To: Interested Parties
From: Change Research
Date: October 6, 2026
Re: Recent Polling in the Ohio Secretary of State Race

The Ohio Secretary of State race is a tossup.

- Republican Robert Sprague leads Democrat Allison Russo by only 1 point (39%-to-38%). Libertarian Tom Pruss takes 6% of the vote, and 16% of voters are still undecided.
- Russo leads by 4 points among voters who rate their motivation to vote a "10" (44% Russo, 40% Sprague.) Overall, 84% of Self-Identified Democrats rate their motivation a 10, compared to 74% of Self-Identified Republicans.

Russo has room to grow to match the top of the ticket.

- Democrat Sherrod Brown and Republican Jon Husted are in a dead heat for the Senate race at 42% of the vote each. 5% of voters say they would vote for a third-party candidate while just 10% are undecided.
- Similarly, Democrat Amy Acton and Republican Vivek Ramaswamy are deadlocked at 43%-to-43%. 5% say they will vote for the Libertarian, and 9% are undecided.
- There is about a 5-point gap in vote share between Russo and the Democrats at the top of the ticket, indicating that she has more room to grow her support if she can connect with persuadable voters.

The Secretary of State candidates are still undefined.

- 54% and 59% of voters say they have never heard of Russo and Sprague, respectively. Among voters who recognize the candidates, a plurality say they feel neutral.
- Russo has a real opportunity to increase her existing vote share if persuadable voters can learn more about her commitment to protecting every vote and restoring the people's power in politics. Sprague is also wide open for definition as a corrupt politician who wants to make voting harder so that the people can't hold him and his wealthy friends accountable.

Nearly 1-in-3 are considered swing voters.

- 30% of likely Ohio voters are swing voters, or voters who do not vote straight ticket for Democrats or Republicans.
- These voters are more likely to be women, voters under the age of 50, voters of color, and voters who identify as Pure Independents or Soft Republicans.

Polling was conducted online from September 16-18, 2026. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 1,094 likely 2026 voters in Ohio. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement here, which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.