



Memo from Jeremy Bird, National Field Director re: Early Voting in Ohio

Democrats are building upon the historic grassroots organization we built in Ohio in 2008, including our 125 Obama for America offices in every corner of the state. As a result of that strong foundation and enthusiasm for President Obama, today we are ahead of where we were at this time against John McCain – and ahead of Mitt Romney. Republicans are similarly talking up their ground game and early vote numbers, but their assertions rest on much shakier ground.

Before we address Republicans' claims, here are some numbers reflecting Democrats' strong position in the critical state of Ohio:

1. All public polling shows that the President has a double-digit lead among those who have voted:

- Survey USA found that Obama leads by 19 points (57/38) among those who have voted already.
- Rasmussen, a Republican pollster, found that Obama leads by 29 points (63/34) among those who have voted already.
- The *Wall Street Journal*/NBC poll found that Obama leads by 26 points (63/37) among those who have voted already.
- PPP found that Obama leads by 52 points (76/24) among those who have voted already.

2. Registration numbers strongly favor President Obama:

- Four in five Ohioans (81 percent) who have registered to vote in 2012 are either female, younger than 30, or African-American or Latino – all demographics that strongly favor President Obama.
- Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Ohioans who have registered to vote in 2012 – and the same percentage among those who have already voted – live in counties that President Obama won in 2008.

3. Early vote numbers strongly favor President Obama:

- More than half (55 percent) of the early-vote ballots requested so far this year have been requested by women, 3 percentage points greater than 2008 early voters.
- 582,402 ballots have been requested this year from precincts that Obama won in 2008, 33,414 more than in from precincts that McCain won.
- The total number of votes already cast this year (both by mail and in-person) from precincts Obama won in 2008 is 261,304 – 55,636 more than from precincts McCain won.

- Democrats' margin over Republicans in votes cast has increased by 21,792 compared with this point four years ago.

Mitt Romney's campaign is touting "the gains Republicans are making across Ohio since early voting began," saying that they are "out-performing voter registration in Ohio's largest counties." But there is a major flaw in this claim, as Professor Michael P. McDonald [explained](#):

The problem with this assertion is that Ohio does not have party registration. "Party" in Ohio is a record of the last party primary a voter participated in. Naturally, with only a contested 2012 Republican presidential primary, the number of "registered Republicans" in the state increased.

It turns out Republicans' mangled math isn't limited to a mystery tax cut plan that doesn't add up.

Because Republicans had a competitive primary this year and Democrats did not, as Professor McDonald points out, Republicans have a 460,000-person edge this year in past primary voters – or what Romney's campaign is disingenuously referring to as voters registered as Republicans.

Despite our smaller numbers, however, Democratic primary voters are outvoting Republican primary voters by a wide margin across the state. A greater percentage of Democratic primary voters than Republican primary voters have requested a ballot, have returned a mail ballot and have voted in person. Altogether, 145,880 Democratic primary voters have cast ballots, 28,013 more than Republican primary voters.

President Obama is winning early vote among primary election voters in the key battleground of Ohio.