

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2016 OHIO SENATE RACE

	Rob Portman (Incumbent – R)	Ted Strickland (D)
<p>For mobile-friendly version and other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org and countable.us</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • robportman.com or • tedsstrickland.com 		
Abortion: Should abortion be highly restricted?	Yes	No, but supports some restrictions
Campaign Finance: Support DISCLOSE Act, requiring key funders of political ads to put their names on those ads?	No. Voted against it.	Yes
Campaign Finance: Support Supreme Court’s <i>Citizens United</i> decision, which allows unlimited independent political expenditures by corporations and unions?	Yes	No. Supports constitutional amendment to overturn.
Climate Change: Believe that human activity is the major factor driving climate change?	Acknowledges it contributes but won’t identify it as major factor. ¹	Yes. Strong support of climate change initiatives when governor.
Climate Change: Should government limit the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere?	No. Voted repeatedly to prohibit EPA regulation of greenhouse gases.	Yes
Contraception: Employers can withhold employee contraceptive coverage if they disagree with it morally?	Yes. Filed Amicus brief in support of Hobby Lobby.	No
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	No	Yes
Financial Regulation: Support Dodd-Frank Act, which established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and increases regulation of financial institutions?	No ²	Yes
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	Historically opposed. Changed to support after son came out as gay.	Yes
Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation?	No	Supports expanded background checks and banning sales to suspected terrorists. ³
Healthcare: Repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Yes	No
Healthcare: Did you support shutting down the federal government in order to defund Obamacare in 2013?	Yes. Voted against bills that would have prevented shutdown. Later voted to end shutdown. ⁴	No
Healthcare: Should Planned Parenthood be eligible to receive public funds for non-abortion health services?	No	Yes
Immigration: Support the DREAM Act, which would allow children brought into the country illegally to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions? ⁵	No. Opposed Obama’s Executive Order issued in lieu of DREAM Act.	Yes

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Immigration: Should America’s 11 million undocumented residents have an earned path to citizenship?	No. Voted against bi-partisan 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill. Now says open to legalization but not citizenship.	Yes
Iran: Support the US-Iran treaty that limits Iran’s nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	No	Yes
Iraq: How should the US combat the success of ISIS?	Special operations and building coalitions. No to major US ground troops.	Increased special forces, air strikes, and cyber warfare, but no major ground troop additions.
Marijuana: Decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana?	No. Focus instead on drug prevention & rehabilitation.	Yes
Minimum Wage: Raise the federal minimum wage?	Open to raising and indexing to inflation, but believes \$10.10 or more would create job losses.	Yes. Raise to \$12 per hour.
Renewable Energy: Support government mandates and/or subsidies for renewable energy?	In theory supportive, but opposed bills for clean energy subsidies & renewable energy requirements.	Yes
Social Security: Support full or partial Social Security privatization?	Did as Bush’s budget director, now says he doesn’t. ⁶	No
Student Debt: Refinance student loans at lower rates, paid for by increasing taxes on high earners?	No. Voted against Elizabeth Warren bill to do this.	Yes
Student Financial Aid: Should federal student financial aid, like Pell Grants, be increased?	Voted to cut Pell grants, although did make them accessible to high school students attending college. Has both supported and opposed low-income Perkins loans.	Yes
Supreme Court: Support the Senate hearings for Obama Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland?	No	Yes
Taxes: Increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services?	No. Pledged to oppose “any or all” tax increases to raise revenue. Supports cutting corporate & individual taxes.	Yes. Increase payroll taxes on the wealthy to ensure Social Security & Medicare funding.
Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements or reduced registration times, even if they prevent some people from voting?	Unclear, but has not backed bills to expand voting rights. ⁷	No. Believes these types of laws are a form of minority voter suppression.

Other senate candidates include [Joseph DeMare \(G\)](#), [Thomas William Connors \(I\)](#), and [Scott Rupert \(I\)](#). Due to limited space, we can’t include their positions, but invite you to check out their websites.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a non-partisan effort to help college and university administrators, faculty, and student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ballotpedia.org](#), [Countable.us](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), and public candidate statements. For a guide to all races, see [Vote411.org](#), from the League of Women Voters, and [Ballotready.org](#).

¹ Uncertain about role of human activity. [Voted against January 2015 amendment](#) that stated “human activity significantly contributes” to climate change, and urged Congress to act. Then supported one simply saying it contributed.

² [Introduced 2012 bill](#) to significantly delay intended regulatory reforms.

³ Was previously opposed to any limitations on gun access with an A+ NRA rating. Said mass shootings, like Sandy Hook, [shifted his perspective on gun access](#).

⁴ Introduced [2015 bill to permanently end shutdowns](#) while cutting interim budget more the longer any impasse continued.

⁵ Need to have graduated from high school, have a clean legal record, and attend college or serve in the military.

⁶ [Supported privatization](#) as Bush budget director, but currently says [doesn’t support privatization](#).

⁷ Has said believes in [supporting voting rights](#) but [has not yet supported](#) Voting Rights Advancement Act to remedy Supreme Court decision eliminating key Voting Rights Act provisions.