

WINNING THE MIDWEST

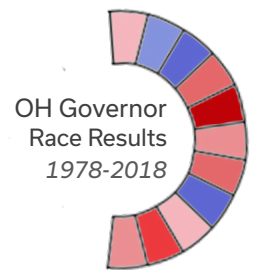
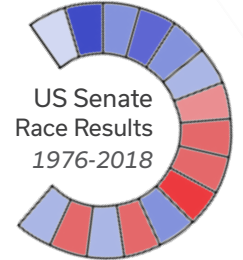
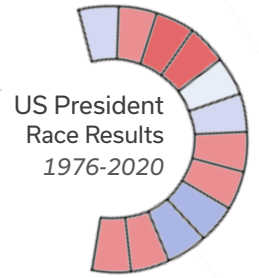
DISRUPTING MYTHS AND BUILDING MULTIRACIAL GOVERNING COALITIONS

Ohio Addendum

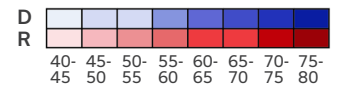
In the past year alone, Ohio has gained national recognition for electing two progressive young people of color as Mayors of Cleveland and Cincinnati, passed significant police reform in Cleveland via ballot initiative (Issue 24), and won a set of lawsuits to overturn gerrymandered state house and congressional districts. Though the state has experienced some tough elections recently, it continues to be home to one of the country's most progressive US Senators (Sherrod Brown, up for reelection in 2024), and recent local victories argue for a potentially promising path forward towards multiracial governance.

In 2022, every statewide office in Ohio is up for election. A US Senate seat is open following Rob Portman's retirement, and there is potential opportunity to flip one or two US Congressional districts following the Ohio Supreme Court's decision to redraw gerrymandered maps. Yet, a successful path to building a multiracial governing coalition in Ohio is not one that will be founded on late money dumps based on the latest polling. Instead, to win offices and issues in 2022, progressives in Ohio will need to execute the four part strategy laid out in Organizing the Midwest:

- 1** Invest strategically to mobilize Black, immigrant, and young voters
- 2** Organize conflicted white voters with new and proven strategies
- 3** Advance a Race Class Narrative in Ohio
- 4** Establish electoral programs through independent state ecosystems



Key: Winning Ratios Per Party



8,073,829

OH Registered Voters, 2020



KEY RACES FEDERAL

Senate

Ohio's open

Senate seat can help progressives hold a Democratic majority at the federal level, and Ohio Democrats have recruited a strong, viable candidate. On the other side of the aisle, Republicans face a hotly contested and expensive primary.



KEY RACES STATE

Supreme Court

Three seats are

on the ballot in 2022. Ensuring that at least one pro-democracy candidate crosses the finish line will guarantee a strong pro-voter majority on Ohio's highest court.

Governor

A pro-democracy governor can veto egregious bills from the state legislature. The governor's ability to approve fair districts will ensure anti-democracy lawmakers cannot override vetoes. A strong candidate at the top of the ticket lifts other candidates down the ballot, making a strong showing critical to statewide wins in 2022.



KEY RACES LOCAL

Courts of Appeals

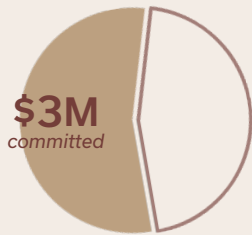
As paths through

the federal courts become more difficult, organizers may well flip a divided Franklin County Court of Appeals (Columbus) and expand the bench of pro-democracy judges in Hamilton County (Cincinnati).

Childcare Ballot Initiative

Half of children under five are not enrolled in an early learning program or formal childcare in Franklin County (Columbus). Grassroots organizers are fighting to increase access to early care and education for all children via county levy.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INVESTMENT IN OHIO



\$2.5M
needed

INVEST IN BLACK, IMMIGRANT & YOUNG VOTERS

Ohio's organizing infrastructure has long been viewed as a national model, one that brings together different approaches, builds deep alliances with labor, works across multiple geographies, and attracts both state and national funders.

At the center of this work is Ohio Organizing Collaborative Action, a broad-based statewide organization with approximately 40 staff and constituents in more than a dozen counties. In addition, BLOC (a Black-led organizing effort based in Akron) has displayed the capacity to mobilize and move voters, as has CAIR-Ohio Action Fund, which organizes Ohio's Muslim and immigrant communities. Finally, the Ohio Student Association Action has a significant presence in over ten college campuses across the state. Each of these organizations requires long-term investment to continue to build its grassroots base with Black, immigrant, and young voters.



\$2.5M
needed

ORGANIZE CONFLICTED WHITE VOTERS

In the last few years, a set of innovative strategies have emerged in Ohio – each breaking ground with key sets of white voters and complementing existing faith-based organizing in-state. These strategies highlight the potential to engage these communities in a shared effort to engage white voters in policy campaigns.

For example, Red Wine and Blue emerged to organize suburban women and has been featured in the national news media for its successful work. This outreach complements long-term faith organizing that is housed at Ohio Organizing Collaborative Action and works to move congregants into allied c4 political strategies.



\$1.5M
needed

ESTABLISH A RACE CLASS NARRATIVE

Since March 2020, a coalition of organizing, policy, and communications experts have come together to lead the development of message and branding that advances a race class narrative in Ohio. All In For Ohio, initially conceived of as a coalition-wide messaging response to the COVID-19 crisis, has since expanded to become the core messaging and organizing vehicle defining the organizing around protests and actions held in defense of Black lives and strengthening Ohio's democracy. Notably, this strategy successfully mobilized Ohio's progressive base in the 2020 elections. All In For Ohio will continue to define our messaging strategy as part of a collaborative campaign supported nationally by We Make the Future Action.



\$3.5M
needed

STRENGTHEN INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL ECOSYSTEMS

Ohio is well known for voter purges: an anti-democratic practice sanctioned by the US Supreme Court via a 5-4 partisan majority decision. In order to combat hundreds of thousands of voters who are removed from Ohio's voter rolls every cycle, the principal course of action is to elect a progressive Secretary of State and judges, supported by investment in large-scale voter registration and robust GOTV programs that turn out newly registered and existing voters. With a competitive US Senate race to fill an open seat and a looming defense of US Senator Sherod Brown in 2024, 501c4 organizations need significant investment to turn out base voters and persuade voters in 2020.