

Ohio Attorney General Race Features Experienced Candidates

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In our effort to provide an early read on upcoming electoral races for Ohio's five, state-wide constitutional offices, this *Political Insider* looks at the race for Ohio Attorney General. And, we look at some changes in the landscape of the other races since we first wrote about them.

The attorney general's principal duties are to provide legal advice to state government, to represent the state in legal matters and to advise county prosecutors on legal matters at their request. Additionally, the attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state. To that end, the office supports local law enforcement agencies through training at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, analyzes DNA, fingerprints and other evidence at the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and enforces consumer protections statutes.

Current Attorney General Richard Cordray was elected in a 2008 special election resulting from the resignation of former Attorney General Marc Dann. Previously, Cordray had been elected Ohio Treasurer in 2006. His likely GOP challenger this year is former Ohio Lieutenant Governor and former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine.

Cordray holds a masters degree with honors from Oxford University in England and is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. He has taught constitutional law at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law for 13 years, and he was Ohio's first Solicitor General under then-Attorney General Lee Fisher. Cordray and his wife, Peggy, reside in suburban Columbus with their two young twins.

DeWine served two terms in the U.S. Senate from 1994-2007, before being defeated by Sherrod Brown in 2006. A graduate of Miami University and Ohio Northern University's College of Law, DeWine began his career in public service when he was elected Greene County Prosecutor at age 30. The Cedarville Republican and his wife of 42 years, Fran, have eight children and 12 grandchildren.

Both candidates will likely focus their campaigns on their past accomplishments, from the county level up. Cordray has made consumer protection the centerpiece of his work as attorney general, and has made good government a cornerstone of his work in every office he's held. Meanwhile, DeWine wrote mandatory sentencing legislation for repeat offenders during his term in the Ohio Senate. As lieutenant governor he worked to improve Ohio's parole system to keep violent offenders behind bars.

Interestingly, Cordray joins fellow Democrats Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and Republican Auditor of State Mary Taylor, all of whom were elected statewide in 2006, to appear on the 2010 ballot in a different race. As previously mentioned, Cordray was elected Ohio Treasurer in 2006, but subsequently won a 2008 special election to complete the term of Marc Dann following Dann's resignation. Fisher and Brunner will face off in a May primary for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in the race to replace retiring Senator George Voinovich. Taylor, meanwhile, has joined presumptive GOP Gubernatorial nominee John Kasich as his running mate.

Governor Ted Strickland, the only statewide elected official seeking re-election to the same office he won in 2006, has recruited Yvette McGee Brown of Columbus, a former Franklin County judge, to run as his Lt. Governor candidate.

Expected 2010 Statewide Election Matchups:

Office Sought	Democratic Candidate	Republican Candidate
U.S. Senate	Jennifer Brunner or Lee Fisher	Rob Portman or Tom Ganley
Governor and Lt. Gov	<i>Ted Strickland</i> and Yvette McGee Brown	John Kasich and Mary Taylor
Attorney General	<i>Rich Cordray</i>	Mike DeWine
Secretary of State	Maryellen O'Shaughnessy	Jon Husted
Auditor of State	David Pepper	Dave Yost
Treasurer of State	<i>Kevin Boyce</i>	Josh Mandel

Italics indicate incumbent candidate