

2018 Primary Election - OHLA Key Races

A full slate (32) of hopefuls file bids for Ohio's statewide offices, including 11 who are vying for the governor's post. All of the main front runners for governor who have been campaigning for weeks will be on the ballot, along with a couple newcomers to the field.

Candidates for Governor:

Richard Cordray (D) - Grove City
Larry Ealy (D) - Trotwood
Dennis Kucinich (D) - Cleveland
Bill O'Neill (D) - Chagrin Falls
Paul Ray (D) - Alliance
Joe Schiavoni (D) - Youngstown
Mike DeWine (R) - Cedarville
Mary Taylor (R) - Uniontown
Constance Gadell-Newton (G) - Columbus

Candidates for Auditor of State:

Zack Space (D) - Dover
Keith Faber (R) - Celina

Candidates for Treasurer of State:

Rob Richardson (D) - Cincinnati
Sandra O'Brien (R) - Rome
Robert Sprague (R) - Findlay

Candidates for Secretary of State:

Kathleen Clyde (D) - Kent
Frank LaRose (R) - Hudson

Candidates for U.S. Senate:

Sherrod Brown (D) - Cleveland
Melissa Ackison (R) - Marysville
Don Eckhart (R) - Galloway
Mike Gibbons (R) - Fairview Park
Dan Kiley (R) - Maineville
Jim Renacci (R) - Wadsworth

U.S. House of Representatives

Two of Ohio's 15 U.S. House seats will have crowded primaries to select candidates for the General Election.

The 12th Congressional District, including Morrow, Delaware, Licking and parts of Franklin, Marion, Richland and Muskingum counties, has seven Democrats, 12 Republicans and one Green Party member seeking to succeed former Rep. Pat Tiberi (R):

Edward Albertson (D) - Heath
Danny O'Connor (D) - Columbus
Jackie Patton (D) - Columbus
John Peters (D) - Newark
John Russell (D) - Galena
Zach Scott (D) - Columbus
Doug Wilson (D) - Delaware
John Adams (R) - Galloway
Kevin Bacon (R) - Westerville
Troy Balderson (R) - Zanesville
Gary Chiero (R) - Westerville
Lawrence Cohen (R) - New Albany
Brandon Grisez (R) - Worthington
Jon Halverstadt (R) - Worthington
Tim Kane (R) - Dublin
Melanie Leneghan (R) - Powell
Patrick Manley (R) - Columbus
Carol O'Brien (R) - Delaware
Myrl Shoemaker (R) - Sunbury
Joe Manchik (G) - Reynoldsburg

In the 16th Congressional District covering Wayne and parts of Medina, Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Portage counties, six democrats and thee Republicans are vying for the nomination to succeed Rep. Jim Renacci, who is running for U.S. Senate:

Mark Dent (D) - Berea
Aaron Godfrey (D) - Westlake
Grant Goodrich (D) - Cleveland
TJ Mulloy (D) - N. Olmstead
Susan Palmer (D) - Westlake
John Wilson (D) - Westlake
Anthony Gonzalez (R) - Westlake
Michael Grusenmeyer (R) - Rocky River
Christina Hagan (R) - Uniontown

Ohio Senate

The Senate Republican Caucus reported that it would field candidates in 14 of the 17 seats up for election in 2018. Republicans currently enjoy a supermajority in the Ohio Senate and have only four incumbents on the ballot.

While the caucus is seeing a number of departures this cycle due to term limits, most of the candidates looking to fill those seats are coming from the House.

Ohio House of Representatives

A total of 20 House members and 10 senators are term-limited heading into the 2018 elections. While some are eyeing statewide, congressional and local positions, a handful are hoping to stick around the Statehouse by swapping chambers.

Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) announced that the Ohio House Republican Organizational Committee filed candidates in nearly every district across the state. Democrats will field candidates in all of Ohio's 99 House districts.

Key Legislation Will Protect Hotel Business Rights

State Rep. Niraj Antani (HD 42, Miamisburg) has introduced House Bill 494, which will put important protections in place at the state level regarding the franchise model, and your rights as a business. Recent attempts to brand franchisors as "joint employers" with their franchisees have threatened this long-standing and proven model of business in the U.S. HB 494 will help correct this problem by codifying important elements of franchise law.

OHLA members have been lobbying on this issue at the federal and state level over the past several years. For more than 30 years, the franchisor/franchisee relationship has been based on the fundamental understanding that franchisors and franchisees are not joint employers because they do not exercise direct control over the same employees' responsibilities. The National Labor Relations Board issued a decision expanding the definition of joint employer, which severely limits opportunities by diminishing the autonomy of Ohio's hotel owners and dissuading potential entrepreneurs from wanting to expand their businesses.

The expansion of the joint employer definition created confusion throughout the hotel industry as to who was defined as the employer: is it the owner or the manager, the franchisor or the franchisee, the client or the contractor? This leads to questions regarding liabilities, employment claims and other responsibilities of the employer.

HB 494 codifies the traditional joint employer standard of 'direct and immediate control' for state law purposes and protects businesses in those states from certain joint employment claims. HB 494 does nothing to impact existing worker rights, and in no way limits potential redress of any employment claims an employee may have. The legislation simply makes clear a franchisee is the owner of the business and the ultimate employer of any individuals who work in that business.

Passage of HB 494 would restore clarity and correct the course for all in the joint employer relationship. The advantages of the arm's-length system don't go to just franchisors.

Statewide Poll Shows Majority Support Unified Later School Start Date

A poll conducted by the Ohio Travel Association and the polling firm Public Opinion Strategies found that a whopping 71 percent of Ohio voters prefer starting school the fourth week of August or after Labor Day. An overwhelming majority, 66 percent, support Senate Bill 34 introduced by State Sen. Gayle Manning (SD 13, North Ridgeville), which would encourage starting school later, unless local districts hold public hearings and opt out.

Melinda Huntley, Executive Director of the Ohio Travel Association, reported the findings in testimony to the Ohio Senate Education Committee on March 7.

"Ohio voters want a longer summer break instead of a broken-up school year," Huntley testified. What was most remarkable about this survey is that this support cuts across partisan, geographic and demographic lines. Researchers told us it's rare to have an issue with such overwhelming and broad support."

One of the most surprising findings of the research was that 93 percent of Ohio voters say they've never been asked their opinion on when the school year should begin, indicating this is less of a local control issue and more of a school board control issue. Even among educators, 71 percent of teachers also said they'd never been asked their preference for a start date.