



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Matt A. Mayer

DATE: November 5, 2012

RE: Final 2012 Ohio Election Predictions

On the eve of election day, my county-by-county analysis shows an incredibly close race, with the likely outcome somewhere **between a 165,396 vote win for Governor Mitt Romney (51.45% to 48.55%) to a 38,391 vote win for President Barack Obama (50.34% to 49.66%), which is a tighter race than I predicted four weeks ago.** President Obama gained ground since the last analysis. Though it doesn't mean President Obama will win, I believe the Equalized Turnout model will more accurately reflect the final outcome of the election.

As previously noted, this analysis uses an extensive database containing 14 years of election data for 49 races in each of Ohio's 88 counties. A unique algorithm is used in each county that factors in numerous variables, including the number of registered voters, the projected turnout, and historical voting trends to produce a projected margin of victory for each county. The county-by-county results are listed below. Under both models, turnout is projected to hit 5.7 million voters, which would be a very high turnout based on past elections. I included the earlier predictions, as well.

Of note, the mirror counties – Lake County and Sandusky County – both predict Governor Romney will win Ohio using either model. For those readers unfamiliar with the mirror county concept, those two counties have accurately predicted the winner in 28 out of 28 statewide races in Ohio from 1998 to 2010. Because the larger counties likely won't report results until later in the evening, readers may want to track the results for the mirror counties as indicators of what might happen statewide.

It goes without saying that this election may be the most confounding presidential election in history. From the disconnect between national polls (more pro Romney) and swing state polls (more pro Obama) to the discrepancies in electoral votes predictions from Michael Barone (Romney 315 to Obama 223) and Karl Rove (Romney 279 to Obama 259) to Larry Sabato (Obama 290 to Romney 248) and Nate Silver (Obama 314 to Romney 224), some of us will be proven very right or very wrong. I believe that my Ohio predictions will be close to the final results for the second straight election cycle. If I am wrong, at least I'll be in good company.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me (mattamayer@mac.com) or call me at 703-919-9894.



County-by-County Predictions (Final)

County	Scenario One: Stronger Republican Turnout		Scenario Two: Equalized Turnout	
	Romney Margin of Victory	Obama Margin of Victory	Romney Margin of Victory	Obama Margin of Victory
Adams	3,712		3,483	
Allen	17,066		14,005	
Ashland	8,549		7,599	
Ashtabula		3,251		4,978
Athens		9,298		10,784
Auglaize	11,033		10,271	
Belmont		1,085		1,714
Brown	5,828		5,407	
Butler	55,277		47,277	
Carroll	1,398		1,049	
Champaign	5,431		4,882	
Clark	1,850		1,667	
Clermont	39,804		35,579	
Clinton	8,262		7,241	
Columbiana	3,723		2,989	
Coshocton	2,523		1,793	
Crawford	6,422		5,435	
Cuyahoga		214,712		231,874
Darke	11,350		10,915	
Defiance	4,614		3,330	
Delaware	32,977		26,533	
Erie		2,923		4,379
Fairfield	21,744		17,996	
Fayette	3,180		3,027	
Franklin		49,069		80,069
Fulton	5,756		3,841	
Gallia	3,747		3,492	
Geauga	11,035		9,622	
Greene	21,673		19,776	
Guernsey	2,185		1,916	
Hamilton		4,507		21,596
Hancock	17,514		13,716	
Hardin	3,687		3,328	
Harrison	488		343	
Henry	5,246		3,706	
Highland	6,862		6,256	
Hocking	804		460	



Holmes	6,254		5,678	
Huron	4,541		2,710	
Jackson	3,268		3,184	
Jefferson		81		998
Knox	8,511		7,467	
Lake	3,083		1,037	
Lawrence	4,789		4,255	
Licking	20,122		16,799	
Logan	8,252		7,245	
Lorain		19,751		24,022
Lucas		47,445		60,281
Madison	5,395		4,958	
Mahoning		32,616		33,990
Marion	5,473		4,123	
Medina	13,047		10,292	
Meigs	2,362		2,245	
Mercer	12,199		11,408	
Miami	17,056		16,330	
Monroe		784		835
Montgomery		4,665		11,277
Morgan	901		701	
Morrow	5,411		4,946	
Muskingum	6,376		4,745	
Noble	1,301		1,237	
Ottawa	998			270
Paulding	2,607		1,902	
Perry	680		603	
Pickaway	6,383		6,065	
Pike	552		345	
Portage		5,201		6,174
Preble	7,308		7,174	
Putnam	10,245		9,211	
Richland	12,631		10,730	
Ross	3,680		3,143	
Sandusky	3,872		1,187	
Scioto	2,350		1,915	
Seneca	5,244		3,013	
Shelby	11,695		10,941	
Stark		785		1,704
Summit		38,738		43,688
Trumbull		27,729		28,260
Tuscarawas	5,615		2,208	
Union	10,688		9,072	
Van Wert	7,096		5,762	



Vinton	627		626	
Warren	49,970		45,382	
Washington	5,389		5,262	
Wayne	13,967		11,442	
Williams	5,468		3,594	
Wood	5,120			231
Wyandot	3,768		2,865	
Total Margins	628,034	462,640	528,736	567,124
Total Votes	2,938,626	2,773,232	2,836,736	2,875,124
	51.5%	48.5%	49.7%	50.3%
	165,394		38,388	

County-by-County Predictions (Four Weeks Out)

	Scenario One: Stronger Republican Turnout		Scenario Two: Equalized Turnout	
County	Romney Margin of Victory	Obama Margin of Victory	Romney Margin of Victory	Obama Margin of Victory
Adams	3,562		3,217	
Allen	16,375		13,335	
Ashland	8,203		6,948	
Ashtabula		3,016		4,697
Athens		8,491		10,098
Auglaize	10,529		9,829	
Belmont		963		1,584
Brown	5,448		5,121	
Butler	53,039		44,143	
Carroll	1,341		978	
Champaign	5,211		4,623	
Clark	1,424		1,543	
Clermont	38,192		34,072	
Clinton	7,928		6,865	
Columbiana	1,973		2,742	
Coshocton	2,421		1,717	
Crawford	6,162		5,103	
Cuyahoga		182,520		209,791
Darke	10,107		10,096	
Defiance	4,427		3,187	
Delaware	31,642		25,012	
Erie		2,805		4,130



Fairfield	20,864		16,466	
Fayette	3,051		2,862	
Franklin		47,082		74,666
Fulton	5,523		3,615	
Gallia	3,107		3,262	
Geauga	10,588		9,196	
Greene	20,795		18,620	
Guernsey	2,036		1,812	
Hamilton	3,874			12,140
Hancock	16,805		12,854	
Hardin	3,436		3,147	
Harrison	468		331	
Henry	5,033		3,454	
Highland	6,156		5,808	
Hocking	772		432	
Holmes	6,030		5,386	
Huron	4,147		2,537	
Jackson	3,051		3,014	
Jefferson		76		945
Knox	8,167		7,151	
Lake	2,958		993	
Lawrence	4,595		3,901	
Licking	18,818		15,915	
Logan	7,918		6,954	
Lorain		18,951		23,089
Lucas		43,080		56,288
Madison	5,177		4,644	
Mahoning		29,820		31,845
Marion	5,154		3,919	
Medina	12,519		9,741	
Meigs	2,266		2,068	
Mercer	10,912		10,204	
Miami	15,812		15,403	
Monroe		694		771
Montgomery		4,388		10,714
Morgan	864		671	
Morrow	5,192		4,645	
Muskingum	6,118		4,437	
Noble	1,248		1,148	
Ottawa	955			259
Paulding	2,422		1,796	
Perry	626		567	
Pickaway	6,124		5,697	
Pike	530		327	



Portage		4,990		5,875
Preble	7,012		6,772	
Putnam	9,830		8,837	
Richland	12,120		10,012	
Ross	3,531		3,007	
Sandusky	3,553		1,114	
Scioto	2,050		1,754	
Seneca	4,781		2,819	
Shelby	11,222		10,247	
Stark		737		1,618
Summit		35,972		41,244
Trumbull		25,813		26,226
Tuscarawas	5,003		2,043	
Union	10,212		8,687	
Van Wert	6,808		5,520	
Vinton	602		600	
Warren	47,947		43,416	
Washington	5,171		5,006	
Wayne	13,401		10,743	
Williams	5,247		3,362	
Wood	4,913			212
Wyandot	3,616		2,726	
Total Margins	599,114	409,398	498,173	516,192
Total Votes	2,763,424	2,573,708	2,663,581	2,681,600
	51.8%	48.2%	49.8%	50.2%
	189,716		18,019	