

General Information

Population: 11,435,798

Size: 40,948 sq/mi

04 Presidential Results:

Bush: 50.8%

Kerry: 48.7%

Electoral Votes: 20

State Elections

Lower House: 46D/53R

Next Election: 2008

Upper House: 12D/21R

Next Election: 2008

Constitutional Offices:

Governor: D

Lt. Governor: D

Secretary of State: D

Attorney General: D

Treasurer: D

Auditor: R

Next Election: 2010

Federal Elections

House of Rep: 18

Party Makeup: 7(D)11(R)

Sen. George Voinovich (R)

Next Election: 2010

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D)

Next Election: 2012

State Overview

The Ohio Democratic Party showed in 2006 that with good leadership at the top, it could deliver the money, message and mobilizations necessary to help win key elections. In fact, Democrats won five of the six state-level offices, including Governor Ted Strickland and Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner. Equally impressive, Ohioans elected Sherrod Brown to the U.S. Senate and added three new Members to the U.S. House of Representatives (for a net gain of one) all while posting net gains in both chambers of the state legislature.

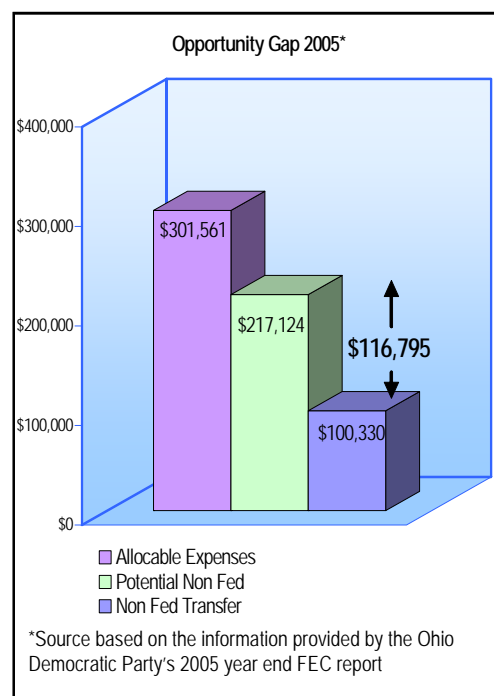
This 2006 success has set the stage for meaningful progress in the future and has put the Party on the path to becoming a highly functional state party. The Ohio State Party is making clear strides in strengthening the operational capability of the organization as well as in building a strategic vision that will lead an effective campaign in 2008. The key aspect of this transformation: a new Chair and ED who are responding to skeptics with quantifiable goals and targeted action. And, with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland fully engaged in making the Party a stronger and more effective organization, there are strong indicators that the state party will be very useful to its campaigns for the 2008 elections.

Going Forward

The Ohio Democratic Party has set the following goals for the 2007/2008 cycle:

- Double its off-year fundraising while broadening the Party's base of financial and political support.
- Begin an early voter contact program to target crossover and base voters
- Drive a regular, ongoing message contrast with the GOP by expanding its online operations and using additional channels of communications.
- Capitalize on Field staff provided via 50-State Strategy to identify voters/volunteers now

Over the next cycle, the Party will focus on strengthening the Party at all levels through strong Field, Finance and Online Strategies to win in 2008. Grassroots Democrats is currently working with Ohio staff to build a more comprehensive Online Strategy and small donor program.



Redistricting Information

The legislature is in charge of congressional districting, while the Apportionment Board Handles state legislative districting. The board consists of five members; the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, one appointee of the Speaker and Majority Leader of the Senate jointly, and one appointee chosen jointly by the Minority leaders in each house. The Governor only has veto power over the congressional district plan.

State Party staff attended the Online Strategy Forum and continues to work with Grassroots Democrats over email and the phone. Grassroots Democrats' staff will also spend time on the ground to help the Online team develop and begin implementation of their strategic plan. On the technology front, Grassroots Democrats is providing assistance for their County Party IT Outreach program that will expand the ability of the Party to reach voters and volunteers in every corner of the state.

Donor education is critical to ensure the State Party has the non-federal funds it needs to excel. Grassroots Democrats is working with national donors who are interested in giving this Party money to enhance its operating infrastructure and to close the Opportunity Gap.