis
Hamilton County	<b>2016 primary:</b> Clinton, Kasich <b>2012:</b> Obama 53, Romney 46	807,598	No party registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A surge in African-American turnout helped Obama win the country in 2008</li> <li>The county is surrounded by Republican counties and shares a border with Indiana</li> <li>Trump operatives hope the proximity to Indiana will help his appeal in the county because of his running mate, Mike Pence’s ability to rally support in the area</li> </ul>
Lake County	<b>2016 primary:</b> Clinton, Kasich <b>2012:</b> Romney 50, Obama 49	229,245	No party registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This county is historically competitive</li> <li>Republicans are banking on this suburban county because the electorate complains of frustration with Washington</li> <li>The electorate is also aging and does not retain its young people</li> </ul>
Stark County	<b>2016 primary:</b> Clinton, Kasich <b>2012:</b> Obama 50, Romney 49	375,165	No party registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This county has gone blue in the past three presidential elections, but never by more than 52%</li> <li>The region is heavily blue collar so the electorate might be welcoming to Trump’s message</li> </ul>

Sources: Katie Glueck, Kyle Cheney, “Trump’s shrinking swing state map,” POLITICO, September 8, 2016; Darren Samuelsohn, Katie Glueck, Kyle Cheney, Daniel Strauss, “25 battleground counties to watch,” POLITICO, August 8, 2016; RealClearPolitics Polling Averages, September 9, 2016.