



---

## CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

---

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: TONY FABRIZIO, DAVID LEE & TRAVIS TUNIS

RE: RAMASWAMY IS THE OVERWHELMING FRONTRUNNER IN GOP RACE FOR OHIO GOVERNOR

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2025

---

In a just completed survey of Republican primary voters (RPV) in Ohio (see methodology statement on last page), Fabrizio Lee & Associates found that Vivek Ramaswamy holds a huge lead over his potential competitors in the Republican nomination for Ohio Governor. Among an electorate where President Trump and Vice President Vance are universally beloved, America First candidate Ramaswamy is undoubtedly the frontrunner to win the GOP nomination.

### **Ohio RPV have Overwhelmingly Positive Views of President Trump & VP Vance**

President Trump and Vice President Vance have identically positive images among Ohio RPV. More than 90% view each man favorably, while less than 10% view them unfavorably. Furthermore, there is strong intensity in both their images, with 78% viewing each very favorably. A candidate for Governor closely connected to POTUS and VPOTUS will have a huge leg up.

	Donald Trump	J.D. Vance
<i>Now I am going to read you a list of names of people in the news. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person. If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so. (RANDOMIZE LIST)</i>		
<b>FAVORABLE</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Very Favorable	78	78
Somewhat Favorable	13	13
Somewhat Unfavorable	3	3
Very Unfavorable	5	4
No Opinion	2	2
Never Heard of	0	1

**Vivek Ramaswamy is Incredibly Well-Known and Well-Liked by Ohio RPV; Yost also Well-Known but Not Nearly as Popular as Ramaswamy**

Though not as well-known as the President or Vice President, Vivek Ramaswamy enjoys a very strong image with these voters. A 65% majority have a favorable opinion of him, including 47% with a very favorable opinion. Conversely, only 9% view him unfavorably. The remaining 26% have no opinion (11%) or have never heard of him (15%). For someone who has never run for statewide office in Ohio, Ramaswamy comes into this race with massive popularity.

Dave Yost is known to a near identical number of Ohio RPV, and among those with an opinion, he is largely viewed favorably, 51% - 10%. However, unlike Ramaswamy, Yost's image is "soft" as most of those with a favorable opinion are only somewhat favorable toward him.

<i>Now I am going to read you a list of names of people in the news. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person. If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so. (RANDOMIZE LIST)</i>		
	<b>Vivek Ramaswamy</b>	<b>Dave Yost</b>
<b>FAVORABLE</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Very Favorable	47	20
Somewhat Favorable	18	32
Somewhat Unfavorable	4	6
Very Unfavorable	5	4
No Opinion	11	23
Never Heard of	15	16

**Winning an Outright Majority, Ramaswamy Leads Dave Yost by a Nearly 3-to-1 Margin in the Republican Primary for Governor**

Vivek Ramaswamy wins 52% of the vote in a ballot for the GOP nomination for Ohio Governor. Dave Yost is in a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> with only 18%, with Robert Sprague and Jeremiah Workman getting just 2% and 1%, respectively. And Ramaswamy's lead on Yost cannot be blamed on higher name ID awareness as the two men are equally well-known among Ohio RPV. It's just that Vivek Ramaswamy is much preferred, which is why he begins this race with a huge lead.

Among those who *strongly* approve of President Trump, Ramaswamy's lead is even greater, 61% - 15%. Furthermore, among those who believe President Trump supports Ramaswamy, he wins more than three quarters of the vote. He is holding the MAGA mantle in this race and it is driving his lead.

<i>If the next Republican Primary election for Governor were held today, for which of the following candidates would you vote? (RANDOMIZE NAMES)</i>			
	<i>All RPV</i>	<i>Strong Trump Approvers</i>	<i>Trump Supports VR</i>
Vivek Ramaswamy	52%	61%	78%
Dave Yost	18	15	9
Robert Sprague	2	1	2
Jeremiah Workman	1	1	1
Undecided	27	22	10

**A Presidential Endorsement Expands Ramaswamy’s Already Large Lead**

Highlighting the strength of the President among Ohio RPV, when they are asked who they would vote for in the GOP primary for Governor if they knew Trump endorsed and fully supported Ramaswamy, his already large lead grows even further from +34 to +46. Not surprisingly, among *Strong* Trump approvers, growth in the ballot is even more dramatic for Ramaswamy, going from +46 to +62.

<i>Now specifically, if you knew that President Donald Trump endorsed and fully supported Vivek Ramaswamy for Governor, and the Republican primary election for Governor were held today, for which of the following candidates would you vote? (RANDOMIZE NAMES)</i>				
	<i>All RPV</i>		<i>Strong Trump Approvers</i>	
	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Final</i>
Vivek Ramaswamy	52%	60%	61%	71%
Dave Yost	18	14%	15	9
Robert Sprague	2	2	1	1
Jeremiah Workman	1	1	1	1
Undecided	27	24	22	19

**BOTTOM LINE:** In no uncertain terms, Vivek Ramaswamy is the overwhelming frontrunner to be the Republican nominee for Governor in Ohio, and he’ll only be buoyed by his pro-Trump and America First policies and ideas.

**METHODOLOGY STATEMENT:** Fabrizio, Lee & Associates conducted a survey of 600 voters in Ohio who are likely to participate in the 2026 Republican primary, from January 26-27, 2025. The interviews were split 35% live-operator cell phone/25% live-operator landline/40% SMS to web. Geography was matched to votes cast in previous GOP primaries in Ohio. Gender, age, race/ethnicity, party affiliation, and education were matched to demographic profiles of likely voters based on the voter file and past exit polls. Respondents were randomly selected from lists of known previous GOP primary voters and newly registered voters. The margin of sampling error at the 95% confidence interval is  $\pm 4.0\%$ .

**KEY DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Party Affiliation**

Republican	78%
Independent	15
Democrat	4
Other	1
Don't Know/Refused	1

**Education**

High School or less	22%
Some College	38
4-Year College degree+	40
Don't Know/Refused	<1

**Race/Ethnicity**

White	92%
African American/Black	2
Latino/Hispanic	1
Asian American	1
Other (SPECIFY)	1
DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	3

**Gender**

Male	53%
Female	47

**Age**

18-44	16%
45-54	14
55-64	25
65-74	27
75+	18
Refused (DO NOT READ)	2

**DMA**

Cleveland-Akron	31%
Columbus	21
Cincinnati	15
Dayton	13
Toledo	8
Youngstown	5
Charleston-Huntington	3
Lima	2
Wheeling-Steubenville	1
Zanesville	1
Parkersburg	1
Ft. Wayne	1