

Ohio: Vital stats

Presidential election

18 electoral votes

Republican

Democratic

2004 **+2.1**

2008 **+4.6**

2012 **+1.9**

2016* **+1.0**

NOTE: *RealClearPolitics poll as of Oct 29 showing Clinton's lead over Trump

Race and ethnicity

White

79.8%

Black

12.7%

Hispanic

3.6%

Asian

2.1%

Ohio

US average

Economic profile

Median household income

US\$48,849

Unemployment rate

4.8%

Poverty rate

14.8%

College-educated

25.6%

Why the state is important

- When it comes to presidential elections, Ohio is known as the kingmaker state for good reason. No Republican has ever won the White House without winning Ohio. Furthermore, Ohioans have voted for the winner in every election since 1944, except 1960 when Democrat John F. Kennedy defeated Republican Richard Nixon.

- While its number of electoral votes has dwindled along with its population, Ohio's clout has continued. In 2004, it was the state that enabled Republican George W. Bush to stay in the Oval Office when he narrowly won Ohio. In both 2008 and 2012, US news networks named Mr Barack Obama the winner as soon as Ohio went to him.

- Current polls show Mr Donald Trump and Mrs Hillary Clinton in a dead heat in Ohio, but number-crunchers say the Republican cannot possibly win without the state.