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The Uncontested Majority

Competition — or Its Absence — in Ohio's 2026 State Legislative Primaries

An analysis of the May 5, 2026 primary for the Ohio General Assembly

Prepared by the Ohio Common Ground Research Center

July 6, 2026



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Executive Summary

On May 5, 2026, Ohioans went to the polls to choose the major-party nominees for all 99 seats in the Ohio House of Representatives and for the 17 Ohio Senate seats on the ballot this cycle. For most voters, the choice had already been made for them. Across the Republican and Democratic primaries combined, **181 of the 223 party-primary contests for the General Assembly — about 81.2% — featured only a single candidate.** In those races there was no contest at all: the nominee was determined not by voters choosing among alternatives, but by who chose to file.

This pattern is not a feature of one party. Republican primary voters faced an uncontested legislative race **82.7% of the time; Democratic primary voters, 79.6% of the time.** The near-identical rates suggest a structural condition of Ohio legislative elections rather than a quirk of either party's politics.

Measured by ballots rather than by races, roughly **72.4% of the candidate votes cast in these General Assembly primary contests (1,468,432 of 2,028,727)** were cast in a race where the voter had no alternative to choose from.

Viewed at the level of the seat rather than the party ballot, **75 of the 116 districts on the ballot (64.7%) saw no contested primary in either party.** In those districts, no voter taking a major-party primary ballot was offered a contested General Assembly primary in either party.

A primary exists to let a party's voters decide who will carry their banner into November. When four out of five of those decisions are made without a contest, the primary ceases to function as a moment of choice and becomes a formality that ratifies an outcome already settled. This paper documents the scale of that phenomenon in the 2026 General Assembly primaries and explains why it matters for whether Ohio voters are, in any meaningful sense, getting their way.

Nor is there sign of improvement over time. Across the five most recent cycles (2018 through 2026), the share of Ohio House primaries with a single candidate has cycled within a high band — from a low of **71% in 2018 to a high of 82% in 2020 — with no trend toward more competition. 2018 was the most competitive cycle of the five, yet even then a majority of races went uncontested; 2026 sits near the less-competitive end of the range.** The cycle-to-cycle movement is driven almost entirely by Republican primaries, which have swung widely, while Democratic primaries have stayed comparatively flat.

At a glance

81.2%

of party-primary races had only one candidate

181

nominees advanced without a same-party primary opponent

64.7%

of districts had no contested primary in either party

Why Primary Competition Matters

In Ohio, as in most states, the partisan primary is the gateway to elected office. Each major party uses its primary to select a single nominee for the general election. For the voter, the primary is the one stage at

which the field of choices is widest — the point at which competing visions within a party, and competing candidates, are placed side by side on the ballot.

When a primary is *contested* — when two or more candidates seek the same nomination — voters exercise a genuine choice, and the winner can claim a mandate that reflects the preferences of the people who voted. When a primary is *uncontested*, that function disappears. A single name appears on the ballot; the voter may cast a vote for that name or none at all, but in neither case does the ballot register a preference between candidates, because no alternative is offered. The nomination is effectively decided by the filing deadline rather than by the electorate.

This matters most where the general election is itself not competitive. In a district drawn to favor one party, the eventual officeholder is, in practical terms, chosen in that party's primary; November becomes a formality. Where such a district also has an uncontested primary, the officeholder is selected without voters ever being presented with a meaningful choice at any stage of the process. *This paper measures only the primary; it does not measure general-election competitiveness, and the relationship between the two is identified here as a question for further analysis rather than a finding (see Limitations).*

Some degree of uncontested races is normal and even healthy: a popular, effective incumbent may deter challengers precisely because constituents are satisfied. But when uncontested races become the overwhelming norm — the rule rather than the exception — the concern shifts from individual satisfaction to systemic absence of choice. The question this paper asks is not whether any single nominee deserved a challenger, but how often Ohio voters were given a choice at all.

Data and Methodology

The analysis draws on the official county-by-county canvass of the May 5, 2026 Ohio primary published by the Ohio Secretary of State, limited to the *General Assembly* results — the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives — for the Republican and Democratic party ballots.¹

A race is treated as a single party-primary contest for one district (for example, the Republican primary for House District 12). A contest is classified as **uncontested** if exactly one candidate — whether printed on the ballot or a certified write-in — sought that party's nomination, and **contested** if two or more candidates sought it. Races in which the sole candidate was a write-in are counted as uncontested and also reported separately, because they represent the most complete absence of competition: no candidate filed to appear on the ballot at all.

Each party is analyzed on its own ballot, and then the two are combined at the level of the seat to ask whether voters of *either* party were offered a choice in a given district. Only the 17 Ohio Senate districts on the 2026 ballot are included for the Senate (Senate seats are elected to staggered four-year terms, so roughly half are up each cycle); all 99 House districts are included. Vote totals are the statewide sums

¹Source: Ohio Secretary of State, May 5, 2026 Primary/Special Election Official Canvass — General Assembly results, Republican and Democratic party ballots. All counts and totals in this paper are derived by the author from that canvass.

reported in the canvass. Percentages are computed from those totals and may not sum to exactly 100 due to rounding.

Two notes of caution. First, a party that fielded no candidate at all in a district does not appear as a “race” on that party’s ballot; such instances are reported separately rather than folded into the uncontested counts. Second, this is a descriptive analysis of the primary ballot only. It does not draw conclusions about general-election outcomes, district partisanship, or the reasons particular races drew no challenger.

The comparison with prior cycles uses the official canvasses of the 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 Ohio primaries, each processed the same way.² Those files vary slightly in sheet name and column layout; the analysis detects the candidate columns directly rather than assuming a fixed position, so the figures are computed consistently across years. Because the Ohio Senate is elected to staggered terms — and because the legislative maps changed during this period — only the Ohio House (all 99 seats every cycle) is treated as directly comparable; the Senate is reported separately and read with caution. The underlying canvass files are published by the Secretary of State through the office’s election-results portal.³

A note on voter eligibility: Ohio does not register voters by party, and a voter may participate in a partisan primary by requesting that party’s ballot. This analysis is nonetheless organized by the Republican and Democratic primary ballots as reported in the canvass, because those ballots are where the nominations are actually decided; the party labels describe the ballot, not a registration status.

Definitions

The following terms are used throughout this paper with the specific meanings given here.

Party-primary contest. A single party’s primary for a single district — for example, the Republican primary for Ohio House District 12. Each district can have up to two party-primary contests (one per major party).

Uncontested. A party-primary contest in which exactly one candidate sought the nomination, whether printed on the ballot or a certified write-in. The voter is offered no choice between candidates.

Contested. A party-primary contest in which two or more candidates sought the same nomination.

No candidate filed. A district in which a major party fielded no primary candidate at all; that party held no primary contest there, and the district does not appear as a race on that party’s ballot.

Write-in-only primary. An uncontested contest in which the sole candidate was a certified write-in — the most complete absence of competition, since no candidate qualified to be printed on the ballot.

District-level competition. Whether a district had a contested primary in at least one party. A district is counted as offering “no contest in either party” when neither the Republican nor the Democratic primary drew two or more candidates.

²Sources for prior cycles, Ohio Secretary of State General Assembly canvasses (Republican and Democratic ballots): May 8, 2018 Primary; March 17, 2020 Primary; August 2, 2022 Primary/Special; and March 19, 2024 Presidential Primary.

³Ohio Secretary of State election-results portal: results.ohiosos.gov (official canvass downloads) and data.ohiosos.gov.

Findings

Four in five legislative primaries had no contest

Of the 223 party-primary races for the General Assembly, 181 (81.2%) had a single candidate and only 42 (18.8%) were contested. The rate of uncontested races was strikingly consistent across both parties and both chambers, ranging only from about 79% to 83%.

Party / Chamber	Races	Uncontested	Contested	% Uncontested
Republican — Senate	17	14	3	82.4%
Republican — House	93	77	16	82.8%
Democratic — Senate	16	13	3	81.3%
Democratic — House	97	77	20	79.4%
Combined (all)	223	181	42	81.2%

Table 1. Contested and uncontested General Assembly primaries by party and chamber, May 5, 2026.

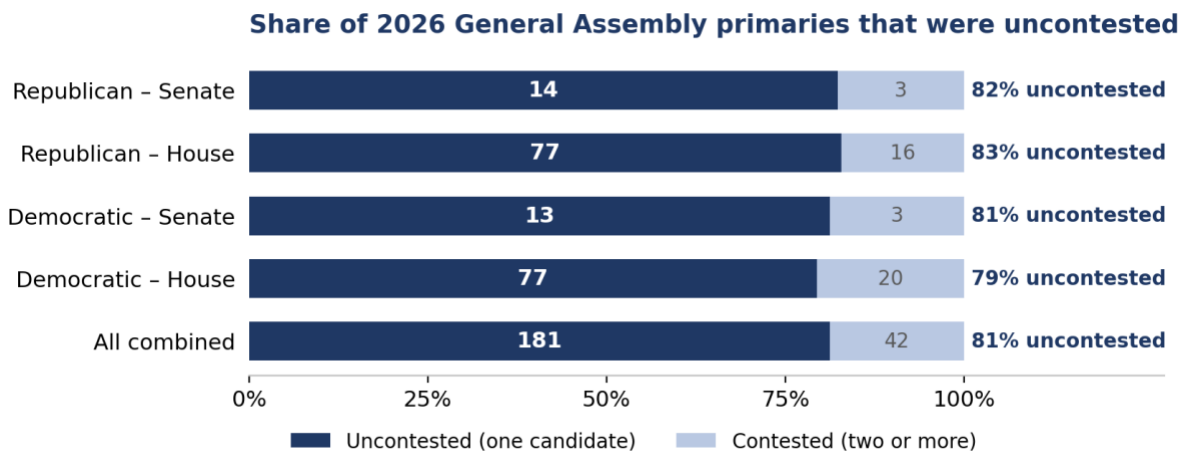


Figure 1. The uncontested share is near-identical across both parties and both chambers — about four in five races.

Most primary votes were cast where there was no choice

Because many uncontested races are in populous districts, the share of voters affected is nearly as large as the share of races. Across both party ballots, **1,468,432 of 2,028,727 candidate votes cast in these contests (72.4%) were cast in single-candidate races.** Put differently, a clear majority of Ohioans who took the trouble to vote in a legislative primary found, in that race, only one name on the ballot.

Ballot	Votes in uncontested races	Votes in contested races	% Unc.
Republican	729,649	287,421	71.7%
Democratic	738,783	272,874	73.0%
Combined	1,468,432	560,295	72.4%

Table 2. Candidate votes cast in General Assembly primary contests, uncontested versus contested. These totals sum votes across all 223 party-primary races; a voter could contribute to more than one race (for example, a Senate and a House primary), so the total is not a count of unique voters. The Secretary of State reported 1,791,152 ballots cast statewide, about 22.7% of registered voters.

In most districts, neither party offered a choice

Combining the two ballots at the level of the seat gives the clearest picture of voter choice on the ground. A district is counted here as having a contested primary if *either* party's primary drew two or more candidates. Even by this generous standard, **75 of the 116 districts on the 2026 ballot (64.7%) had no contested primary in either party.** Only **41 districts (35.3%)** saw a genuine contest on at least one side.

Chamber	Districts on ballot	No contest in either party	Contest in ≥1 party
Ohio Senate	17	11 (64.7%)	6 (35.3%)
Ohio House	99	64 (64.6%)	35 (35.4%)
Combined	116	75 (64.7%)	41 (35.3%)

Table 3. District-level primary competition, counting a district as contested if either party's primary had two or more candidates.

In some races, no candidate filed for the ballot at all

The most extreme form of non-competition appeared in 14 races — 7 on the Republican side and 7 on the Democratic side — in which the only candidate seeking the nomination was a write-in. In these districts, not a single candidate of that party qualified to be printed on the primary ballot. A handful of write-in votes, sometimes fewer than a few hundred, were enough to capture a major-party nomination for a seat in the state legislature.

Some districts saw a party field no one

Beyond the uncontested races, there were districts where a party offered its voters no primary candidate whatsoever. On the Republican ballot this occurred in 6 House districts (2, 4, 22, 24, 25, 38); on the Democratic ballot, in 2 House districts (64, 97). In aggregate, **8 of the 99 House districts had at least one major party field no primary candidate at all.** Where one party fields no one and the other runs unopposed, the seat's eventual occupant faces no intra-party choice on either ballot.

The largest uncontested races

Uncontested does not mean low-profile. Several of the single-candidate primaries drew well over twenty thousand votes — tens of thousands of Ohioans casting a ballot in a race that offered them no alternative. The twelve largest are shown below.

Party	Nominee (district)	Chamber	Votes
D	Catherine Ingram (D) — District 9	Senate	29,593
D	Bride Rose Sweeney (D) — District 23	Senate	29,023
D	Latyna M. Humphrey (D) — District 15	Senate	28,462
D	Mike Roberto (D) — District 27	Senate	27,632
R	Phil Plummer (R) — District 5	Senate	26,868
R	Jane Timken (R) — District 29	Senate	26,068
D	Joe Miller (D) — District 13	Senate	24,808

Party	Nominee (district)	Chamber	Votes
R	Shane Wilkin (R) — District 17	Senate	24,283
R	Al Cutrona (R) — District 33	Senate	22,963
R	Al Landis (R) — District 31	Senate	22,286
D	Thomas West (D) — District 29	Senate	22,087
R	Steve Demetriou (R) — District 27	Senate	21,809

Table 4. The twelve uncontested General Assembly primaries with the most votes cast.

Variation across the state's media markets

Non-competition was not evenly spread across Ohio. Assigning each race to the media market in which most of its votes were cast, the uncontested rate ranged from the low 70s to the low 90s among the markets with enough races to be meaningful. **Greater Cincinnati was the least competitive of the large markets, with 28 of 30 races (93%) uncontested; the Dayton market was the most competitive, though even there nearly three-quarters of races had a single candidate.** Every substantial market sat above 70% uncontested, underscoring that the pattern is statewide rather than confined to any one region.

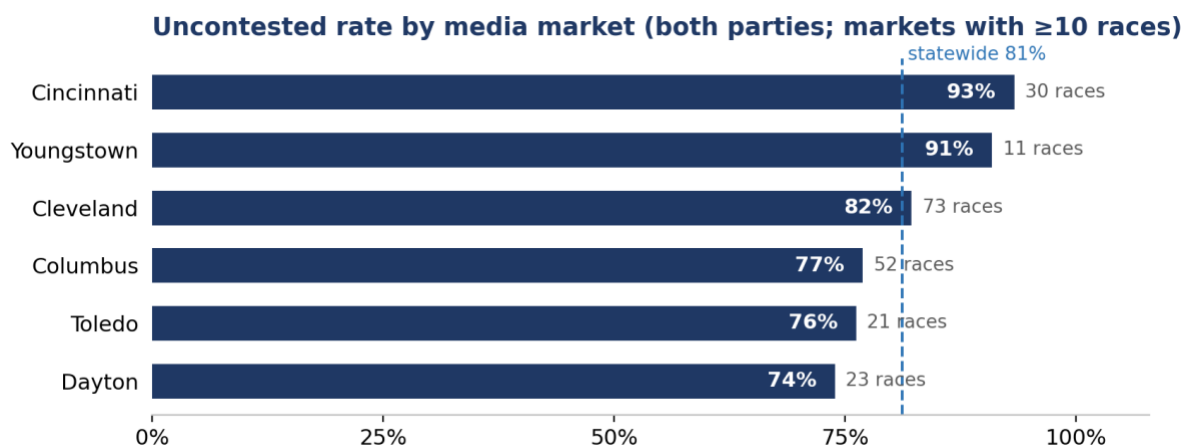


Figure 2. Uncontested rate by media market (both party ballots combined), for the six markets with at least ten races. Dashed line marks the statewide rate of 81%.

Media market	Races	Uncontested	Contested	% Uncontested
Cleveland	73	60	13	82%
Columbus	52	40	12	77%
Cincinnati	30	28	2	93%
Dayton	23	17	6	74%
Toledo	21	16	5	76%
Youngstown	11	10	1	91%
Charleston	4	3	1	75%
Wheeling	4	2	2	50%
Lima	2	2	0	100%

Media market	Races	Uncontested	Contested	% Uncontested
Parkersburg	2	2	0	100%
Zanesville	1	1	0	100%

Table 5. All media markets, both party ballots combined. Markets with only a handful of races (for example Lima, Parkersburg, and Zanesville) should be read with caution: their rates rest on one or two contests and are not reliable indicators. Because legislative districts can span several counties and markets, each race is attributed to the single market accounting for the largest share of its votes.

How 2026 Compares with Recent Cycles

A single election cannot show whether the absence of choice is worsening, easing, or simply persistent. Placing 2026 alongside the four prior cycles — 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 — answers that question, with two cautions built into the comparison. First, the Ohio Senate elects its members to staggered four-year terms, so a different set of districts is on the ballot each cycle; the Senate is therefore *not* a like-for-like comparison and is treated separately below. Second, Ohio’s legislative maps changed during this period — 2018 and 2020 ran on the maps of the 2010s, 2022 ran on interim maps later held unconstitutional, and 2024 and 2026 use the current maps — so individual districts cannot be tracked across years. What can be compared cleanly is the *rate* of uncontested races, which does not depend on the map staying fixed. The Ohio House, with all 99 seats on every ballot, is the natural basis for the comparison.

The headline is persistence, not progress. **Across all five cycles the combined House uncontested rate has cycled within a high band — 71% in 2018, 82% in 2020, 76% in 2022, 75% in 2024, and 81% in 2026 — with no trend toward more competition.** The most competitive cycle was the earliest, 2018, and the least competitive was 2020; the years since have oscillated between them, with 2026 landing near the less-competitive end. The seat-level measure tells the same story even more starkly: the share of House districts with no contest in either party was lowest in **2018, at 51% (50 of 99), and has been higher in every cycle since, reaching 65% in 2026.** By that measure, 2018 was the high-water mark for voter choice in this period — and even then, just over half of House districts offered a contest.

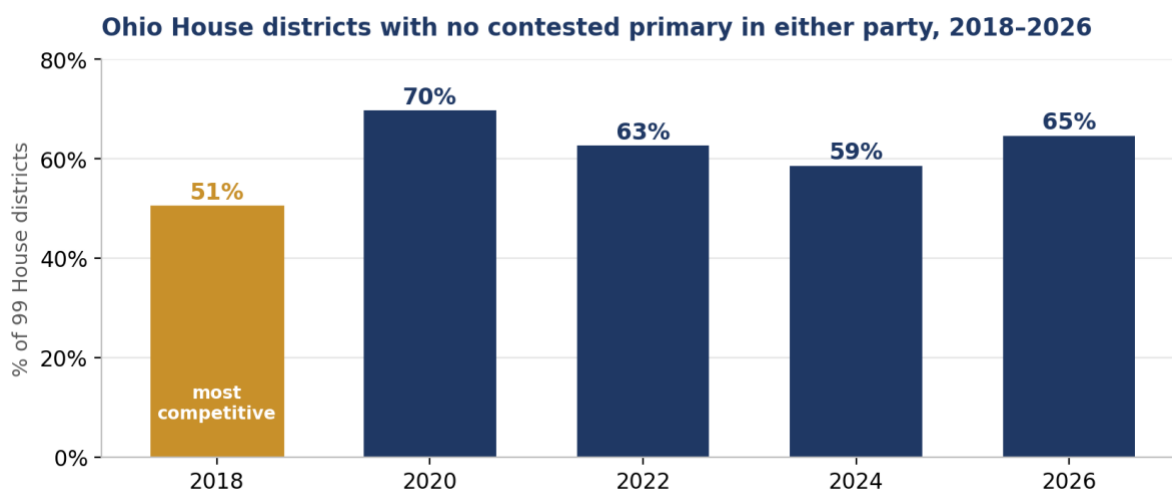


Figure 4. Share of Ohio House districts (of 99) with no contested primary in either party, by cycle. Lower is better for voters. 2018 was the most competitive year of the five; in every cycle since, a clear majority of districts have offered no primary contest on either ballot.

Beneath the combined line is a partisan divergence the two-party average conceals. **Republican House primaries have swung widely — from 67% uncontested in 2018 up to 82% in 2020, back down to 68% in 2024, and up again to 83% in 2026, their least competitive of the five. Democratic House primaries have moved far less, sitting near 79–83% in most cycles; their one notably more competitive year was 2018, at 75%.** In other words, most of the cycle-to-cycle movement in House competition is a Republican-side phenomenon, and the single most competitive cycle, 2018, was the one year both parties — Democrats especially — fielded contested primaries at an above-typical rate, in a high-turnout midterm with active candidate recruitment on both sides.

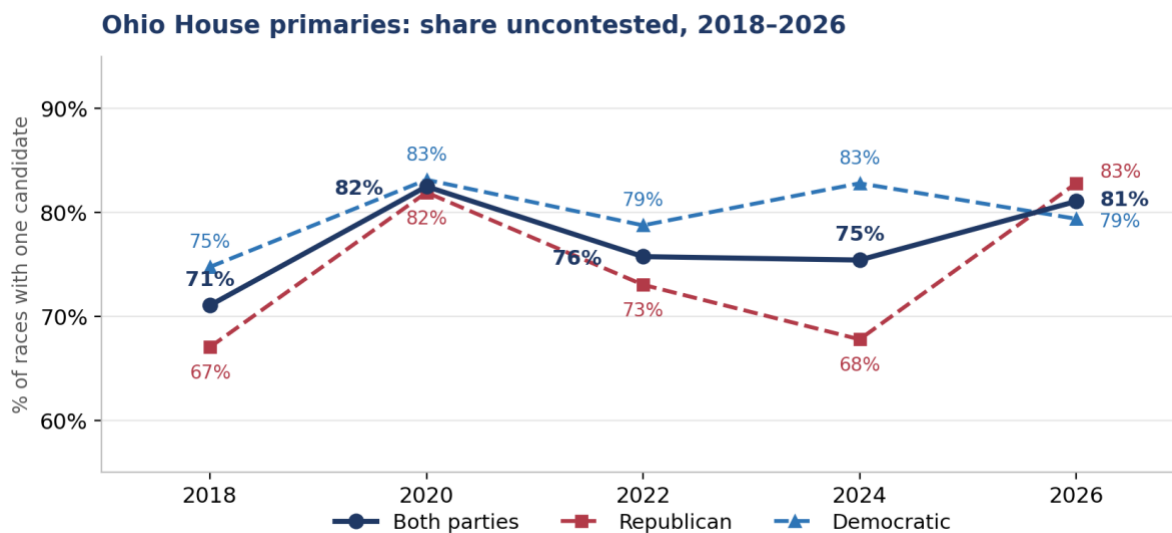


Figure 3. Share of Ohio House primaries with a single candidate, 2018–2026. The House is the only chamber comparable across cycles. The two-party rate has no trend; 2018 was the most competitive cycle, and the movement since is almost entirely on the Republican line while the Democratic line stays comparatively flat.

Ohio House measure (all 99 seats)	2018	2020	2022	2024	2026
Republican uncontested	67%	82%	73%	68%	83%
Democratic uncontested	75%	83%	79%	83%	79%
Both parties uncontested	71%	82%	76%	75%	81%
Seats, no contest either party	51%	70%	63%	59%	65%
Senate, both parties †	68%	72%	79%	81%	82%

Table 6. General Assembly primary competition across five cycles. House rows cover all 99 seats and are directly comparable. † The Senate row is shown for reference only: because the Senate is staggered, a different set of districts (and, after redistricting, different geography) appears each cycle, so these figures are not a like-for-like series and rest on only 16–17 races each.

The Senate, read with those caveats, points the other way. Its combined uncontested rate has drifted *upward* — from 68% in 2018 to 82% in 2026 — and the drift holds even when comparing only same-cycle Senate classes (the 2018, 2022, and 2026 districts; and the 2020 and 2024 districts). On so few

paces this is suggestive rather than conclusive, but unlike the House, the Senate shows a steadier movement toward less competition over the period.

Two contextual points temper any over-reading. The five primaries were not held under identical conditions: 2018 and 2026 were May primaries; 2020 and 2024 were March presidential primaries (2020 disrupted by the onset of the pandemic and conducted largely by mail); and 2022's legislative primary was a standalone August contest, split off from the May ballot amid redistricting litigation, with correspondingly low turnout. Even allowing for those differences, the central pattern is stable: five cycles in, the uncontested rate shows no improvement, the most competitive year on record here still left a majority of races uncontested, and the only sustained drift — in the Senate — runs toward less competition, not more.

What This Means for Voters

The central finding is simple to state and hard to overstate: in the 2026 primaries for the Ohio General Assembly, the absence of choice was not the exception but the rule. **More than 80% of party-primary races, and roughly 72% of the votes cast in them, involved a single candidate.** For most voters, the legislative primary was not a decision; it was a confirmation.

“Getting their way” presupposes that voters were offered a way to choose among. A voter who marks the ballot for the only available candidate has not expressed a preference between competing options; the outcome would have been identical had they stayed home. The vote still counts in the formal sense, but it carries no information about what the electorate wanted, because the electorate was not asked to choose. In that respect, the high uncontested rate documented here represents a large quantity of votes that register participation without registering choice.

Three features make the pattern especially consequential. First, its **scale**: with 75 of 116 districts seeing no contest in either party, the typical Ohio voter's legislative primary offered no choice at all. Second, its **symmetry**: Republicans and Democrats showed nearly identical rates, which points away from any single-party explanation and toward shared structural causes — incumbency advantages, the cost and difficulty of mounting a campaign, ballot-access requirements, and district lines that make many seats safe for one party and therefore unappealing to challengers in the other. Third, its **interaction with the general election**: where a district is safe for one party, that party's primary is the decisive election. An uncontested primary in such a district means the seat is effectively filled without voters being offered a choice at any point. Quantifying how often that combination occurs is the natural next step and would require pairing this primary data with a measure of district partisanship.

The incumbency point is reinforced by an outside tally. According to Ballotpedia, only 11 Ohio state legislative incumbents faced a primary challenger in 2026 — the fewest of any cycle since 2010.⁴ That figure is drawn from a third party rather than computed from the canvass used here (the canvass does

⁴Ballotpedia, “Ohio state legislative elections, 2026” (primary competitiveness). Attributed context, not independently verified against the canvass used in this paper; readers should confirm the current figure at ballotpedia.org before relying on it.

not flag incumbency), and it is reported as attributed context rather than as a finding of this paper; it points in the same direction as the district-level results above.

None of this implies that any individual nominee is unqualified or that an uncontested race is illegitimate. It does suggest that the machinery of choice — the contested primary — is operating in only a small minority of Ohio’s legislative districts, and that a healthier democracy would feature more of it. For an organization devoted to giving Ohio’s voters real and informed influence over their government, these numbers define both the problem and the opportunity: the contest that is supposed to give voters their say is, in four districts out of five, not happening.

Limitations and What This Paper Does Not Claim

- **Primary only.** The analysis covers the 2026 primary ballot. It does not measure general-election competitiveness, margins of victory, or whether seats are “safe” for one party. Statements about the primary being “decisive” in safe districts are offered as context and would require additional data to establish for specific seats.
- **Multiple cycles, varied conditions.** The trend covers five cycles but only the Ohio House, since the staggered Senate puts different districts on the ballot each time. The cycles also differed in kind: 2018 and 2026 were May primaries; 2020 and 2024 were March presidential primaries (2020 pandemic-disrupted and largely by mail); and 2022 was a standalone August legislative primary held amid redistricting litigation. These differences in timing and turnout may affect candidate recruitment and caution against reading too much into any single year-to-year move.
- **Redistricting.** Ohio’s legislative maps changed during the period (the 2010s maps in 2018 and 2020, interim maps in 2022, current maps in 2024 and 2026). Uncontested rates are comparable across these boundaries, but individual districts are not, so the comparison is presented only as aggregate rates.
- **Vote-share not trended.** The share of votes cast in uncontested races is reported for 2026 only. Extending it across cycles would be distorted by the unusually low and atypical turnout of the 2020 and August 2022 primaries, so it is deliberately left out of the trend.
- **Causes not assessed.** The paper documents how much non-competition occurred, not why. Incumbency, district design, ballot-access rules, fundraising, and candidate recruitment are plausible contributors but are not tested here.
- **Minor parties and independents.** Only the Republican and Democratic primary ballots are analyzed, consistent with the source data. Independent and minor-party candidacies, which appear at later stages, are outside this scope.
- **Write-in classification.** Single write-in candidates are counted as uncontested. Treating them otherwise would slightly change individual counts but not the overall picture.
- **Market attribution.** Because districts can cross county and media-market lines, the regional breakdown assigns each race to the single market where most of its votes were cast. A district split across markets is counted once, in its dominant market; markets with very few races yield unreliable rates and are flagged as such.

Future Research

This paper measures competition at the primary stage. Several natural extensions would deepen the picture, and the Research Center intends to pursue them as data allows:

- **Primary versus general-election competition.** Pair these primary results with general-election margins to identify districts where voters faced no meaningful choice at either stage — an uncontested primary followed by a lopsided general election.
- **Incumbent versus open-seat contests.** Separate races involving an incumbent from open-seat races to test how much of the non-competition is attributable to incumbency.
- **Ballot-access and recruitment effects.** Examine whether filing requirements, signature thresholds, and the presence or absence of organized candidate-recruitment efforts help explain where contests do and do not appear.
- **Longer historical baseline.** Extend the House trend back beyond 2018 to place the recent range in fuller historical context.

Sources

All findings in this paper are computed by the Research Center from official Ohio Secretary of State canvass data. Attributed context drawn from third parties is identified as such.

- **Primary data (computed by OCG).** Ohio Secretary of State, official General Assembly primary canvasses for 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, and 2026 (Republican and Democratic ballots), obtained through the Secretary of State's election-results portal (results.ohiosos.gov / data.ohiosos.gov). All race counts, vote totals, and rates in this paper are derived from these files.
- **Certification.** Ohio Secretary of State, certification of the 2026 official primary results, June 3, 2026.
- **Attributed context.** Ballotpedia, Ohio state legislative primary competitiveness (2026), cited once for the count of incumbents facing primary challengers; not otherwise used in the analysis.

Conclusion

Ohio's 2026 legislative primaries put a single name in front of voters far more often than they put a choice. **Eighty-one percent of party-primary races were uncontested, 181 nominees advanced without a same-party primary opponent, and nearly two of every three districts saw no contest in either party.** The uniformity of these numbers across parties and chambers indicates that the absence of competition is built into the structure of Ohio legislative elections rather than the product of any one election's personalities.

If the primary is where voters are meant to have their say, then in most of Ohio that conversation is not taking place — and across five cycles it has shown no sign of opening up. In the House, the one chamber we can track, the uncontested rate has cycled within a high band with no trend toward more competition; even 2018, the most competitive year on record here, still left a majority of races with a single candidate, and the Senate has drifted the other way. Documenting the scale and persistence of

the gap is the first step; the next is to ask what it would take to give Ohio’s voters a real choice — and to begin closing it.

Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	July 6, 2026	Initial publication.

Corrections and subsequent versions, if any, will be recorded here and the superseded version preserved in the OCG Research Library.

Appendix A. How to Read These Numbers

This appendix explains, in plain terms, exactly what the paper’s central figures do and do not mean, so they are not misread or misrepresented.

- **“Uncontested” counts contests, not candidates.** When the paper says 181 of 223 contests were uncontested, it means 181 party-primary races had a single candidate. It does not mean 181 candidates ran statewide, nor that 181 seats are uncontested overall — a seat can have an uncontested primary in one party and a contested one in the other.
- **“Both parties” combines ballots, not voters.** Rates labelled “both parties” or “combined” pool the Republican and Democratic party-primary contests. They are not a share of voters.
- **Votes are candidate votes, summed across races.** The 2,028,727 figure is the sum of candidate votes across all 223 contests, not a count of people. One voter can appear in more than one race (a House and a Senate primary). Turnout — 1,791,152 ballots — is the count of people, reported separately.
- **The seat-level measure is the strictest test.** “No contest in either party” means neither the Republican nor the Democratic primary in that district had two or more candidates. It is the cleanest measure of whether a district’s voters were offered any primary choice at all.
- **The trend is House-only and rate-based.** Cross-cycle comparisons use the Ohio House and compare rates, because the staggered Senate and changed maps make individual districts non-comparable over time.
- **Descriptive, not causal.** Every number here describes what happened. The paper does not claim to explain why races were uncontested, and readers should not infer a cause the data does not establish.

Appendix B. Uncontested Republican Primaries

Each nominee below advanced without a same-party primary opponent. "(WI)" denotes a sole certified write-in candidate. Names are as they appear in the official Secretary of State canvass.

Ohio Senate

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 3	Michele Reynolds (R)	17,678
District 5	Phil Plummer (R)	26,868
District 9	Linda Matthews (WI)* (R)	214
District 11	James Nowak (R)	8,565
District 13	Gayle Manning (R)	20,979
District 15	Joseph Healy (R)	3,841
District 17	Shane Wilkin (R)	24,283
District 21	Mikhail Alterman (R)	3,401
District 23	Robert E. Dintaman (R)	6,008
District 25	Don Roberts (R)	8,142
District 27	Steve Demetriou (R)	21,809
District 29	Jane Timken (R)	26,068
District 31	Al Landis (R)	22,286
District 33	Al Cutrona (R)	22,963

Ohio House

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 1	Joel A. Greff (R)	1,159
District 3	Bernadine Kennedy Kent (WI)* (R)	163
District 5	Richard Cole (WI)* (R)	341
District 6	Matthew Jackson (R)	2,630
District 7	William Mercier (R)	2,931
District 8	Kelly Hunter-Kalagidis (WI)* (R)	415
District 9	Bruce Euans (R)	2,317
District 10	Denise D'Angelo (R)	4,778
District 11	Shawn Kaeser (R)	5,238
District 13	Billy Fronimo (R)	1,368
District 14	David J. Morgan (WI)* (R)	390
District 15	Daniel Conway (R)	4,084
District 16	Sophia Tjotjos (R)	4,087
District 17	Mike Dovilla (R)	7,333

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 18	Maureen Lynn (R)	768
District 19	Ed Hargate (R)	4,276
District 20	Donna Walker-Brown (R)	390
District 21	Tina Barhams (WI)* (R)	178
District 23	Julie A. Belich (R)	7,581
District 26	Tom Brinkman (R)	2,902
District 27	Elizabeth Rod Maier (R)	6,023
District 28	Jill Cole (R)	5,385
District 29	Cindy Abrams (R)	6,650
District 30	Mike Odioso (R)	7,707
District 32	Jack K. Daniels (R)	5,575
District 33	Napoleon Rodgers Jr (R)	1,895
District 34	Craig A. Shubert (R)	6,176
District 35	Vik Sandhu (R)	8,143
District 36	Andrea White (R)	6,191
District 37	Tom Young (R)	6,334
District 39	Mark Campbell (R)	5,248
District 41	Ian Chamberlin (R)	3,696
District 42	Robert McMahon (WI)* (R)	100
District 45	Jennifer Gross (R)	9,838
District 46	Thomas Hall (R)	7,442
District 47	Diane Mullins (R)	7,459
District 49	Jim Thomas (R)	5,864
District 50	Matthew Kishman (R)	8,626
District 51	Jodi Salvo (R)	8,078
District 52	Nathan H. Manning (R)	6,302
District 53	Bradley Lacko (R)	5,442
District 54	Kellie Deeter (R)	9,041
District 55	C. Michelle Teska (R)	11,423
District 56	Adam Mathews (R)	8,351
District 57	Jesse Styles (R)	9,845
District 58	Heather Fronk (R)	4,554
District 59	Tex Fischer (R)	8,570
District 63	Adam C. Bird (R)	11,197
District 64	Nick Santucci (R)	6,385

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 65	David Thomas (R)	8,949
District 67	Melanie Miller (R)	9,569
District 68	Thad Claggett (R)	8,720
District 69	Kevin D. Miller (R)	10,267
District 71	Levi Dean (R)	10,400
District 72	Heidi Workman (R)	7,206
District 73	Jeff LaRe (R)	9,932
District 74	Bernard Willis (R)	7,335
District 75	Haraz N. Ghanbari (R)	6,620
District 76	Marilyn S. John (R)	12,819
District 77	Meredith Craig (R)	7,997
District 78	Matt Huffman (R)	8,976
District 79	Monica Robb Blasdel (R)	8,952
District 80	Johnathan Newman (R)	10,844
District 82	Roy W. Klopfenstein (R)	14,258
District 83	Ty Mathews (R)	11,959
District 84	Angie King (R)	10,579
District 85	Tim Barhorst (R)	11,235
District 87	Jeffrey A. McClain (R)	10,686
District 89	DJ Swearingen (R)	8,272
District 90	Justin Pizzulli (R)	10,033
District 91	Bob Peterson (R)	8,839
District 92	Mark Johnson (R)	7,098
District 94	Kevin Ritter (R)	10,122
District 95	Ty Moore (R)	7,564
District 97	Adam P. Holmes (R)	6,399
District 98	Mark Hiner (R)	9,388
District 99	Sarah Fowler Arthur (R)	10,657

Appendix C. Uncontested Democratic Primaries

Each nominee below advanced without a same-party primary opponent. "(WI)" denotes a sole certified write-in candidate. Names are as they appear in the official Secretary of State canvass.

Ohio Senate

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 5	Jeffrey Harris (WI)* (D)	584
District 7	Cara Jacob (D)	19,095
District 9	Catherine Ingram (D)	29,593
District 11	Paula Hicks-Hudson (D)	20,711
District 13	Joe Miller (D)	24,808
District 15	Latyna M. Humphrey (D)	28,462
District 17	Brian A. Deer (D)	9,436
District 19	Janet Wagner (D)	17,874
District 23	Bride Rose Sweeney (D)	29,023
District 27	Mike Roberto (D)	27,632
District 29	Thomas West (D)	22,087
District 31	Laura Sirot (D)	11,777
District 33	Michael L. Kripchak (D)	20,087

Ohio House

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 3	Ismail Mohamed (D)	8,551
District 4	Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (D)	10,963
District 5	Meredith Lawson-Rowe (D)	7,819
District 6	Christine Cockley (D)	6,091
District 8	Anita Somani (D)	10,525
District 9	Munira Yasin Abdullahi (D)	7,523
District 10	Mark Sigrist (D)	7,695
District 11	Crystal Lett (D)	9,895
District 12	Liam N. Strausbaugh (D)	3,975
District 13	Tristan W. Rader (D)	10,781
District 14	Sean Patrick Brennan (D)	8,510
District 15	Chris Glassburn (D)	8,270
District 16	Scott DiMauro (D)	11,309
District 17	Megan Coy (D)	9,627
District 21	Eric Synenberg (D)	12,546

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 22	Darnell T. Brewer (D)	9,598
District 23	Daniel P. Troy (D)	9,043
District 24	Dani Isaacsohn (D)	6,545
District 25	Cecil Thomas (D)	10,646
District 26	Ashley Bryant Bailey (D)	12,528
District 27	Rachel Baker (D)	10,718
District 28	Karen Brownlee (D)	9,933
District 29	Jonathan R Bradner (D)	6,553
District 30	Caleb Price (D)	4,506
District 31	J. Noah Spinner (D)	9,291
District 32	Djordjije Popovic (WI)* (D)	575
District 33	Veronica Sims (D)	9,714
District 34	Derrick Hall (D)	9,871
District 36	Rose Lounsbury (D)	8,309
District 38	Desiree Tims (D)	8,074
District 40	Timothy B. Hornbacker (WI)* (D)	289
District 41	Erika White (WI)* (D)	1,910
District 42	Elgin Rogers Jr. (D)	5,277
District 43	Michele Grim (D)	6,588
District 44	David J Fournier (D)	8,698
District 45	Jayson Ameer Rasheed (D)	5,695
District 46	Benjamin McCall (D)	4,227
District 47	Jordan Haire (D)	4,750
District 48	Nick Morris (D)	7,670
District 50	Rylan Z. Finzer (D)	6,378
District 54	Brenda Buchanan (D)	6,459
District 55	Paul Michael Kurtz (D)	4,328
District 56	Laalitya Acharya (D)	4,837
District 57	Rick Walker (D)	6,618
District 59	Wayne Penny Jr (D)	7,284
District 61	Vince McGrail (D)	7,047
District 62	Ian Schwartz (D)	5,073
District 63	Debbie Davidson (D)	3,269
District 65	Lorna J. Westlake (D)	6,805
District 66	Chris Nardo (D)	7,048

District	Unopposed nominee	Votes
District 67	Heather L. Sample (D)	4,877
District 68	Mason Blankenship (D)	6,280
District 69	Amy Rigsby (D)	3,792
District 70	Kim McCarthy (D)	6,142
District 71	Krista Magaw (D)	4,668
District 72	Jeff Clapper (D)	7,798
District 74	Darrell E Jackson (D)	4,942
District 75	Jake Kielemeyer (D)	5,851
District 76	Colton Stidam (D)	5,133
District 77	Brooke Dillon (D)	4,258
District 78	Jeffrey R. Givan (D)	3,005
District 79	Bob Guy (D)	3,785
District 81	David Swanson (D)	3,568
District 82	Maddux McCray (WI)* (D)	269
District 83	Sheila Coressel (D)	3,295
District 84	Arienne C. Childrey (D)	2,185
District 86	Kent Halloran (D)	4,274
District 87	Lora Covrett (WI)* (D)	186
District 88	Aaron W. Jones (D)	4,918
District 89	Easton Michael Retzke (D)	6,272
District 90	Collin Docterman (D)	3,237
District 91	Amy Wright (D)	2,617
District 92	Sarah Senff (WI)* (D)	396
District 93	Jessica Harper (D)	2,903
District 94	Wenda Sheard (D)	5,255
District 96	Charrie L. Foglio (D)	4,367
District 98	Scott Grund (D)	3,107