ØPTIMUS

November 3rd, 2018

Congressional Polls: Arizona CD1 and Ohio CD7

As Election Day approaches, we took and in-depth look at our Congressional model to see if there were any districts in need of polling. We just went over 500 House polls released in 2018, and they have been distributed fairly well; there is at least one public poll in every single one of our Lean GOP, toss-up, or Lean Dem seats, and out of the 117 seats we consider any bit competitive, only 15 have not received polling. But, we did identify two districts where some fresh polling might help us and other forecasters.

In Arizona's 1st congressional district, Wendy Rogers has been releasing some of her internal numbers, showing her up as much as 6 points. No non-partisan public polling or Democratic internals have been released. The seat leans GOP in terms of party composition, but the incumbent is a Democrat.

In Ohio's 7th congressional district, a fairly strong Republican district, incumbent Bob Gibbs (R) has been outraised by his challenger by nearly a 3 to 1 margin for the cycle, and was still behind on cash on hand going into the final stretch. Two Democratic internals have been released, showing Gibbs leading by only single digits. Until earlier this week, we had the race as Lean R despite being an R+12 seat.

We suspected these races might look a little different than the available polling might indicate, so we polled them ourselves to take a look. The following is a summary of our results, from surveys of these two districts conducted on October 31st through November 1st.

Some up-front notes about our methodology to keep in mind when digesting these results: these polls were conducted using IVR (automated calls). As a result, we are only able to sample landlines. Relevant to AZ-1, the calls were only conducted in English. For our purposes, or for modeling within the races, IVR should be good enough. We correct for potential biases as much as possible by pulling sample balanced on the characteristics of the likely voter universe and through post-stratification. Our results are weighted by age group, gender, party, and race/ethnicity.

Arizona CD1: In a ballot test between incumbent Tom O'Halleran (D) and Wendy Rogers (R), we find O'Halleran leading by 3 points, 48% to 45%. Trump's approval rating in the district sits at 49% approval to 45% disapproval. Within the congressional district, we find McSally (R) leading Sinema (D), 49% to 46% for Senate (the district's PVI is R+2).

Ohio CD7: In a ballot test between incumbent Bob Gibbs (R) and Ken Harbaugh (D), we find Gibbs leading by 19 points, 55% to 36%. Trump's approval rating in the district sits at 54% approval to 39% disapproval. Within the congressional district, we find DeWine (R) leading Cordray (D), 52% to 37% for Governor (the district's PVI is R+12).

Methodology: Between 10/31-11/1, we surveyed likely 2018 general election voters in Arizona's 1st congressional district and Ohio's 7th congressional district via IVR, landline only. Likely voters were defined as registered voters having voted in the 2010 and 2014 primary elections, or the 2018 primary, as well as additional voters without vote history likely to turnout based on in-house turnout score modeling. Sample was weighted by age group, gender, party, and ethnicity. The September 2018 L2 Arizona and October 2018 L2 Ohio voter file were utilized to pull identify likely voters and sample from them. Results were then weighted after survey completion to account for differential response rates.

ARIZONA CD 1 TOPLINES- 10/31 to 11/1

Question: 1	Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

N	802
Margin of Error	3.46%

Response	Balanced
Approve	49.05%
Disapprove	45.12%
Unsure	5.82%

Question: 2	Thinking about next week's election for your Congressional representative for a moment, if the candidates were Democrat Tom O'Halleran and Republican Wendy Rogers, for whom would you vote?

N	756
Margin of Error	3.56%

Response	Balanced
Democrat Tom O'Halleran	47.70%
Republican Wendy Rogers	45.35%
Undecided	5.64%
Will not vote	1.31%

Question: 3	And thinking about next week's election for Senate, if the candidates were Democrat Krysten Sinema and Republican Martha McSally, for whom would you vote?

N	741
Margin of Error	3.60%

Response	Balanced
Democrat Krysten Sinema	46.45%
Republican Martha McSally	49.18%
Undecided	3.61%
Would not vote	0.77%

OHIO CD 7 TOPLINES- 10/31 to 11/1

Question: 1	Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

N	863
Margin of Error	3.33%

Response	**Balanced**
Approve	54.02%
Disapprove	38.62%
Unsure	7.37%

Question: 2	Thinking about next week's election for your Congressional representative for a moment, if the candidates were Democrat Ken Harbaugh and Republican Bob Gibbs, for whom would you vote?

N	800
Margin of Error	3.45%

Response	**Balanced**
Democrat Ken Harbaugh	36.34%
Republican Bob Gibbs	54.59%
Undecided	8.07%
Would not vote	1.00%

Question: 3	And thinking about next week's election for governor, if the candidates were Democrat Richard Cordray and Republican Mike DeWine, for whom would you vote?

N	786
Margin of Error	3.45%

Response	**Balanced**
Democrat Richard Cordray	37.29%
Republican Mike DeWine	51.61%
Undecided	9.78%
Would not vote	1.33%