

OHIO: THE STATE OF EDUCATION



Dr. Christina Collins



Honesty for
Ohio Education

Data Source	Number of participants
Listening sessions	150*
Activity-driven conversations	75*
Sticky note responses	284
Primary survey	1690
Youth survey	48
Total	2247

**approximate*



Ohioans want:

1. Informed and Activated Communities
2. Freedom to Learn
3. Educating the Whole Child
4. Conditions for Students to Thrive
5. Student-Driven Learning
6. School as Community

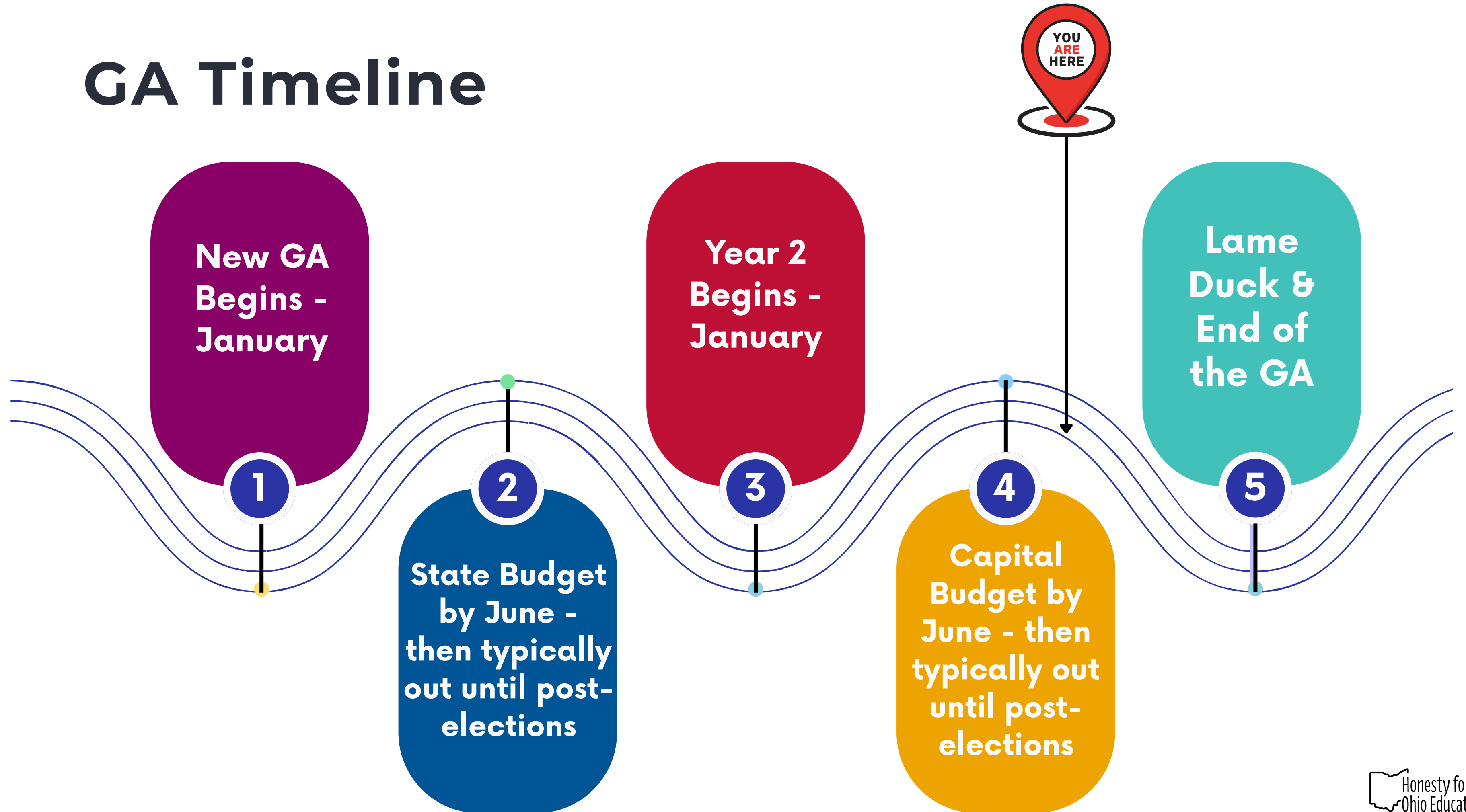


Survey Item	Percentage Agree or Strongly Agree
public schools are important	99.2%
public schools serve an important role	99.2%
public schools should prepare students for the future	99.6%
in general, public schools do a good job	88.1%
I trust public school teachers	94.0%
standardized tests are important	46.1%
standardized tests give good information about the quality of the school	34.3%
my local public school is important	98.9%
my district serves an important purpose in our community	98.1%
my district prepares students for their future	90.5%
my district does a good job	88.8%

Get the full report:



GA Timeline



Current Policy Issues

1. 1000+ House Bills - What?!
2. Success Sequence added and passed in a June bill (HB276)
3. Attendance changes from budget bill in 2025 (HB176)
4. Introduction of SB443 in June
5. State Surplus + ACTION
6. Election Resources
7. Planning for Lame Duck



OHIO'S SUPERMAJORITY

Ohio Party Control: 1992-2026

No Democratic trifectas • Twenty-eight years of Republican trifectas

Scroll left and right on the table below to view more years.

Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Governor	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
House	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

ballotpedia.org

A “**trifecta**” happens when one party holds control in both chambers of the Ohio Statehouse and the governor’s office. Ohio has seen 28 years of Republican trifectas since 1992. Ohio currently has a **veto-proof majority**, which means one party holds enough seats in the statehouse to override a governor veto.

Veto-proof majorities mean there are NO checks and balances.

“We can kind of do what we want.”

Former Senate President, Current Speaker of the House, and 19-year legislator, Matt Huffman, on Republicans’ power.
Columbus Dispatch



KEY DECISIONS IN OHIO SCHOOL FUNDING HISTORY



1997 – 2002

Ohio's school funding formula ruled unconstitutional four times



2008 – 2019

Legislators increase school funding over 11 years by **only \$288/student** from \$5,732 in 2008 to \$6,020 in 2019, far below the rate of inflation.



2020 – 2021

The Fair School Funding Plan is introduced with legislative agreement to **phase it in** over several budget cycles.



2023

EdChoice Expansion gives vouchers to unaccountable private schools that can choose which students they enroll.



2025

Legislators abandon the Fair School Funding Plan. Speaker Matt Huffman calls it “unsustainable”
Ohio Capital Journal

Ohio legislators have underfunded public schools for decades, pushing increased responsibility on property owners through local levies.



OHIO'S RANKINGS

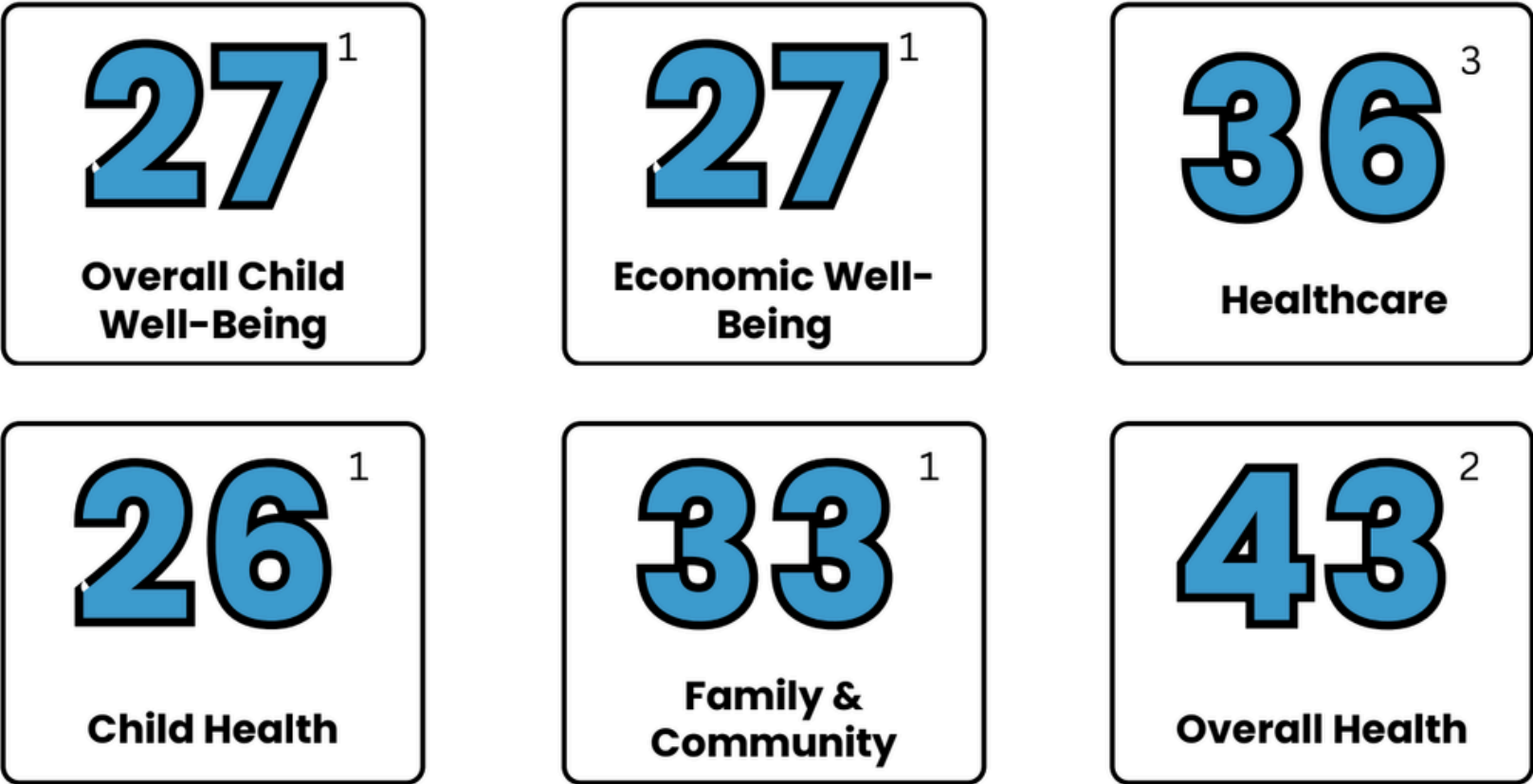
In recent weeks, Ohio legislators have celebrated a new CNBC #1 ranking for business. Years of corporate tax loopholes and “low business costs” supported the rise from 30th in 2007 to 1st in 2026.



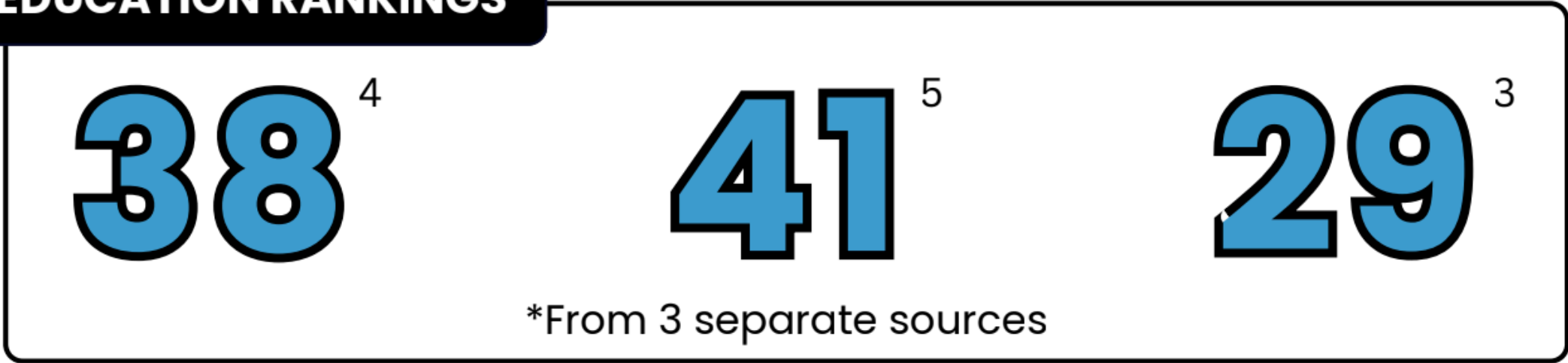
Jobs Ohio

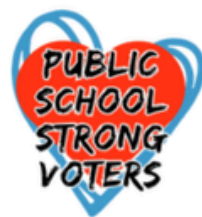
We asked...how are children and families benefitting from making “Ohio literally the go-to state for business”?

Governor DeWine - CNBC



EDUCATION RANKINGS





2026 OHIO VOTER INFO

Created for voters who care about Ohio's public schools.

Early Voting Begins:
October 6
Election Day:
November 3
Vote Early and In Person

OHIO'S TRIFECTA

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Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
House	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	

ballotpedia.org

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Paid for by Action for Honest Education, a 501(c)(4) nonpartisan, nonprofit supporting the freedom of every child to thrive in a joyful, well-resourced, fully staffed local public school. Part of the national Public School Strong Voters network. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.



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Jobs Ohio

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Governor DeWine - CNBC

27¹

Overall Child Well-Being

27¹

Economic Well-Being

36³

Healthcare

26¹

Child Health

33¹

Family & Community

43²

Overall Health

EDUCATION RANKINGS

38⁴

41⁵

29³

*From 3 separate sources

RECENT NEWS



1. 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book. A comprehensive annual report by the Children's Defense Fund and Annie E. Casey Foundation comparing all 50 states on indicators of children's health.
2. 2026 Ohio Health Policy Institute
3. 2026 U.S. News Reports
4. 2026 Network for Public Education Public Schooling in America
5. 2026 Consumer Affairs

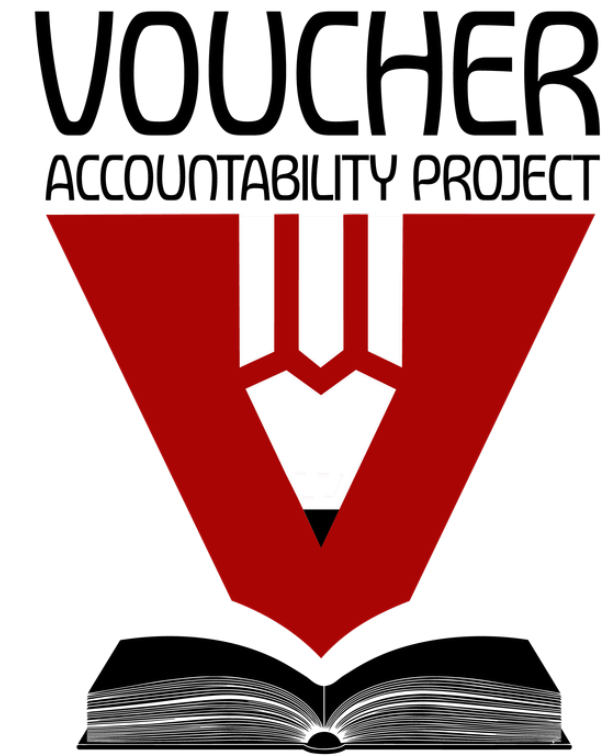
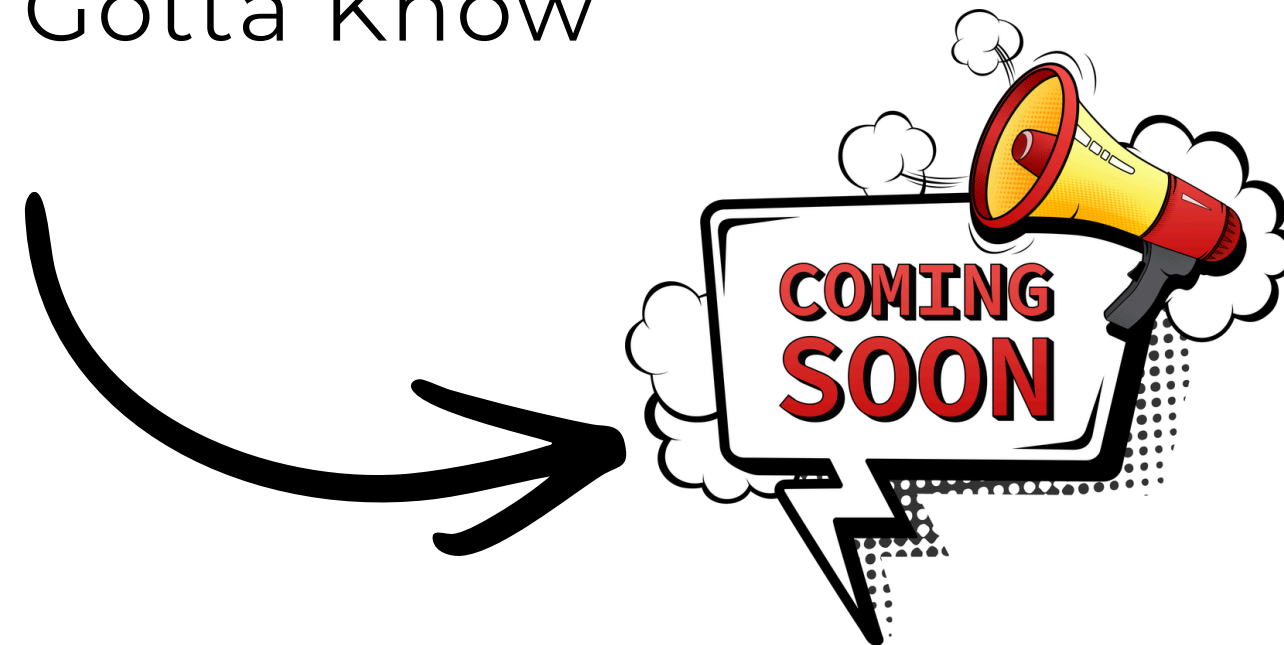
Get the printable:
bit.ly/2026ohiorankings



bitly

Vouchers

- **5 voucher programs** all 100% funded
- Vouchers now cost over \$1 billion annually
- Most money is going to wealthy suburbs
- SB443 Introduced: Take the Dough, We Gotta Know



vouchersarentfree.org



Upcoming Meeting
September 14 @ 7:00

Ohio Schools **in Crisis**

The state cut its share. Schools are paying the price.

In 2026, your vote decides what comes next.

Courts have ordered the state to fix how it funds public schools.

Ohio's legislature is doing the opposite.

OHIO'S SHARE OF SCHOOL FUNDING

**State share of the average base cost*



State paid nearly
half the bill

-15 POINTS



Local taxpayers pick
up what the state drops

Source: Ohio Education Policy Institute



Get the half-sheet





NEWS ALERT

"The state's financial position has never been stronger," OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks said

Ohio reported a **surplus** of unencumbered revenue in June and **\$536 million** remains unspent.

Last year, the **state underfunded public school students** by failing to implement the final phase of the Fair School Funding Plan

Districts must have **more frequent levies** to fund operations.

Sources:

[Ohio Office of Budget and Management Monthly Report - July, 2026](https://policy.matters.ohio.org/research/lawmakers-underfund-ohio-schools-by-2-75b/)

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1

Tell Ohio Legislators to Direct Remaining Surplus Funds to Ohio's Most Vulnerable Students. The remaining \$536 million should go to students with disabilities, students in poverty, and English learners.



[Make Calls](#)



[Send Emails](#)

2

Support Local School Levies this November. The funding crisis facing our schools is a direct result of legislators' budget decisions. We must support schools with a "yes" vote at the ballot and elect pro-public education candidates.



[Check your voter registration](#)



[Register to vote](#)

3

Join the Fight for Fair Funding. Next spring, Ohio lawmakers will determine our state budget for 2028 and 2029. Join the fight to fully fund our public schools, which serve nearly 90% of Ohio's students.



[Join Honesty's email list](#)



[Become a Partner](#)

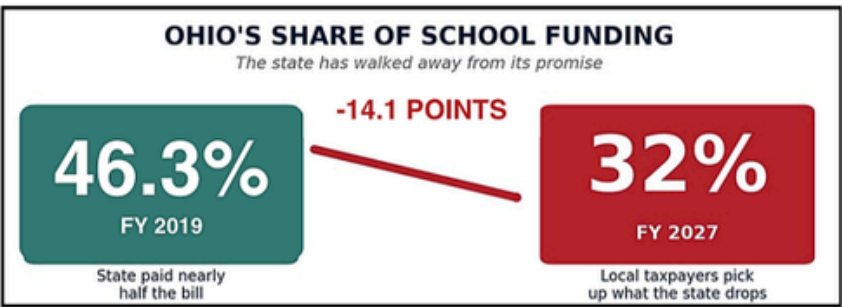
Ohio School Funding: The Shortfall, the Surplus, and What's Next

Ohio's legislature has underfunded public school students for decades, including most recently in the state budget for 2026 and 2027:



Policy Matters Ohio

At the same time, the state has decreased its share of school funding, causing districts to go back to voters for more frequent levies:



Ohio Education Policy Institute

New data indicates the state had \$2.428 billion in unencumbered funds at the end of fiscal year 2026, but once again, legislators chose not to use these funds for the state's constitutional obligation to Ohio's public school students. After one-time rebates, a variety of projects, and funding transfers, as of July 18, approximately \$536 million remains unspent.

Remaining Funds Should Fund Public Education

Ohio's population of children living in poverty and children with disabilities has increased over the last four years¹, but state funding has failed to keep up with the cost of educating these students. Legislators should direct remaining surplus funds to these students and promise to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan in the 2027 budget cycle.



Take Action

1 Tell Ohio Legislators to Direct Remaining Surplus Funds to Ohio's Most Vulnerable Students. The remaining \$536 million should go to students with disabilities, students in poverty, and English learners.



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Send Emails

2 Support Local School Levies this November. The funding crisis facing our schools is a direct result of legislators' budget decisions. We must support schools with a "yes" vote at the ballot and elect pro-public education candidates.



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Join Honesty's email list



Become a Partner

About Honesty for Ohio Education

Honesty for Ohio Education is a nonpartisan, statewide organization working with partners to protect and strengthen public education in Ohio. Through community research, coalition building, and grassroots support, we advance a vision of public schools where every student has the freedom to learn and grow in a welcoming, supportive and fully funded environment. Learn more at honestyforohioeducation.org.

Get the printable:
bit.ly/ohiosurplus





A good candidate doesn't ghost you after Election Day. Join us to hold elected officials accountable.



Dessert

Vision and accountability. Catch vague charm versus real commitment

1. What does success for Ohio public schools look like by the end of your first term?
2. Will you commit to a public town hall on school funding within your first six months?
3. How will parents and community members know you're keeping your word?

Questions for your CandiDATE on Public Education

You wouldn't marry someone who dodges every question. Don't vote for them either.



Appetizers

Easy to answer. Tells you if they even showed up prepared to talk about schools.

1. Did you attend Ohio public schools?
2. What's one thing every Ohio kid should have access to at school, no matter their zip code?
3. Who's a teacher, coach, or mentor who shaped you and why?
4. What does a great public school look like to you?



Bread Basket

A little more specific. Starts to test whether they know the basics.

1. Do you know how our local district is currently funded?
2. Have you visited a public school in this district since you started running?
3. What's your understanding of Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan?
4. Where does public education rank among your priorities?

Main Course

This is the meat. Specific questions that force a real position.

1. Ohio schools were underfunded by \$2.75 B in the last state budget and Ohio just announced a revenue surplus leaving \$536 M unallocated. What would you have done with that money?
2. Do you support fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan on its original phase-in schedule? Why or why not?
3. Edchoice vouchers are pulling funding from local districts. Do you support the current expansion, capping it, or rolling it back?



Sides

Swap in whatever questions matter most to your community.

1. How would you address Ohio's special education funding gap?
2. Where do you stand on school safety funding versus arming staff?
3. How do you feel about the state pushing more reliance on local property tax levies?

Red flags on a first date are red flags in office too.



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Get the printable:
bit.ly/ohiocandidatequestions



NEW

**Find out how YOUR
impacts public
education.**

Download yours here:
<https://bit.ly/pssvoterguideohio>

Public Education Voters Ohio Voter Guide



How to advance public education
issues during midterms

How elected officials
impact public education

Making a voting plan

Candidate Questionnaire

And much more!

★ THE ★
OHIO

ANTI-EXTREMISM VOTING GUIDE



Voting Guide



WHAT ARE YOUR ISSUES?

AFFORDABILITY

PUBLIC EDUCATION

DATA CENTERS

FLOCK CAMERAS

DEMOCRACY

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

FOOD SAFETY

IMMIGRATION



TAKE BACK OHIO

WITH

**HEATHER COX
RICHARDSON**

A GET OUT THE VOTE EVENT WITH RED WINE & BLUE

SEPTEMBER 27 | 1:00 PM | MEDINA COUNTY



WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

- Make time to vote
- Create habits about voting
- Address barriers
- Reduce risk
- Vote Early (In person)
- Help friends & family vote



OHIO'S MIDTERM ELECTION 2026

NOV 3, 2026

In 2026, Ohio ballots will include

- Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General
- U.S. Senate & House Candidates
- 99 Ohio House Candidates & 17 Ohio Senate Candidates
- 2 Ohio Supreme Court Candidates
- County Positions - Commissioners, Auditors, Treasurers, etc.
- Local Levies - Schools, Police, Fire, etc.

Key Midterm Election Dates

- **Oct 5:** Deadline to register to vote
- **Oct 6 - Nov 1:** Early in-person voting at Board of Elections (see hours below)
- **NOW through Oct 27:** request an absentee ballot. Requests must be returned to your Board of Elections by 8:30 pm on 10/27.
- **Nov 3 is Election Day:** Vote from 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 7:30 pm.

Early In-Person Voting Hours

Oct 6-9	Tues-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 12-16	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 19-23	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 24	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Oct 26	Mon	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 27	Tues	7:30am - 8:30pm
Oct 28-30	Wed-Fri	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 31	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Nov 1	Sun	1:00 pm - 4:00pm

Request Absentee Ballot

Voter Registration & Polling Locations

Election Protection Information

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. These are obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

We must be prepared to protect our neighbors and help them find a way to vote that would make them feel more secure—like mail-in or early voting—if they don't feel safe going in person. Going to the polls in larger groups adds another layer of security.

Fighting voter suppression doesn't happen only on Election Day. This is a year round fight—but one we can win!

If you need help related to voting, including on Election Day, contact the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Want to learn more?

- Join an upcoming RWB Ohio event.
- Fill out our volunteer interest form and we'll be in touch!
- Check out the Red Wine & Blue App and our easy-to-use Rally tool. You'll get everything you need in one place!
- Join our FB group to find like-minded Ohioans near you!

Red Wine & Blue Civics

Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue

MY 2026 VOTING PLAN

Local elections are taking place nationwide this year. Are you ready? Look up who will be on your ballot at vote.org or on your [state's board of elections website](#). Fill out this form to take to the ballot box with you!

HOW I'M VOTING

- ☐ Early Voting In-Person
- ☐ Mail-in or Absentee Ballot
- ☐ Election Day In-Person

WHEN I'M VOTING

Date: _____
Time: _____

WHERE I'M VOTING

Location Name: _____
Address: _____

OTHER DETAILS

- ☐ My voter registration is active
- ☐ I have an approved voter ID (if required in your state)
- ☐ I've scheduled a ride (details: _____)
- ☐ I've scheduled childcare (details: _____)
- ☐ I'm bringing these friends with me to vote: _____
- ☐ I've packed water and snacks

WHO I'M VOTING FOR

Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____

LOCAL LEVIES/BONDS/MILLAGES/BALLOT INITIATIVES

- ☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____
- ☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____

If you are in line when the polls close, be sure you stay in line and vote!



Learn more about the importance of local elections at redwine.blue





HOW TO FIGHT BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. Obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

In light of Supreme Court decisions, including *Louisiana v. Callais*, and extremist politicians attacking the right to vote more than we've seen since Jim Crow, ensuring we do everything we can to help ALL members of our communities vote is more important than ever. This worksheet will help you identify roadblocks and help voters overcome unjust barriers.

VOTING CHECKLIST: START WITH THE BASICS ALL VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

- ☐ Deadline to register: _____
- ☐ Are there voter ID requirements in your state? _____
- ☐ Polling location and hours – both on Election Day and early voting period: _____
- ☐ Deadline to request a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Date mail and absentee ballots are sent to voters: _____
- ☐ Deadline to return a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Address to return a mail/absentee ballot or drop off a ballot : _____

Now let's work through several of the barriers different voters face—the extra steps they have to go through that many voters might take for granted. Putting yourself in their shoes can help us make sure everyone has equal access to the ballot.

VOTING WITH A DISABILITY OR ILLNESS

- Is your polling place accessible or are there obstacles (steep ramps, gravel parking lots)?
- Are there voting machines at your precinct that are accessible?
- What are your state's absentee ballot rules?
- If you have to present information or ID in person to be able to vote absentee, do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who can help?

Voter Suppression Tactics: Many states have limited access to mail and absentee voting and now the federal government is attacking mail voting with an illegal executive order. Some states have even tried to criminalize having a person assist a disabled voter at the polls.

VOTING WITHOUT RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

- What are the local services that provide rides to the polls?
- Do public transportation services or local ride-share companies provide fare-free days on election day? If so, which ones?
- For states with drop-off ballot boxes, are you allowed to have someone drop off your ballot for you?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION



go.rally.win

RALLY TOGETHER

Rally Together - Ohio

Elections are decided by the people who show up, and many are decided by just a handful of votes. Before you help your friends and family make a plan to vote, make sure your own registration is up to date. Check your voter registration below to get started.

Legal First Name *

Last Name *

[I go by a different name](#)

Address *

Email *

Enter your email to receive updates and information about upcoming elections.

Phone number *

Address *

Email *

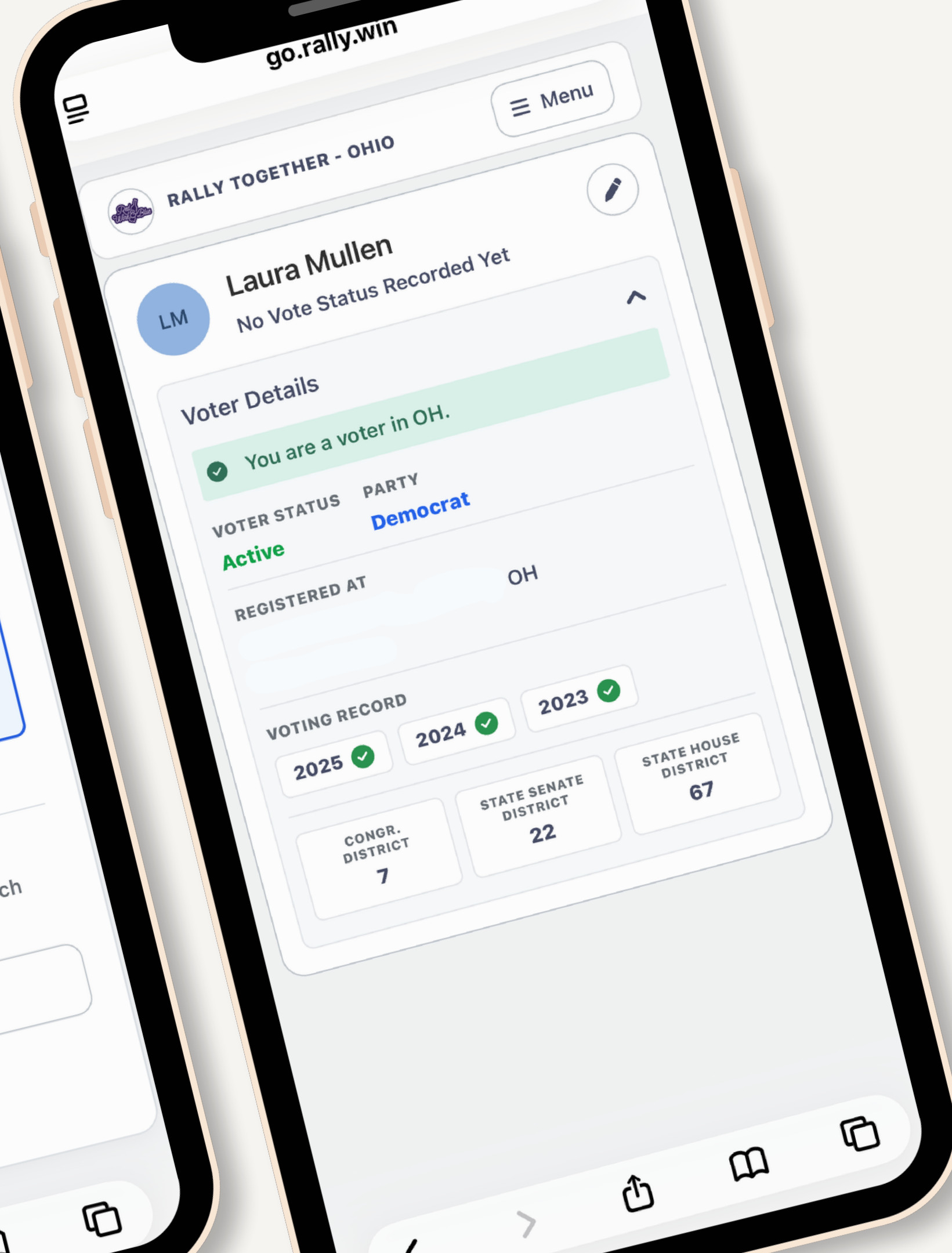
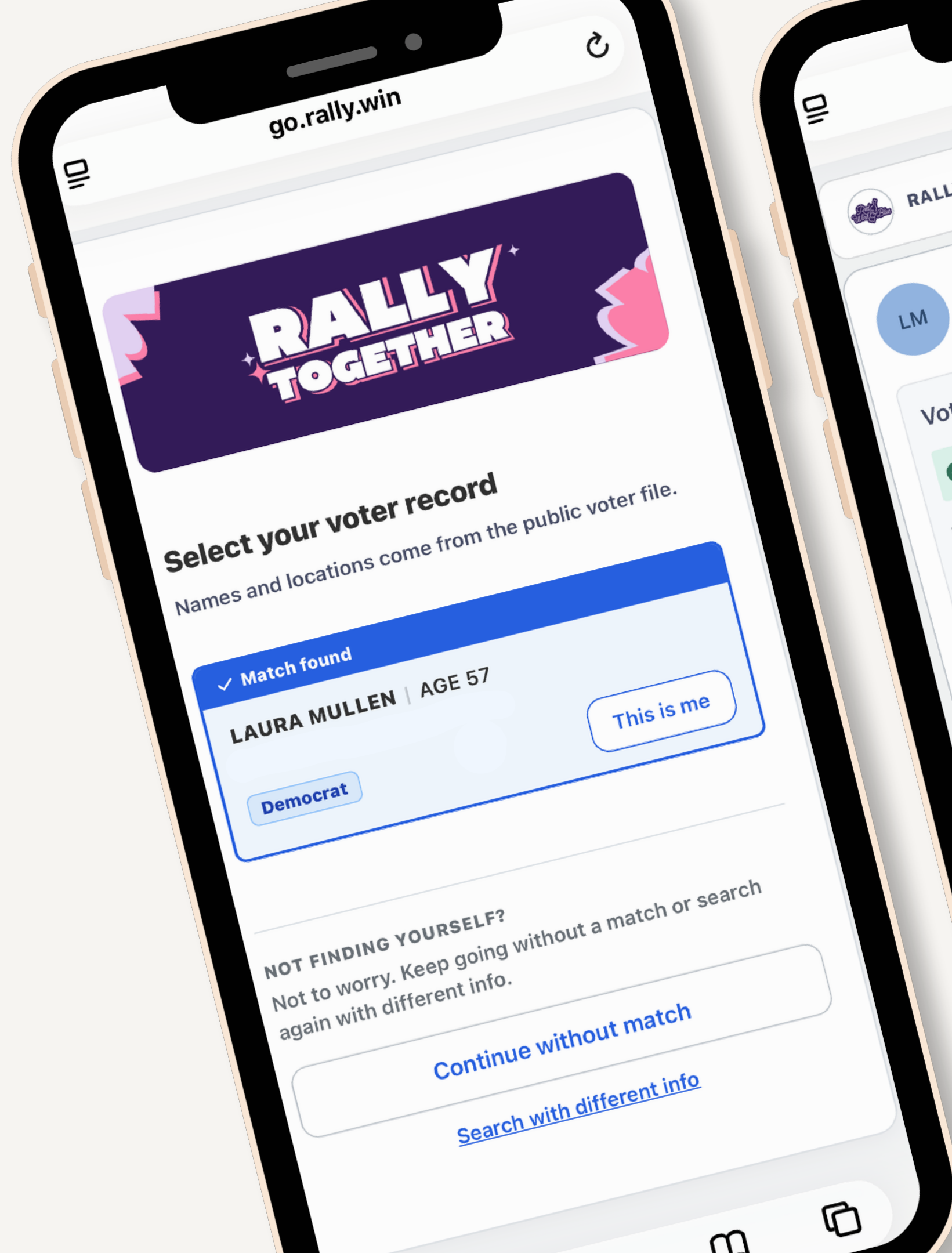
Enter your email to receive updates and information about upcoming elections.

Phone number *

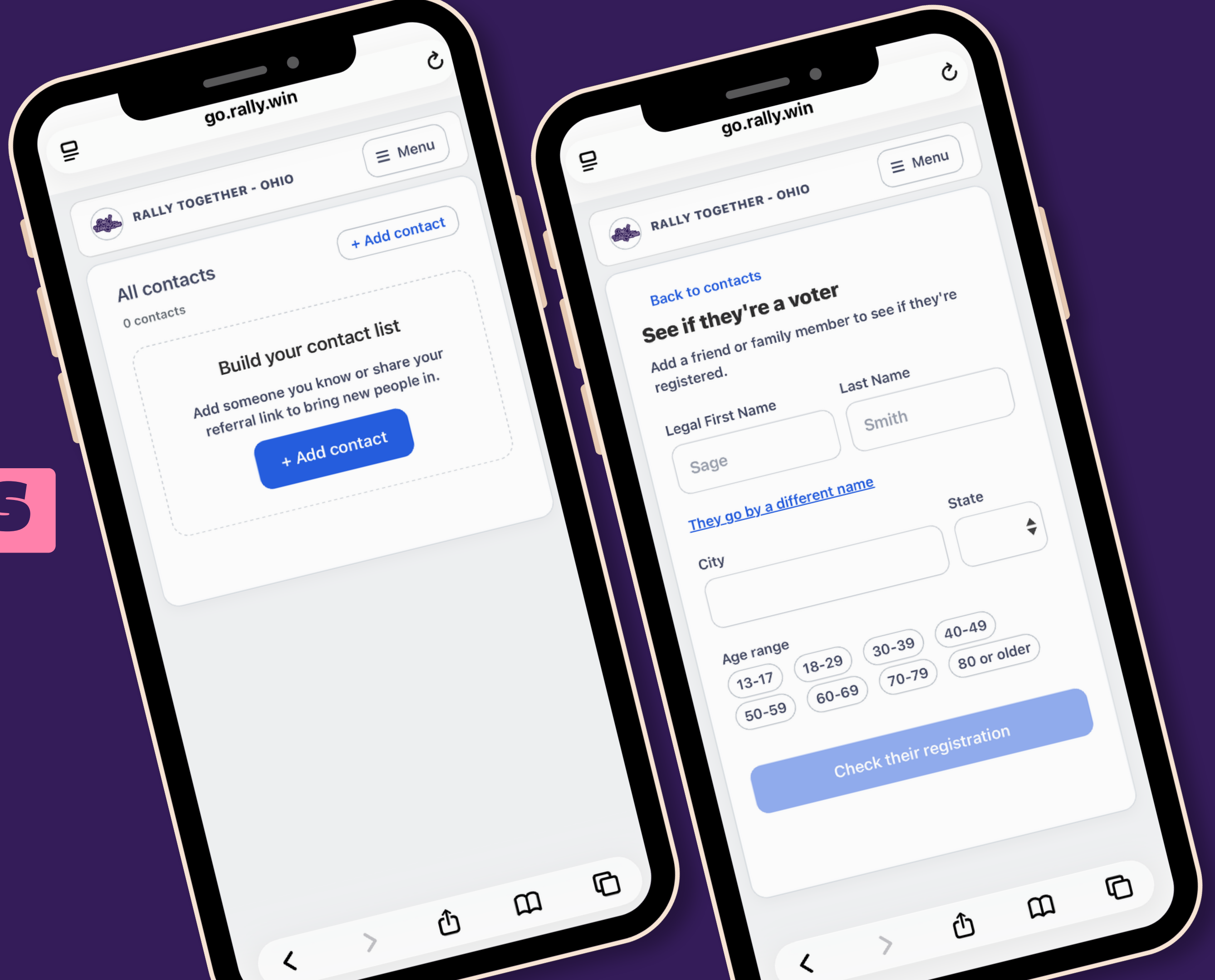
☒ I have read and agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

[Check registration](#)

Been here before?
Verify your email [here](#) to pick up where you left off.



ADD CONTACTS



CHECK THEIR REGISTRATION AND VOTE HISTORY

[Back to contacts](#)

Select their voter record

Names and locations come from the public voter file.

✓ Best match

GRACE MULLEN | AGE 19
██████████, ██████████, OH

This is them

GRACE MULLEN | AGE 27
██████████, ██████████, OH

This is them

GRACE MULLEN | AGE 30
██████████, ██████████, OH

This is them

[Show more matches](#)

NOT FINDING THEM?

Not to worry. Keep going without a match or

GM

Grace Mullen

No Vote Status Recorded Yet

Voter Details

✓ Grace is a voter in OH.

VOTER STATUS

Active

REGISTERED AT

██████████, ██████████, OH

Medina County

VOTING RECORD

2025 ✓ 2024 ✕ 2023 ✕

CONGR. DISTRICT

7

STATE SENATE DISTRICT

22

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT

67

[Return to dashboard](#)

LAME

duck



NOTE: This is
NOT how good
government
works!