



HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH, INC.

2820 N. Lakeridge Trail
Boulder, CO 80302

Tel: 303-545-0200

Fax: 303-442-9196

www.HarstadResearch.com

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Harstad Strategic Research
RE: Strickland leads Portman in the U.S. Senate race in Ohio
DATE: October 6, 2015

Our survey found that in the race for U.S. Senate in Ohio, former Governor Ted Strickland leads incumbent U.S. Senator Rob Portman by 3 percentage points. In the horse race question, 46% of likely voters in Ohio say they would vote for Strickland while 43% say Portman.

Strickland holds this lead despite already being heavily attacked in early television advertising. Before this survey was conducted, the oil billionaire Koch brothers had used their front group, Americans for Prosperity, to spend more than \$1.5 million on attack ads in August and early September. Yet Strickland's 3-point lead in the race suggests the Kochs' attempts to influence Ohio voters has been ineffective. The Strickland advantage is consistent with other polling conducted before the Koch's attack ad barrage.

We also asked Ohio voters in the survey about the Koch brothers to see if voters are aware of these out-of-state billionaires who have flooded Ohio airwaves. The results suggest that while voters' awareness of the Koch brothers is just beginning to grow, voters who are familiar with the Koch brothers do not approve of their deceptive attacks or self-serving agenda: 36% of Ohio voters are familiar with the Koch brothers, with 3 to 1 saying they feel unfavorably toward them. Portman's reliable support for the Koch agenda in Washington will end up being a liability for him as voters learn more about the Koch brothers' agenda.

Harstad Strategic Research, Inc. conducted a survey among 813 randomly selected likely 2016 voters in Ohio from September 10-16, 2015. In this survey, 30% of likely voters say they consider themselves Democrats, 29% consider themselves Republicans, and 37% say they are Independent or consider themselves part of a different political party. The survey was conducted by telephone using live interviewers reaching landlines and cell phones. The margin of error for this survey is 3.4%.