

## PRRI/The Atlantic 2018 Voter Engagement Survey - Ohio

### Ohioans' Views of Problems With Current Election System

**A majority of Ohio residents believe that the following are major problems with the current election system:**

- Two-thirds (67%) of Ohio residents agree that wealthy individuals and corporations having too much influence is a major problem with the current election system.
- More than six in ten (61%) Ohio residents say that media bias against certain candidates is a major problem.
- More than six in ten (61%) Ohio residents cite too few people voting as a major problem.
- A majority (59%) agree that too many uninformed people voting is a major problem with the current election system.

Fewer Ohioans say outside interference or influence from foreign governments (39%), voter fraud (38%), or voter disenfranchisement (35%) are major problems with the current election system.

There are stark racial divides when it comes to perceptions of voter fraud and voter disenfranchisement.

- Nonwhite Ohio residents are significantly more likely than white residents to say that voter disenfranchisement is a major problem (56% vs 30%), while white residents are slightly more likely than nonwhite residents to say that voter fraud is a major problem (39% vs. 32%).

**One in eight Ohio residents say they or a family member were unable to vote because they couldn't get off of work.**

- Thirteen percent of Ohio residents say they or a family member were unable to get off work to vote the most recent time they attempted to vote.
- Fewer Ohio residents report that the most recent time they or a member of their household attempted to vote, they did not have correct voter identification (3%), were unable to find the correct polling place (5%), missed the registration deadline (5%), or were harassed while trying to vote (5%).
- Notably, the experiences of white and nonwhite Ohioans are similar.

**Ohio residents express considerable uncertainty about voting laws and restrictions.**

- Ohio residents express uncertainty about a number of voting laws in their state. A majority of Ohio residents report being unsure if a resident of their state can vote if they are late in paying taxes (52%) or do not have a permanent address (59%). About half (49%) are not sure if someone in their state can vote if they have an outstanding traffic ticket or unpaid utility bill or if they have been convicted of a felony (48%).
- Nearly one in three (29%) residents are uncertain whether citizenship is required to vote.
- More than seven in ten (72%) Ohio residents correctly say their state allows early voting, and a majority (56%) know that Ohio does not allow same-day voter registration.

**There is broad support among Ohioans for expanding voting access and the popular vote.**

- Nearly eight in ten (78%) Ohio residents, including similar numbers of white (77%) and nonwhite (78%) residents, believe that a person convicted of a felony should be allowed to vote after they have served their sentence.
- A majority (64%) of Ohio residents, including similar numbers of white (64%) and nonwhite (66%) residents, believe that citizens should be automatically registered to vote when they do business with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or other state agencies, while about one-third (35%) disagree.
- Six in ten (60%) Ohio residents, including similar numbers of white (59%) and nonwhite (62%) residents, are in favor of allowing same-day registration for voting.
- Nearly two-thirds (66%) of Ohio residents believe presidential elections should be based on the popular vote instead of the Electoral College. Nonwhite residents (75%) are somewhat more likely than white residents (64%) to endorse the popular vote over the Electoral College.

**Ohioans Polarized Along Partisan, Racial Lines Heading Into Midterms****A majority of Ohio residents believe the country has gotten off on the wrong track, but more nonwhite residents than white residents agree.**

- Sixty-three percent of Ohio residents say things in the country have gone off course, while 36% say things are heading in the right direction.
- Roughly eight in ten (83%) nonwhite Ohio residents believe the country has gotten off on the wrong course, while just 17% of nonwhite residents believe the country is headed in the right direction. In contrast, nearly six in ten (59%) white Ohio

residents say the country is on the wrong track, and four in ten (40%) white residents say the country is on the right track.

**Most Ohio residents say coming demographic change is mostly positive.**

- Fifty-seven percent of Ohio residents say that the U.S. becoming majority nonwhite by 2043 will primarily be a mostly positive change for the country. Thirty-eight percent say this will be a mostly negative development for the U.S.
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of nonwhite Ohio residents believe the current demographic shift will have a mostly positive impact on the country, while only a little over half (53%) of white residents share this view.

**Most Ohio residents view Trump unfavorably, but there are stark racial divisions.**

- A majority (56%) of Ohio residents view Trump unfavorably, while 43% say they have a favorable opinion of him.
- Nonwhite Ohio residents express an overwhelmingly negative view of President Trump, with eight in ten (80%) viewing the president unfavorably. Half (50%) of white residents have an unfavorable view of Trump, while a similar number (48%) express a positive view of him.

**Ohio Democrats are more likely than Ohio Republicans to say they will vote in the midterms, but voters in the state are divided in their candidate preference.**

- Roughly half (51%) of Ohio residents, including similar numbers of white (52%) and nonwhite (48%) residents, report they are absolutely certain to vote in the upcoming midterm election.
- However, Ohio Democrats (64%) are more likely than Ohio Republicans (55%) to say they are absolutely going to vote in the midterm election.
- Fifty percent of Ohio registered voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate in their election district, compared to 48% who say they would vote for the Republican candidate.
- A majority (56%) of Ohio residents, including nearly six in ten (58%) white and about half (48%) of nonwhite residents, say all or most of their close friends will vote in the upcoming midterm election.