

# Know Before You Go: OH-01 District Primer

*June 2018 • Researched, summarized, and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team!*

**In the last election, Republican Steve Chabot won this district with 59% of the vote.** With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

## About the Incumbent

**Introduction:** **Republican Steve Chabot** has represented Ohio's First Congressional District from 1994 – 2008 and again from 2010 to the present. According to the National Journal, Chabot had the most conservative voting record of anyone during the last Congressional term.

**Issues:** Chabot identifies "revitalizing the economy" by lowering taxes and reducing government spending as a key priority. Additionally, he is a long-time proponent of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Chabot voted to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. He advocates for energy independence stating that all options including wind, solar, bio, nuclear and drilling need to be considered. Chabot supports the protection of Social Security. He is against privatization and against using Social Security funds for any purpose other than Social Security.

**Strengths:** Steve Chabot has deep roots in the district he has represented for 20 years. He has been consistently re-elected on a conservative agenda that focuses on cutting regulations and spending and lowering taxes which has clearly resonated with voters in the business-oriented district. Chabot has been highly critical of the rising price of health insurance and has authored legislation for health insurance to be completely tax deductible. This might be popular in this district.

**Potential Weaknesses:** Although Chabot won in 2016 by 18 points, Trump won the district by only 6 points. While many Republicans in this district refused to vote for Trump, Chabot's voting record shows that he voted with Trump 94.8% of the time. Additionally, although Chabot says he is a proponent of fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets, he voted for the Republican overhaul of the tax code that is projected to add \$1.9 trillion to the federal deficit. His vote to repeal the ACA put 48,675 of his constituents at risk of losing their health insurance.

## About the Challenger

**Introduction:** **Democrat Aftab Pureval** is currently Clerk of Courts in Ohio's Hamilton County. Elected in 2016, he is the first Democrat elected to this position in 100 years. A first-generation American, Pureval was born in Beavercreek, OH, graduated from Ohio State University, and earned his law degree from University of Cincinnati.

**Issues:** Pureval is an outspoken defender of women and families. His campaign is focused on protecting affordable access to healthcare and supporting working families by enacting paid family leave, raising the minimum wage, and supporting the Pay Equity Fairness Act. He is endorsed by former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and has promised to work toward ending gun violence and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. Since taking office in 2017, Pureval has expanded citizen services; modernized the office technology; introduced a \$16-an-hour minimum wage, paid family leave, and comprehensive sexual harassment and LGBTQ protections, had an \$800,000 budget surplus according to the Cincinnati Business Courier.

**Strengths:** He ran unopposed in the Democratic primary and fundraising for his campaign totaled more in the first two months than any previous Democratic challenger has raised against Chabot in a single quarter, with 80% coming from individual voters in and around the district.



## OH-01: Better Know the District

### Geography

OH-01 covers the west side of Cincinnati. It includes Hamilton County, which borders on Kentucky and Indiana, and Warren County, which is farther north of the city.

### Citizenry

OH-1 has approximately 740,000 people living in the district. The majority (92.5%) live in urban areas while 7.5% live in rural parts of the district. Approximately 70% of the population is white, 22% is black; 4% is Asian; 3% is Hispanic or Latino and less than 1% is Native American. The median income in is \$55,712. Unemployment in the district is around 3.5%. More than 90% of the adult population of OH-1 has a high school diploma or higher. More than 33% have a bachelor's degree or higher.

## OH-01: Facts & Stats

### Population Centers

- Cincinnati, 301,301 (partial)
- Mason, 30,700

### 2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 45%
- Trump: 51%

### 2016 House Results

- Young (D): 139K (40%)
- Chabot (R): 205K (60%)

### 2014 House Results

- Kundrata (D): 71K (36%)
- Chabot (R): 123K (64%)

### Elections

In 2003, OH-01 included the westside of Cincinnati, Hamilton and Butler counties. Then in 2011, it was redistricted to include the deeply-Republican Warren County. Warren County has supported the Republican candidate in every presidential election save one since its founding in 1856 (the exception being Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964) and at the local level, the county has been so extremely Republican since the 1990s that no Democrats even file for most offices.

Hamilton county is typically Republican at a national level, but has begun to lean Democratic in recent years. The county voted for Obama again in 2012 and for Hillary Clinton in 2016. In 2012 *Time* Magazine characterized Hamilton County's political scene as "a battle between conservative suburbs and a Democratic urban center, though Cincinnati is one of the most conservative metro areas in the Midwest."

### Higher Education

OH-01 is home to two public institutions of higher learning, University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. University of Cincinnati has 44,000 graduate and undergraduate students across multiple campuses. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College is a two year public community college with 11,167 students. Additionally, there are eight private four year colleges in the district and three private two year colleges.

### Industries

OH-01 is home to a diverse number of industries. The largest employers are in educational services, health care and social assistance followed by manufacturing, professional, scientific, management and administrative services and retail trade. The largest employer in the district is the Kroger Company with over 20,000 employees followed by University of Cincinnati with over 15,000 employees. The district is the corporate headquarters of a numerous U.S. companies including Kroger, Proctor & Gamble, and Cintas. It is also corporate home to a number of multinationals including Fujitech, Mitsubishi Automotive America, and Luxottica Retail.