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**OHIO GOV CAN'T BREAK FREE OF UNKNOWN CHALLENGER,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS DIVIDED ON DEATH PENALTY**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich has a 51 – 36 percent job approval rating, virtually unchanged in the last 12 months, and a slim 43 – 38 percent lead over Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, his largely unknown possible Democratic challenger, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 44 – 37 percent lead for Gov. Kasich in a November 26 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Today, Kasich leads 82 – 6 percent among Republicans and 43 – 31 percent among independent voters, while Democrats go to FitzGerald 74 – 11 percent. Men back the Republican 49 – 33 percent while women back the Democrat 42 – 37 percent.

Ohio voters say 61 – 31 percent that Kasich is a strong leader and say 52 – 35 percent that he is honest and trustworthy, but are divided on whether he cares about their needs and problems, as 43 percent say he cares and 47 percent say he doesn't care.

The governor gets a 42 – 30 percent favorability rating and voters say 46 – 42 percent he deserves to be reelected.

For FitzGerald, 70 percent don't know enough to form an opinion.

"The race to become Ohio's next governor is a five-point game, little changed from the seven-point spread in Quinnipiac University's last survey in November. Also unchanged, however, is how relatively few Ohioans – less than three in ten – know enough about Democratic favorite Ed Fitzgerald to have an opinion about him," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "That is a double-edged sword for the challenger: It indicates he has not made much headway in the past three months, but it provides him an opportunity to make up ground among the vast number of voters who are unfamiliar with him."

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“Voters see Gov. John Kasich in a more favorable light when it comes to his personal characteristics than his handling of issues,” said Brown. “They give him high grades on leadership and positive ratings on trustworthiness and good judgment, though not so much on understanding the problems of average folks. He gets basically even scores on handling the budget, taxes and jobs, the latter of which is cited by voters as the top priority.”

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, a total of 42 percent of Ohio voters list the economy or jobs as the top priority for state government in 2014. Another 14 percent list education or education funding, followed by 5 percent who cite health care.

Ohio voters give Kasich a mixed grade for his handling of the economy and jobs as 44 percent approve and 46 percent disapprove. His approval ratings on other issues are:

- 44 – 40 percent approve of his handling of taxes;
- 44 percent approve of his handling of the state budget, while 42 percent disapprove;
- 42 percent disapprove of his handling of health care, while 36 percent approve;

Death Penalty

Ohio voters favor the death penalty 68 – 26 percent, but when asked whether they favor the death penalty or life in prison with no chance of parole:

- 47 percent favor the death penalty;
- 36 percent favor life in prison with no chance of parole;
- 12 percent favor life in prison with a chance of parole.

There is a total of 48 percent support for the two life options. Among men, 51 percent support the death penalty, with 30 percent for life without parole and 13 percent for life with parole. Among women, 43 percent support the death penalty, with 42 percent for life without parole, and 10 percent for life with parole.

“The life without parole option provides another perspective on the death penalty debate, with significant partisan, gender and age divisions,” Brown said.

From February 12 – 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,370 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ed FitzGerald the Democrat and John Kasich the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
FitzGerald	38%	6%	74%	31%	33%	42%	30%	38%	44%	36%
Kasich	43	82	11	43	49	37	35	45	40	48
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	2	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	3	2	2	4	2	2	1
DK/NA	16	11	14	21	14	18	31	13	13	14

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ed FitzGerald the Democrat and John Kasich the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013
FitzGerald	38	37	33	37	35
Kasich	43	44	47	46	45
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	4	4	2	2
DK/NA	16	15	15	15	17

2. Is your opinion of John Kasich favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	42%	70%	19%	41%	49%	36%	24%	43%	44%	52%
Unfavorable	30	7	47	32	26	33	24	30	35	27
Hvn't hrd enough	24	18	28	23	22	26	49	22	17	16
REFUSED	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	5	5	5

TREND: Is your opinion of John Kasich favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	FAVORABLE.....	
						High Feb 28 2013	Low Dec 10 2008
Favorable	42	41	47	46	48	48	18
Unfavorable	30	30	28	29	32	32	8
Hvn't hrd enough	24	27	22	24	17	17	73
REFUSED	4	3	3	1	3	3	1

3. Is your opinion of Ed FitzGerald favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	18%	6%	32%	14%	17%	18%	13%	17%	19%	19%
Unfavorable	11	17	2	14	14	8	11	10	11	12
Hvn't hrd enough	70	74	66	71	69	71	74	72	70	67
REFUSED	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Ed FitzGerald favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	Dec 11 2012
Favorable	18	17	15	14	13	10
Unfavorable	11	11	9	8	5	5
Hvn't hrd enough	70	71	76	76	80	84
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	51%	76%	32%	50%	57%	46%	44%	53%	48%	57%
Disapprove	36	12	53	39	33	38	32	34	42	31
DK/NA	13	13	16	11	10	16	24	13	9	11

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling his job as Governor? (*Low also 30% Jan 2011)

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High Jun 25 2013	Low Mar 23 2011*
Approve	51	52	54	52	53	54	30
Disapprove	36	33	32	34	32	32	46
DK/NA	13	15	13	15	14	13	23

21. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	38%	53%	21%	41%	44%	33%	38%	41%	35%	37%
Disapprove	43	24	60	42	43	42	37	43	47	40
DK/NA	19	22	19	16	13	25	25	16	17	23

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 19 2013	Feb 28 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High Dec 10 2008	Low Dec 12 2006
Approve	38	41	41	41	39	46	25
Disapprove	43	42	41	41	42	35	55
DK/NA	19	18	18	17	19	19	20

25. Do you feel that John Kasich deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes/Deserves	46%	72%	24%	46%	52%	40%	44%	46%	43%	51%
No/Does not	42	16	64	43	39	44	40	42	47	37
DK/NA	13	12	12	11	8	16	16	12	11	12

TREND: Do you feel that John Kasich deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	Dec 11 2012
Yes/Deserves	46	48	49	46	46	36
No/Does not	42	39	37	37	36	43
DK/NA	13	13	14	17	18	21

26. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Ohio today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	7%	13%	3%	6%	8%	6%	5%	5%	5%	11%
Smwht satisfied	49	60	43	43	48	50	51	52	45	49
Smwht dissatisfied	28	18	36	31	28	29	27	27	31	26
Very dissatisfied	16	8	18	19	16	16	17	16	18	14
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Ohio today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied? (*Low also 29% Mar 2011)

	Feb 19 2014	Dec 11 2012	May 09 2012	Feb 14 2012	Jan 19 2012	VERY+SMWHT SAT	
						High Dec 11 2012	Low Oct 25 2011*
Very satisfied	7	6	4	3	4	6	3
Smwht satisfied	49	52	47	40	37	52	26
Smwht dissatisfied	28	27	31	36	36	27	34
Very dissatisfied	16	14	17	20	22	14	37
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

27. What do you think should be the top priority for Governor Kasich and the State Legislature in 2014?

	Tot
Economy (General)	7%
Jobs/Unemployment	34
Economy (Other)	1
Wages/Minimum Wage	2
Budget (General)	3
Government spending	1
Taxes (General)	2
Taxes (Other)	1
Education (General)	10
Funding/Spending education	2
Education (Other)	2
Unions (General)	1
Healthcare	5
Women's Issues	1
Social Issues/Soc Services	2
Poverty/Homelessness	1
Elderly Issues	1
Gay marriage/Gay Issues	1
Marijuana	1
Roads/Infrastructure	1
Environment	1
Fuel Costs/Gas prices	1
Caring about people	1
Other	6
DK/NA	12

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling - taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	61%	25%	49%	52%	37%	41%	42%	45%	49%
Disapprove	40	25	57	38	40	41	40	43	41	36
DK/NA	15	14	18	13	8	22	18	15	14	16

29. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling - the economy and jobs?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	69%	21%	45%	49%	40%	44%	40%	43%	51%
Disapprove	46	23	68	46	45	47	42	47	50	42
DK/NA	10	8	11	9	6	13	14	13	7	7

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling the economy and jobs? (* handling the economy)

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013*	Jun 25 2013*	Apr 18 2013*
Approve	44	50	52	49
Disapprove	46	39	37	41
DK/NA	10	12	11	10

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling - the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	63%	23%	47%	52%	36%	34%	43%	45%	50%
Disapprove	42	21	61	41	39	44	52	42	43	33
DK/NA	15	16	17	12	10	20	14	16	12	18

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling the state budget?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Feb 28 2013	Dec 11 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Jun 25 2013	Low Mar 23 2011
Approve	44	44	46	45	40	46	31
Disapprove	42	40	38	39	40	38	51
DK/NA	15	16	16	15	21	16	18

31. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling - health care?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	36%	43%	35%	33%	43%	30%	33%	33%	39%	39%
Disapprove	42	28	48	47	40	45	46	45	41	39
DK/NA	22	28	17	20	17	26	21	22	20	22

33. Would you say that John Kasich - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	61%	78%	45%	61%	63%	59%	63%	56%	62%	65%
No	31	14	45	31	31	30	25	34	33	26
DK/NA	8	8	9	9	5	11	12	9	6	8

TREND: Would you say that John Kasich has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Feb 19 2014	May 09 2012
Yes	61	54
No	31	36
DK/NA	8	10

34. Would you say that John Kasich - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	52%	72%	37%	49%	57%	48%	39%	48%	52%	66%
No	35	16	48	41	34	36	44	40	35	21
DK/NA	13	12	15	10	10	16	17	12	13	13

TREND: Would you say that John Kasich is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013
Yes	52	53
No	35	33
DK/NA	13	14

35. Would you say that John Kasich - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	43%	65%	26%	43%	46%	41%	38%	42%	42%	50%
No	47	24	65	50	46	48	50	48	51	39
DK/NA	9	12	9	7	8	11	12	10	7	11

TREND: Would you say that John Kasich cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Feb 19 2014	May 09 2012
Yes	43	40
No	47	50
DK/NA	9	10

36. Would you say that John Kasich - has good judgment or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	49%	73%	30%	48%	55%	43%	40%	48%	48%	59%
No	38	16	55	40	37	38	38	40	43	28
DK/NA	13	11	15	12	7	18	22	12	8	13

37. Do you think John Kasich is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Liberal	13%	12%	14%	12%	15%	11%	15%	15%	12%	10%
Conservative	29	8	47	29	26	31	25	29	32	26
About right	45	70	26	44	50	41	43	42	45	51
DK/NA	13	11	13	14	9	17	18	14	11	13

TREND: Do you think John Kasich is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013
Liberal	13	10	10	10
Conservative	29	27	26	26
About right	45	47	48	47
DK/NA	13	17	16	16

40. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Favor	68%	80%	55%	72%	75%	62%	65%	71%	68%	67%
Oppose	26	15	38	24	22	28	29	24	26	23
DK/NA	6	5	8	5	3	10	6	5	6	10

41. Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder; the death penalty, life in prison with no chance of parole, or life in prison with a chance of parole?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Death penalty	47%	56%	34%	52%	51%	43%	38%	52%	50%	42%
Life/No parole	36	31	44	33	30	42	39	34	34	39
Life/Chance parole	12	8	17	10	13	10	19	11	8	13
DK/NA	5	5	5	5	6	5	4	3	7	7