



Ohio Kicks Off Congressional Primary Season By Michael R. Davis

While most of the attention across the country was on the ten states holding contests for the GOP presidential nomination, Ohio kicked off the congressional primary season with some fireworks. Two incumbents were defeated on Tuesday and thus set the stage for what will result in a high turnover of incumbents and another large freshman class. The next U.S. House will clearly have a majority of members with three or fewer terms of service.

In an outcome that surprised many, Republican Congresswoman Jean Schmidt lost a tough contest to Army Reserves Major and political newcomer, Dr. Brad Wenstrup by 6 points in OH-2 (with 99% of precincts reporting). Rep. Schmidt was first elected in a high profile special election in October 2005. Wenstrup criticized Schmidt on her fiscal credentials and on her votes to raise the debt ceiling while he received the support from several Ohio Tea Party groups. Wenstrup will be the favored candidate in the general election against either William Smith or David Krikorian. With 99% reporting, Smith holds a narrow 42 vote lead.

In the first of at least 11 Member vs. Member contests of 2012, Rep. Marcy Kaptur handily defeated Rep. Dennis Kucinich in the OH-9 Democratic primary. Kaptur and Kucinich were paired together as a result of redistricting into a district along Lake Erie that will be pointed to as one of the most gerrymandered districts in the country. Despite Kucinich's eight terms in Congress and recognition at the national level from his two attempted presidential runs, Kaptur easily defeated him with a 16 point margin of victory. Kucinich and Kaptur were known to be long time friends, but both candidates ran heated campaigns against each other. In the end, Kaptur had a significant advantage since most of the redrawn district was previously in her "old" congressional district. Kaptur will face Samuel "Joe" Wurzelbacher, better known as "Joe the Plumber" from the 2008 presidential campaign, in November.

In what will likely turn into a competitive and highly watched U.S. Senate race, incumbent Sherrod Brown (D) ran unopposed while Josh Mandel (R) received 63% of the vote in a six-way Republican primary. Brown is in his first term in the Senate following eight terms in the House while Mandel is currently serving as the Ohio State Treasurer.

In other notable races, former Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy (D) was narrowly defeated in a four-way primary in OH-3 despite receiving the endorsement of Rep. Nancy Pelosi. Former state representative Joyce Beatty (D) will face off against Chris Long (R) in this newly drawn district. The other Member vs. Member contest that is now officially set up for November is in OH-16 where Rep. Jim Renacci (R) will battle against Rep. Betty Sutton (D). Both were unopposed in the primary.

Ohio's congressional delegation was reduced from 18 to 16 members following reapportionment and will also experience significant turnover for the next Congress that begins in January. You can view all of the Ohio Congressional results at the [BIPAC Super Tuesday Election Center](#).

You can reach Michael at mdavis@bipac.org or (202) 776-7479.

Romney Wins Ohio and Most Delegates By Michael R. Davis

While a knockout blow wasn't delivered, Mitt Romney won more states and more delegates than any other candidate including the biggest Super Tuesday prize – Ohio. In addition to Ohio, Romney won the Idaho caucus, his home state of Massachusetts, Vermont, Virginia (where Santorum and Gingrich failed to get on the ballot) and the Alaska caucus enabling him to extend his delegate lead. Rick Santorum claimed victories in North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee. By winning Tennessee, Santorum was able to deny what some felt might have been a knockout blow by Romney to the remaining field. Newt Gingrich was able to win only his home state of Georgia, and failed to crack the top two in any of the other nine states.

In the delegate battle, the victories in six states for Romney provided bigger delegate net gains. Wins in Virginia, Massachusetts and Vermont lead to a near sweep in the delegates from these three states. Santorum's three victories will likely allow him to gain no more than twenty delegates on Romney.

Due to the process of awarding delegates proportionally, the race to mathematically win the GOP nomination is going to take many more states and months before a candidate tops the needed number of delegates to secure the nomination – 1,144. At this point in a four-way contest, according to media projections, Romney has secured 55% of the delegates awarded and now has 35% of the delegates needed to win the GOP nomination.

There are at least two significant questions to be considered over the next few weeks. First, despite not being able to mathematically win the nomination any time soon, will Romney emerge as the only remaining viable candidate by the end of March? Second, will a long nomination battle help or hurt Republicans against President Obama in November? Republicans hope that the attention and being battle tested will offset the negatives from a tough and often personal battle in the primary.

Estimated GOP delegate count:

Mitt Romney	404 (55%)
Rick Santorum	165 (22%)
Newt Gingrich	106 (14%)
Ron Paul	66 (8%)

To get up to the date results, visit our [Super Tuesday Election Center](#).

Super Tuesday State Recaps:

- OH – Clearly the biggest prize on Super Tuesday and a close contest did not disappoint. Romney won only a few counties, but they were the large counties in the metro areas of Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland and Canton that carried large enough margins to offset the rural areas of the state. This victory map resembles several state victories by Barack Obama in 2008. Santorum was further hurt in the delegate race in a few congressional districts by not meeting all of the necessary requirements. Catholic voters are a key voting group to win in Ohio and Romney won 44% to Santorum's 31%. For the Republicans to win the White House, it is nearly impossible to see a path without winning Ohio. With 99% reporting Romney captured 452,575 votes to 440,472 for Santorum for a narrow 38.0% to 37.0% victory.
- VT – As expected, Romney won in his backyard in a state that saw little action since none of the candidates made a visit to Vermont. Romney finished with 40% of the vote while Ron Paul finished second with 25%.
- VA – The big story in what will be a swing state in the general election was that only Romney and Paul were on the ballot due to Santorum and Gingrich failing to qualify. Of the 46 delegates

tied to the March 6 primary, Romney won 43 by winning 60% of the vote.

- OK – In an expected outcome, Santorum received just over 33% of the vote and left Romney and Gingrich to battle for second. Romney placed ahead of Gingrich in the raw vote totals. In the delegate battle, Santorum will likely receive two more delegates than both Romney and Gingrich.
- GA – The former House Speaker could not score a majority of the vote in his home state, but did record his second overall victory with 47% of the vote.
- MA – Romney's home state was never in play and he won every county and over 72% of the vote. While not a winner-take-all state, Romney's performance was strong enough to capture all 38 delegates up on Super Tuesday.
- TN – A state that was seen as a three-way contest between Santorum, Gingrich and Romney turned into a strong victory for Santorum.
- ID (caucus) – Outside of his home state, Romney's strongest performance was in first ever caucus held in Idaho. Romney received 63% of the votes while none of the other candidates topped 20%.
- ND (caucus) – Santorum recorded his highest vote percentage in this caucus and kept Paul from recording his first victory.
- AK (caucus) – Maybe the biggest story out of Alaska was the comments from Sarah Palin saying she voted for fourth place finisher Gingrich and that she would not close the door on accepting a proposal to run for president at an open convention. In the end, Alaska gave Romney his sixth Super Tuesday victory.

Following the results of Super Tuesday here is a candidate status update:

- Ron Paul – His strategy has been to collect delegates and run strong in caucus states. Without a victory in a primary or caucus state and trailing a distant fourth in the delegate count, a path to the nomination has nearly disappeared at this point. Paul will continue to push his message and will continue to demonstrate a base of support in every contest.
- Newt Gingrich – One win, no second place finishes, three thirds, five fourths and failed to compete in one state does not add up to a significant number of delegates or a path to victory. Strong wins next week in Alabama and Mississippi will only delay the inevitable.
- Rick Santorum – A strong victory in Tennessee and a good showing in Ohio keeps Santorum going and firmly establishes him as the strongest challenger to Romney.
- Mitt Romney – The most delegates, the most victories, the most money raised, and the best campaign organization all add up to Romney continuing to remain the GOP frontrunner. However, a few of the upcoming states are not the best match for Romney, but his delegate advantage will continue for at least the remainder of this month.
- Barack Obama – The incumbent continues to focus on building his organization around the country and to reach out to voters. Clear issue differences in the fall are emerging on a weekly

basis and a clear contrast will be more apparent in this year's presidential race compared to many recent contests.

Where does the GOP race go from here (number of delegates)?

- March 6-10 – Wyoming caucuses (29)
- March 10 – KS (40), U.S. Virgin Islands (6), Guam (9)
- March 13 – AL (50), HI (20) & MS (40)
- March 17 – MO (52)
- March 18 – Puerto Rico (23)
- March 20 – IL (69)
- March 24 – LA (46)

You can reach Michael at mdavis@bipac.org or (202) 776-7479.

