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Six Months After Ohio Lawmakers Rewrote the Marijuana Law Voters Passed, a Majority of Republicans Say They Should Not Have

New statewide survey finds 70% of Ohio voters, and 53% of registered Republicans, say the legislature should have honored the 2023 vote. Roughly seven in ten have never heard of either third-party statewide candidate.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — September 21, 2026. Ohio voters legalized recreational marijuana at the ballot box in November 2023. The legislature rewrote that law through Senate Bill 56, a referendum campaign to repeal the rewrite fell short of the signatures needed in March, and Senate Bill 56 took effect on March 20, 2026. Six months on, Ohio voters have not come around to it.

A statewide Pollfinity Research survey of 496 Ohio registered voters, fielded this week, asked whether the legislature should honor the marijuana law voters approved in 2023 or has the right to significantly change it. 70% said honor what voters approved. 19% said the legislature may change it, and 11% were unsure. Among registered Republicans the split was 53% to 33% in favor of honoring the vote.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Marijuana.** 70% say the legislature should honor the 2023 law; 19% say it has the right to change it. Republicans 53% to 33%. Democrats 84% to 7%. Voters who recall backing Donald Trump in 2024 split 51% to 34%. Self-described conservatives were the one group that divided closely, 42% to 41%.
- **Name recognition.** 72% of Ohio voters say they have never heard of Bill Redpath, the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, and 67% say the same of Don Kissick, the Libertarian candidate for Governor. Including those who have heard the name but hold no opinion, about nine in ten have no formed view of either. By contrast, not one of the 453 respondents asked about Amy Acton had never heard of her; the figure was 1 respondent for Donald Trump, 1 for Sherrod Brown, 3 for Jon Husted and 6 for Vivek Ramaswamy.
- **Appetite for more choices.** 52% agree that "Ohio needs more political choices beyond the two major parties" and 34% disagree. Agreement reaches 58% among 2024 Harris voters and 42% among 2024 Trump voters.
- **Top issues.** Cost of living leads at 34%, and leads in both coalitions: 35% of Republicans and 36% of Democrats. Government spending follows at 11%, civil liberties at 11%, the economy at 9% and immigration at 8%.
- **Secretary of State.** 64% are undecided between Robert Sprague, Allison Russo and Tom Pruss, including 62% of respondents who have already chosen a candidate for Governor.
- **State direction and job approval.** 54% say Ohio is on the wrong track against 24% who say right direction. Governor Mike DeWine's job approval stands at 44% approve and 54% disapprove.
- **Ticket splitting.** Of 419 respondents who chose a major-party candidate in both the Senate and Governor head-to-head questions, 9 split their ticket, or 2.1%.
- **Political violence.** 18% agree with the statement "Americans may have to resort to violence in order to get the country back on track" and 72% disagree. This wording differs from the long-running PRRI item on the same attitude and the two are not directly comparable.

PARTISAN DYNAMICS

Party is close to deterministic in both statewide races. Of 419 respondents choosing a major-party candidate in both head-to-heads, 410 voted a straight ticket. In the Governor head-to-head, 77% of registered Republicans back Ramaswamy and 95% of registered Democrats back Acton. Independents break toward Acton, though the independent subsample carries the overall skew described in the methodology note below and should be read as directional.

The marijuana question is the clearest exception to that pattern. It is the only question in this survey on which majorities of both parties take the same side of a live policy dispute: 53% of registered Republicans and 84% of registered Democrats say the legislature should honor the 2023 vote. Majorities of both parties also reject the political violence statement and decline to describe themselves as libertarians, but on every contested question about candidates, the direction of the state or the governor's performance, the two parties diverge sharply.

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

Region is derived from the area code of the mobile number sampled. Because mobile area codes persist when a voter moves, this is a proxy rather than a measurement. 45 of 496 respondents carried a non-Ohio area code and are excluded here.

Region	Sample n	Honor marijuana vote	Acton	Ramaswamy
Cleveland / Northeast	79	71%	65%	30%
Akron-Youngstown	76	66%	54%	42%
Columbus / Central	69	82%	65%	34%
Toledo / Northwest	66	72%	58%	37%
Cincinnati / Southwest	58	71%	60%	33%
Dayton / West	54	67%	47%	45%
Southeast / Appalachian	49	63%	52%	40%

Support for honoring the 2023 marijuana vote is a majority position in every region of the state.

WHY THIS RELEASE DOES NOT HEADLINE A BALLOT TEST

This survey included ballot tests for U.S. Senate, Governor and Secretary of State. Those results are published in full in the accompanying topline and crosstab documents, and they are not reported as findings here.

Pollfinity Research does not apply a fixed numerical cutoff for when a ballot test may lead a release. That judgment is made survey by survey, and the reasoning is disclosed on each release page. For this survey the reasoning is as follows. The sample's recalled 2024 presidential vote runs roughly 21 points more Democratic than Ohio's certified 2024 result, and the sign of the margin is reversed: the sample recalls voting for Harris over Trump while Ohio voted for Trump by 11 points. That is a difference of sample composition rather than of sampling error, which means it would not be resolved by interviewing more people. A statewide ballot estimate drawn from it would not be reliable, so Pollfinity is not reporting one. For reference, the corresponding recall gap on Pollfinity's June 2026 New York Governor survey was 7 points. Issue findings in this release are reported within party, recall and ideology subgroups, where sample composition does not drive the estimate.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Field dates and mode. Pollfinity Research LLC surveyed 496 Ohio registered voters on September 16 to 18, 2026. Respondents were drawn from a commercially licensed Ohio statewide registered-voter file and contacted by SMS with an invitation to a self-administered online questionnaire hosted on Prompt.io.

Sample size and completion. 496 Ohio registered voters completed the survey. Of respondents who began it, 87% completed the questionnaire and 431 answered all 31 questions.

Margin of error. ± 4.4 percentage points at 95% confidence on the full unweighted sample. Subgroup margins are larger and are governed by the base printed on every table. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Sample composition and weighting. The unweighted sample recalls voting for Kamala Harris over Donald Trump in 2024 by 50.7% to 41.6%, or 55.0% to 45.0% among those naming one of the two. Ohio's certified 2024 result was the

reverse: Trump 55.1%, Harris 43.9%. The sample therefore sits roughly 21 points more Democratic than the state on the best composition check available. Party registration in the raw sample is close to balanced at 42% Republican and 38% Democrat, so this reflects differential response rather than the sample frame.

Where a weighted figure is shown, the adjustment is a single-variable weight on 2024 presidential vote recall targeted to the certified Ohio two-way result. Trump recallers receive a weight of 1.2355 and Harris recallers 0.8070; all other respondents receive 1.0. This is not a full rake: no adjustment was made for age, education, gender, region or party registration, and no turnout model was applied. Recall weighting carries its own documented bias, because voters drift toward recalling a vote for the winner.

Ballot tests. This survey's ballot tests for U.S. Senate, Governor and Secretary of State are published in full in the topline and crosstab documents and are not reported as headline findings. Pollfinity does not apply a fixed numerical cutoff for when a ballot test may lead a release; that judgment is made survey by survey and the reasoning is disclosed each time. For this survey the sample's 2024 presidential vote recall diverges from Ohio's certified result by roughly 21 points and the sign of the margin is reversed, which is a difference of composition rather than of sampling error and would not be resolved by a larger sample. Issue findings are reported within subgroups, where composition does not drive the estimate.

Why a demographic rake was not used. Weighting this sample on age, gender, education and party registration to plausible Ohio targets moves the statewide ballot margins by only about five points and leaves them far outside any plausible range. The bias in this sample does not sit in its demographic composition, which is unremarkable, but inside the party columns: 11% of the registered Republicans in this sample recall voting for Kamala Harris in 2024, against 3% of registered Democrats who recall voting for Donald Trump. A demographic rake would yield the correct number of Republicans and the same unrepresentative Republicans. That is why the adjustment used here targets 2024 recall directly.

Region. Region is derived from the area code of the mobile number sampled and is a proxy rather than a measurement. Mobile area codes persist when a voter moves. 45 of 496 respondents carried a non-Ohio area code and are excluded from regional tables.

Screening. Respondents who reported that they are not registered to vote in Ohio were screened out and are excluded from the published dataset and from every table in these documents. Seven respondents were removed on that basis, from 503 completed interviews to a published base of 496.

Funding and ownership. This survey was designed, funded and fielded by Pollfinity Research LLC. It was not commissioned by any candidate, political party, political action committee or outside organization. Pollfinity Research LLC is owned by Lars Mapstead, who has been active in Libertarian Party politics.

Data availability. Full crosstabulations, the complete questionnaire and de-identified respondent-level data are published at pollfinity.com. Respondent names, telephone numbers and voter file identifiers have been removed.

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ABOUT POLLFINITY RESEARCH

Pollfinity Research LLC is an independent, nonpartisan public opinion research firm based in Aptos, California. It conducts statewide and national surveys and maintains a public polling aggregate. Pollfinity Research does not accept funding from candidates, campaigns, political action committees, political parties or advocacy organizations. Full topline, crosstabulations and de-identified respondent-level data are published for every survey at pollfinity.com.

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