



TO: Interested Parties
FR: Brett Buerck
RE: Ohio Senate Race
DT: October 16, 2023

In just 75 days Frank LaRose has taken a commanding lead in the primary race to defeat Senator Sherrod Brown in 2024. Political support and polling reinforce this fact and with the close of Q3, Frank's strong fundraising cements his frontrunner status.

In the short time Frank has been in the race, he has raised over \$1,000,000. Since the 2019-2020 cycle, there have been eight first time U.S. Senate candidates who have won on the Republican side and only three raised more than Frank. Now Senators Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, and Cynthia Lummis raised between \$149,00 and \$840,000. Now Ohio Senator J.D. Vance raised just over \$300,000 in his first quarter as a candidate.

In Ohio, Frank's first quarterly report easily outpaces Matt Dolan whose anemic fundraising can only be saved from family money despite running for the U.S. Senate for multiple years. Frank's other primary opponent, who did not have the political courage and belief in his own campaign to make it to the primary in 2022, is also setting millions of his own money on fire to buy a Senate seat.

What makes Frank's first quarter report even more impressive are the two weeks Frank was serving in the reserves as a Green Beret and the two weeks of redistricting as Secretary of State.

Looking at candidates in other states and this first quarterly reports, Frank's first report as a candidate is on the same level as Jim Justice in West Virginia (\$935,035) and Rep. Jim Banks (\$1,153,310). All of this illustrates the strong financial support for Frank's campaign.

Additionally, public news reports indicate Leadership for Ohio, an organization supporting Frank's Senate campaign has raised over \$1,000,000. Despite Frank not being a self-funder and while his primary opponents will rely on their family fortunes to finance their latest Senate bids, our campaign will have more than enough resources to compete and win the primary.

But there are things that money cannot buy in politics and that is political support and outstanding polling numbers that back up this momentum.

Frank has earned the support of over 250 conservative leaders across Ohio and has established leadership teams in all 88 counties. This is remarkable for a candidate in just his first 75 days as a candidate.

Polling has shown Frank as leading the primary field by double digits. New internal polling shows Frank leading the field with 32.2%, a nearly 10- point lead over his nearest rival in the Republican primary and an increase of 5% since our last poll. Despite Republican candidates Bernie Moreno and Matt Dolan spending millions on television and digital statewide ads and running for nearly four years, Frank convincingly leads the field, and his overall vote share is increasing.

Frank is the clear frontrunner to face Senator Sherrod Brown who will be dragged down by President Joe Biden's historic headwinds in Ohio. Highlights from our polling include:

- President Biden's job approval remains dismal (58% overall disapproval, 40% strongly disapprove). Just 14% of Ohio voters strongly approve of Biden's job performance. Among Independents, Biden disapproval is 68% overall, with 45% strongly disapprove. That is an increase of 4% in the strongly disapprove number.
- Parental input in education remains a popular issue, even among Democrats. Sixty-three (63%) percent of Democrats says parents

should be able to provide input on what children are being taught in public schools. Seventy-five (75%) of Independents agree.

- Republicans have a four-point lead in the Generic Ballot (45%-41%), thanks in part to support among Independents, who favor Republicans by eleven points (34%-23%).

While we know there is a great deal of work to be done between now and the primary, we know that Frank's strong fundraising, political, and polling put him in position to win the primary and to defeat Senator Brown in 2024.

Full memo [here](#).

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