Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics

Approval, Favorability and State of the Economy

A Survey of 437 Registered Voters in Ohio

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Summary of Findings

Interviews were completed with 437 registered voters in Ohio. For a sample size of 437, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.69 points (the margin of error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. Live interviewers conducted telephone surveys between November 7-18, 2013.

- Registered voters in Ohio are, like the nation as a whole, highly critical of Washington. Only one out of three voters (33%) say they approve of the job Obama is doing as President, and even fewer approve of the job Democrats (26%) and Republicans (22%) are doing in Congress.
- One out of two Ohio voters (50%) approve of the job John Kasich is doing as governor. Voters also seem to give Kasich (44%), rather than Obama (25%), Democrats in Congress (26%) or Republicans in Congress (17%), more credit for actions that have helped Ohio's economy.
- More Ohio voters have a favorable opinion of Hillary Clinton (54%) than any other possible 2016 presidential candidate. Nearly a majority of Ohio voters have a favorable opinion of Chris Christie (49%), while a majority of voters have an unfavorable opinion of Joe Biden (52%).

Frustration with the Federal Government
Among Ohio Voters

In the aftermath of the federal government shutdown and a problem-plagued roll out of the Affordable Care Act, Ohioans are frustrated with Washington. A majority of registered voters in Ohio (59%) disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President, with only a third (33%) saying they approve. Of the independent/unaffiliated voters who were polled, a strong majority (66%) disapproves of Obama's performance – a view that was shared by nearly all (97%) of the Republicans who were polled (17% of Democrats disapprove). Republicans and Democrats in Congress, however, fair even worse. Two thirds (66%) of registered voters disapprove of the job Republicans are doing in Congress (22% approve) and nearly as many (62%) disapprove of the Democrats job performance (26% approve). John Boehner is viewed only slightly better than his Republican

colleagues in Congress with 26% approving and 54% disapproving of the job he is doing as speaker of the US House of Representatives.

Governor Kasich and the "Ohio Miracle"

This frustration with Washington has not manifested itself in voters' opinions of Ohio's chief executive, John Kasich. Half (50%) of Ohio's registered voters approve of the job he is doing as governor, with roughly one-third (35%) disapproving. In spite of recent indications that the performance of the state's economy is beginning to reflect that of the nation as a whole, more Ohio voters offer positive assessments of their state's economy than they do of the nation's economy as a whole. When asked about the national economy, only 19% of voters describe the economy as "good" with 80% viewing the economy as "not so good" or "poor". In comparison, 36% of respondents have a positive view of Ohio's economy ("excellent" (1%) or "good" (35%). While a plurality (40%) of Ohio voters say the state's economy is "about the same" as the nation's economy, more than one-third (36%) say it is "much" (4%) or "somewhat" (32%) better than the national economy. The perception that Ohio's economy is outperforming the nation's economy may be partially responsible for Governor Kasich's 50% job approval (see Table 1).

Table 1: *Thinking only about Ohio's economy, would you say the actions taken by the [randomize] have made things much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or had no effect?*

	Much Better %	Somewhat Better %	Somewhat Worse %	Much Worse %	No Effect %	Don't Know %
Governor Kasich	6	38	21	7	19	10
Obama Administration	5	20	27	24	21	3
Democrats in Congress	5	21	30	21	17	6
Republicans in Congress	0	17	28	20	27	6

Looking Ahead to 2016

Looking ahead to 2016, majorities of Ohio voters polled have a favorable opinion of Hillary Clinton (54%) and an unfavorable opinion of Joe Biden (52%). Nearly a majority (49%) of voters has a favorable opinion of Chris Christie, but 20% say they do not recognize him. Other 2016 hopefuls still have ground to make up in name recognition. Though newsmakers in the U.S. Senate, nearly half of Ohio voters surveyed do not recognize or don't have an opinion on Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio . Only 19% of registered voters report a favorable opinion of Cruz.

Table 2: *Is your overall opinion of [randomize] strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?*

	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Neither (volunteered) %	Don't Recognize %	Don't Know %
Hillary Clinton	54	42	1	1	2
Chris Christie	49	22	2	20	7
Jeb Bush	32	39	4	19	8
Joe Biden	41	52	2	4	3
Ted Cruz	19	31	2	39	10
Paul Ryan	37	32	3	19	9
Rand Paul	32	33	3	23	9
Marco Rubio	27	21	4	36	12

Frequency Report

Interviews were completed with 437 registered voters in Ohio. For a sample size of 437, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.69 points (the margin of error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For subsamples the margin of error is larger (depending on the size of the subsample). The data were weighted on age and race to correct for minor discrepancies between sample and population. Live interviewers conducted telephone surveys between November 7-18, 2013.

Q.1 To begin, do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President?

Approve	33%
Disapprove	59%
DK	7%
RF	1%

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of job the Republicans are doing in the US Congress?

Approve	22%
Disapprove	66%
DK	12%
RF	0%

Q.3 How about the Democrats in the US Congress?

Approve	26%
Disapprove	62%
DK	11%
RF	1%

Q.4 How about the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, John Boehner?

Approve	26%
Disapprove	54%
DK	20%
RF	1%

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job John Kasich is doing as Ohio's governor?

Approve	50%
Disapprove	35%
DK	15%
RF	0%

Now I'd like to get your opinion on a few groups and individuals in the news. If you don't recognize the name, just let know me know.

[ASK QUESTIONS 7 TO 9 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.6 Is your overall opinion of Hillary Clinton strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat UNfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?

Strongly Favorable	25%	
Somewhat Favorable	29%	
Somewhat Unfavorable	14%	
Strongly UnFavorable		28%
Neither (Volunteered)	1%	
Don't Recognize	1%	
DK	2%	
RF	0%	

Q.7 Is your overall opinion of Chris Christie strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat UNfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?

Strongly Favorable	12%
Somewhat Favorable	37%
Somewhat Unfavorable	16%
Strongly Unfavorable	6%
Neither (Volunteered)	2%
Don't Recognize	20%
DK	7%
RF	0%

Q.8 Is your overall opinion of Jeb Bush strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat UNfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?

Strongly Favorable	4%
Somewhat Favorable	28%
Somewhat Unfavorable	26%
Strongly Unfavorable	13%
Neither (Volunteered)	4%
Don't Recognize	19%
DK	8%
RF	0%

[ASK QUESTIONS 10 TO 14 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.9 How about Joe Biden?

(Is your overall opinion of Biden strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable)

Strongly Favorable	18%
Somewhat Favorable	23%
Somewhat Unfavorable	19%
Strongly Unfavorable	33%
Neither (Volunteered)	2%
Don't Recognize	4%
DK	3%
RF	0%

Q.10 How about Ted Cruz?

(Is your overall opinion of Cruz strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable)

Strongly Favorable	7%
Somewhat Favorable	12%
Somewhat Unfavorable	11%
Strongly Unfavorable	20%
Neither (Volunteered)	2%
Don't Recognize	39%
DK	10%
RF	0%

Q.11 How about Paul Ryan?

(Is your overall opinion of Ryan strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable)

Strongly Favorable	9%
Somewhat Favorable	28%
Somewhat Unfavorable	16%
Strongly Unfavorable	16%
Neither (Volunteered)	3%
Don't Recognize	19%
DK	9%
RF	0%

Q.12 How about Rand Paul?

(Is your overall opinion of Paul strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable)

Strongly Favorable	10%
Somewhat Favorable	22%
Somewhat Unfavorable	16%
Strongly Unfavorable	17%
Neither (Volunteered)	3%
Don't Recgonize	23%
DK	9%
RF	0%

Q.13 How about Marco Rubio?

(Is your overall opinion of Rubio strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable)

Strongly Favorable	6%
Somewhat Favorable	21%
Somewhat Unfavorable	11%
Strongly Unfavorable	10%
Neither (Volunteered)	4%
Don't Recognize	36%
DK	12%
RF	0%

[ASK QUESTIONS 15 TO 17 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.14 Now, would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

Excellent	0%
Good	19%
Not so good	44%
Poor	36%
DK	1%
RF	0%

Q.15 How about the state of Ohio's economy? Would you describe Ohio's economy as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

Excellent	1%
Good	35%
Not so good	43%
Poor	19%
DK	2%
RF	0%

Q.16 Compared to the overall national economy, would you say that Ohio's economy is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse?

Much better	4%
Somewhat better	32%
About the same	40%
Somewhat worse	18%
Much Worse	5%
DK	3%
RF	0%

Q.17 Thinking ONLY about Ohio's economy would you say the actions taken by the Obama Administration have made things much better for Ohioans, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or had no effect?

Much better	5%
Somewhat better	20%
Somewhat worse	27%
Much worse	24%
No effect	21%
DK	3%
RF	0%

[ASK QUESTIONS 18 TO 20 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.18 Would you say the actions taken by the Republicans in Congress have made things much better for Ohioans, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or had no effect?

(Thinking ONLY about the Economy in Ohio)

Much better	0%
Somewhat better	17%
Somewhat worse	28%
Much worse	20%
No effect	27%
DK	6%
RF	1%

Q.19 Would you say the actions taken by the Democrats in Congress have made things much better for Ohioans, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or had no effect?

(thinking ONLY about the economy in Ohio)

Much better	5%
Somewhat better	21%
Somewhat worse	30%
Much worse	21%
No effect	17%
DK	6%
RF	1%

Q.20 Would you say the actions taken by the Governor, John Kasich, have made things much better for Ohioans, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or had no effect?

(Thinking only about the economy in Ohio)

Much better	6%
Somewhat better	38%
Somewhat worse	21%
Much worse	7%
No effect	19%
DK	10%
RF	0%

Q.21 Recently, the federal government was shut down for 16 days. Did you favor or oppose this shutdown?

Favor	21%
Oppose	73%
Neither (volunteered)	3%
DK	2%
RF	0%

Q.22 Who do you hold most responsible for this shutdown? Do you believe the Obama Administration, Republicans in Congress, Democrats in Congress, or some other group was most responsible for the federal government shutdown?

Obama Administration	32%
Republicans in Congress	35%
Democrats in Congress	7%
Some other group	5%
All (volunteered)	18%
DK	3%
RF	1%

Q.23 Our last few questions are used to ensure that our sample for this survey reflects the population as a whole. Again, all information will be kept confidential.

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, or an independent?

Democrat	28%
Republican	24%
Independent	44%
Other	2%
DK	1%
RF	0%

[IF THE ANSWER IS 3, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 24]
[IF THE ANSWER IS 4 OR 8-9, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 35]

Q.24 Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

Republican	38%
Democratic	36%
Neither	22%
Other	1%
DK	2%
RF	1%

Q.25 What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Less than high school	3%
High school/GED	26%
Some college	14%
2 year college degree/associates degree/professional degree	15%
4 year college degree (BA, BS, etc)	26%
Masters degree	14%
Doctoral degree	1%
DK	0%
RF	2%

Q.26 What is your race?

White or caucasion	81%
Black or African American	11%
Hispanic	4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Other	3%
DK	0%
RF	1%

Q.27 What is your marital status?

Single, never married	24%
Married	60%
Separated	1%
Divorced	6%
Widowed	7%
Partnership	1%
Other	0%
DK	0%
RF	1%

Q.28 If you add together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for the past year, would the total be...

Less than $30,000	18%
$30,000 to $60,000	22%
$60,000 to $90,000	18%
$90,000 to $120,000	8%
Greater than $120,000	16%
DK/RF	19%

Q.29 Gender [do not read]

Male	49%
Female	51%
DK	0%
RF	0%

We are at the end of the survey. I want to thank you for your participation and let you know that: Research at Mercyhurst University which involves human participants is overseen by the Institutional Review Board. Questions or problems regarding your rights as a participant should be addressed to Mr. Timothy Harvey, Institutional Review Board Chair, Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th Street, Erie, PA. Telephone (814) 824-3372.

Methodology

This report summarizes the results of a survey of registered voters in Ohio, which was conducted November 7-18, 2013. Live interviewers called weekday evenings between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 PM and between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM on weekends. For each working phone number, interviewers made no fewer than six attempts to contact individuals selected to participate in the study. Calls were generated by CATI software or manually dialed and relied on a list of randomly selected registered voters in Ohio obtained from Votermapping.

A total of 437 individuals were interviewed. For a sample size of 437, there is a 95 percent probability that the results are within plus or minus 4.695 points (the margin of error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For subsamples, the margin of error is higher (depending on the size of the subsample). Aside from sampling error, there are several factors that prevent the results obtained through a probability sample from being a perfect representation of the results that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. This non-sampling error may be caused by of a variety of factors including, but not limited to, response rate and question order. In this survey, a variety of techniques were employed to reduce common sources of non-sampling error.

Response Rate

Calculating a response rate for a particular study involves considering a number of variables (see http://www.aapor.org/Response_Rates_An_Overview.htm); but, simply stated, it refers to the percentage of individuals in a sample that, when contacted, elect to participate in a study by responding to an interviewer's questions. In recent years, researchers have documented a sharp decline in response rates. Today, a typical study that relies on telephone interviews can expect a response rate of between 20 and 30%. Although it is unclear if, or to what extent, response rate is a source of non-sampling error, most polls strive to maximize response rate by making multiple attempts to contact individuals and taking steps to secure their cooperation once they have been reached. In this way, our study of registered voters in Ohio is no different than most polls: No fewer than six attempts were made to contact hard-to-reach individuals. These attempts occurred during weekday evenings, mornings and on Saturday afternoons. To ensure a high rate of cooperation, interviewers received training on conversion techniques that are consistent with research ethics as identified by the Mercyhurst University Institutional Review Board.

Questions

This report contains the questions as worded on the questionnaire and in the order in which they were asked. Some of the questions include bracketed information, which is, in every case, an instruction to the programmer or interviewer. Whenever possible, question order was randomized to ensure that respondents did not receive a set order of response options, which allowed response set bias to be minimized. For structured (close-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to probe for clarity when respondents' answers were not identical to the predefined response options. For unstructured (open-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to record verbatim responses whenever possible. In cases where a respondent asked that a question or response option be repeated, interviewers were careful to re-read the entire question or all response options.

Data

Data collected during this study was prepared for analysis by director and associate director of Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics. Data preparation included, but was not limited to, removing partial interviews (respondent-terminated interviews) from the dataset. To maximize the accuracy of our results and correct for discrepancies between our sample and the population, the data were weighted on race and age. Simply stated, weighting is when data collected from survey respondents are adjusted to represent the population from which the sample was drawn.

Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics

The Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (MCAP) began operations in July 2010. Inspired by the mission of Mercyhurst University and guided by the university's core values, the center promotes reasoned discourse about problems facing communities, states and nations. It accomplishes this objective by providing elected officials, government agencies, news organizations, and nonprofits with accurate and unbiased assessments of public opinion; and offering a nonpartisan forum for public debates and roundtable discussions that address pressing public problems.

The centerpiece of MCAP is the state of the art computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) facility. The facility, which is located in the Center for Academic Engagement, is comprised of thirty-one interviewer stations and staffed by well-trained research associates. The specialized computer software used to conduct telephone interviews generates random telephone numbers in a predefined geographic area or dials from a list, and allows research associates to accurately complete even the most complex interviews.

The center also has the ability to design and administer online surveys. This method of interviewing is ideal for organizations that have relatively up-to-date email addresses for their members. The software used by MCAP allows a researcher to administer a survey - whether short and simple or long and complex – to an unlimited number of email addresses. In addition, a researcher has the ability to monitor response rates and send out reminders, thereby ensuring that the study produces high quality results.

As Northwestern Pennsylvania's only CATI facility whose primary purpose is to regularly and accurately gauge public opinion, MCAP is an invaluable resource for community leaders. Each year the center conducts polls on issues of local, state and national interest. The results of these studies are made available to the public via the university's webpage (polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap). In addition to its annual polls, the center offers its services to private parties, nonprofits, news organizations, and government agencies for minimal cost.

Please direct questions about the center to Dr. Joseph M. Morris, Director, Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics, Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th Street, Erie, PA, 16546, (814) 824-2154, jmorris@mercyhurst.edu.

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