**MEMORANDUM**

To: Ohio Aviation Association

From: Danny Hurley, Capitol Consulting Group

Date: May 30th, 2018

Subject: Ohio Governor’s Race Overview

Last month, the Ohio Aviation Association sent major party candidates for Ohio Governor a brief survey to gauge their positions on aviation funding and policy issues. Our goal was to provide our members with information regarding the aviation policy platforms for Gubernatorial candidates. On May 8th, Ohio voters went to the polls to select candidates for office in the Primary. Former Ohio Attorney General and Consumer Finance Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray won the Democratic nomination while current Ohio Attorney General and former United States Senator Mike DeWine won the Republican nomination. Both candidates responded to OAA’s survey—this memo provides basic background info on the leading candidates for Governor in Ohio.

**Mike DeWine—Republican Candidate for Governor**

DeWine was elected to the office of Ohio Attorney General in 2010; prior to that he served two terms in the United States Senate and has held numerous other offices including member of Congress and Ohio Lieutenant Governor. DeWine lives on a family farm outside of Xenia, Ohio.

DeWine announced his campaign for Governor last year and immediately stepped into a four-way primary between Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor, and Ohio Congressman Jim Renacci. Husted suspended his candidacy and joined DeWine’s campaign as his running mate while Renacci ended his bid for Governor and is instead running for US Senate against Incumbent Democrat Sherrod Brown. In the May Primary, DeWine defeated Taylor 59.8% - 40.2%.

Campaign Bio: <https://www.mikedewine.com/about/>

**Richard Cordray—Democratic Candidate for Governor**

Cordray is an attorney who has held a handful of prominent elected offices in Ohio. He has been a State Representative, Ohio Treasurer, and Ohio Attorney General. He was appointed by President Barrack Obama as the inaugural director of the Federal Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, which was created under the Dodd-Frank Financial Regulatory Reform Act. Cordray resides in Franklin County with his family.

Cordray was the last Democrat to announce his campaign; amazingly, the Democratic field was even more crowded than the Republican field with seven announced candidates at one point. Former Congresswoman Betty Sutton, who previously announced her own gubernatorial bid, joined Cordray’s ticket. Ultimately, the Democratic contest turned out to be a four-way primary with Cordray winning 62.3% of the vote; the closest challenger was former Congressman Dennis Kucinich, who got 22.9%.

Campaign Bio: <https://cordrayforohio.com/meet-rich/>

**2018 Governor’s Race**

This isn’t the first time DeWine and Cordray have faced off—Cordray was the incumbent Attorney General in 2010 when DeWine challenged him. In that race, DeWine won by a narrow margin; the vote was DeWine 47.5% and Cordray 46.3%. For the Governor’s race, no post-primary polling data is available, though polls conducted before May 8th gave DeWine a modest lead over Cordray in a General Election matchup.

Republicans control all statewide offices except one of Ohio’s two Untied States Senate seats; they also control both chambers of the Ohio General Assembly. The Gubernatorial campaign is the most import race in Ohio this election cycle, and both parties will allocate significant resources to win the Governor’s mansion. Whoever is elected with have significant influence of the state budget, which provides vital funding for airports.