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**OHIO GOV ROARS PAST LITTLE KNOWN CHALLENGER,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
SUPPORT FOR LIFE OPTIONS OUTWEIGHS DEATH PENALTY**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is at or over the critical 50 percentage point mark on a number of measures, including his 50 – 35 percent lead over Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, his Democratic challenger, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 43 – 38 percent Kasich lead in a February 19 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Voters approve 56 – 33 percent of the job Gov. Kasich is doing, his best score since he was elected in 2010, and say 53 – 37 percent that he deserves to be reelected.

Kasich leads FitzGerald 56 – 30 percent among men and 45 – 40 percent among women. He leads 92 – 2 percent among Republicans and 49 – 32 percent among independent voters, while Democrats back FitzGerald 77 – 12 percent.

By a 47 – 29 percent margin, Ohio voters have a favorable opinion of Kasich, while 63 percent of voters don't know enough about FitzGerald to form an opinion of him.

“Ohio Gov. John Kasich has opened up a 15-point lead in his re-election race as voters give him sterling grades for his job performance, especially on the economy,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “He gets plus-50 percent approval ratings from voters on his handling of the economy and the state budget. These numbers are crucial because the economy and jobs are the most important issues in the minds of voters.

“Democratic County Executive Ed FitzGerald remains unknown to many voters. Democratic optimists will argue that with six months until Election Day, FitzGerald has a golden opportunity to reach all those voters. He's going to have to spend a lot of money on that introduction while the better-funded Kasich will introduce FitzGerald to those same voters in a much less flattering way.”

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In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, 37 percent of Ohio voters list the economy or jobs as the most important issue in this year's governor's race. Another 9 percent list education or education funding, with 6 percent citing the budget and government spending and 6 percent pointing to taxes.

Ohio voters approve 53 – 38 percent of the way Kasich is handling the economy and jobs and give him positive or split grades on handling other issues:

- 48 – 38 percent on taxes;
- 51 – 35 percent on the state budget;
- 42 – 38 percent on health care;
- 29 – 29 percent on abortion.

The state economy got better in the last four years, 50 percent of voters say, while 18 percent say it got worse and 30 percent say the economy is “about the same.”

Looking at Kasich's qualities, voters say 67 – 23 percent that he has strong leadership qualities; 54 – 31 percent that he is honest and trustworthy; 53 – 39 percent that he cares about their needs and problems, and 57 – 30 that he has good judgment.

“Voters think Gov. Kasich deserves another term and two-thirds consider him a strong leader. A small majority says he cares about their needs, a measure on which Republicans, even successful ones, often don't do that well. And perhaps most important for Kasich's re-election, 60 percent of voters are satisfied with the way things are going in the state,” Brown said.

Death Penalty

Ohio voters favor the death penalty, 69 – 25 percent, for persons convicted of murder.

But when offered a choice, 43 percent of voters favor the death penalty and 40 percent favor life in prison with no chance of parole, while 9 percent favor life in prison with a chance of parole, a total of 49 percent for the two life options.

“Ohioans overwhelmingly support capital punishment, but the option of life in prison without parole tips the balance against the death penalty,” said Brown.

From May 7 – 12, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,174 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 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	35%	2%	77%	32%	30%	40%	27%	31%	47%	35%
Kasich	50	92	12	49	56	45	48	52	45	55
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	-	3	3	1	6	2	-	-
DK/NA	11	4	10	15	9	13	17	13	7	9

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?

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013
FitzGerald	35	38	37	33	37	35
Kasich	50	43	44	47	46	45
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	2	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	4	4	2	2
DK/NA	11	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	47%	78%	18%	47%	51%	43%	33%	44%	46%	60%
Unfavorable	29	6	54	27	30	29	19	30	38	24
Hvn't hrd enough	21	14	25	23	17	24	46	20	14	13
REFUSED	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	6	2	2

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	FAVORABLE.....	
						High Feb 28 2013	Low Dec 10 2008
Favorable	47	42	41	47	46	48	18
Unfavorable	29	30	30	28	29	32	8
Hvn't hrd enough	21	24	27	22	24	17	73
REFUSED	3	4	3	3	1	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	20%	4%	43%	15%	18%	22%	13%	18%	25%	21%
Unfavorable	15	26	3	15	21	10	12	18	13	15
Hvn't hrd enough	63	68	52	68	59	67	73	63	59	62
REFUSED	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	2

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	Dec 11 2012
Favorable	20	18	17	15	14	13	10
Unfavorable	15	11	11	9	8	5	5
Hvn't hrd enough	63	70	71	76	76	80	84
REFUSED	2	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	56%	86%	28%	57%	59%	53%	52%	57%	49%	64%
Disapprove	33	8	58	31	32	33	28	32	42	26
DK/NA	11	6	14	12	9	14	20	11	9	10

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High May 14 2014	Low Mar 23 2011*
Approve	56	51	52	54	52	56	30
Disapprove	33	36	33	32	34	33	46
DK/NA	11	13	15	13	15	11	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	42%	66%	23%	39%	43%	40%	47%	44%	38%	38%
Disapprove	41	17	65	39	41	40	28	42	50	36
DK/NA	18	18	12	22	15	20	24	14	13	26

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 19 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High Dec 10 2008	Low Dec 12 2006
Approve	42	38	41	41	41	46	25
Disapprove	41	43	42	41	41	35	55
DK/NA	18	19	18	18	17	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	53%	85%	23%	55%	57%	50%	51%	53%	49%	59%
No/Does not	37	10	64	36	35	39	32	38	43	32
DK/NA	10	5	12	9	9	11	17	9	8	9

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Feb 28 2013	Dec 11 2012
Yes/Deserves	53	46	48	49	46	46	36
No/Does not	37	42	39	37	37	36	43
DK/NA	10	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	8%	16%	3%	7%	10%	7%	10%	5%	10%	11%
Smwht satisfied	52	67	38	52	54	51	49	56	48	52
Smwht dissatisfied	28	12	41	28	25	30	31	27	30	24
Very dissatisfied	11	5	17	11	10	12	9	11	13	11
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	2

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)

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Dec 11 2012	May 09 2012	Feb 14 2012	VERY+SMWHT SAT	
						High	Low
						May 14 2014	Oct 25 2011*
Very satisfied	8	7	6	4	3	8	3
Smwht satisfied	52	49	52	47	40	52	26
Smwht dissatisfied	28	28	27	31	36	28	34
Very dissatisfied	11	16	14	17	20	11	37
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

27. What is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for Governor this year?

	Tot
Economy (General)	10%
Jobs/Unemployment	26
Economy (Other Specific)	1
Budget (General)	5
Government spending	1
Taxes (General)	5
Taxes (Other Specific)	1
Education (General)	7
Funding/Spending education	1
Education (Other Specific)	1
Unions (General)	2
Gun Issues/Policy/Control	1
Healthcare	4
Abortion	1
Women's Issues	1
Social Issues	1
Social Services (General)	1
Elderly Issues	1
Gay marriage/Gay Issues	1
Marijuana	1
Environment	1
Gas/Oil/Energy Issues	1
Party/Political Philosophy	2
Voting/Election issues	1
Honesty/Trustworthiness	2
Caring about people	1
Candidate experience	1
Other	8
DK/NA	11

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	48%	70%	25%	51%	53%	43%	45%	49%	46%	48%
Disapprove	38	19	58	37	37	39	35	37	43	36
DK/NA	14	11	17	13	10	18	19	14	11	16

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014
Approve	48	44
Disapprove	38	40
DK/NA	14	15

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	53%	79%	28%	55%	60%	47%	45%	55%	52%	59%
Disapprove	38	15	63	38	35	42	42	38	43	32
DK/NA	8	6	9	7	5	11	13	7	6	9

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013*	Jun 25 2013*	Apr 18 2013*
Approve	53	44	50	52	49
Disapprove	38	46	39	37	41
DK/NA	8	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	51%	77%	25%	54%	57%	44%	46%	49%	51%	53%
Disapprove	35	11	63	32	32	38	34	38	40	27
DK/NA	14	13	13	14	11	17	20	12	9	20

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Feb 28 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						May 14 2014	Mar 23 2011
Approve	51	44	44	46	45	51	31
Disapprove	35	42	40	38	39	35	51
DK/NA	14	15	16	16	15	14	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	42%	55%	34%	43%	44%	40%	42%	40%	40%	49%
Disapprove	38	24	51	37	37	39	38	41	43	28
DK/NA	20	22	15	20	19	21	20	19	16	24

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling health care?

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014
Approve	42	36
Disapprove	38	42
DK/NA	20	22

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling - the issue of abortion?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	29%	48%	12%	28%	32%	26%	31%	29%	27%	28%
Disapprove	29	7	53	29	26	32	27	32	34	23
DK/NA	42	46	35	43	42	43	42	39	39	49

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Kasich is handling the issue of abortion?

	May 14 2014	Feb 24 2014
Approve	29	26
Disapprove	29	34
DK/NA	42	40

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	67%	87%	53%	65%	69%	65%	64%	67%	65%	69%
No	23	6	38	24	23	24	17	25	28	22
DK/NA	10	7	9	11	8	11	19	8	7	10

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	May 09 2012
Yes	67	61	54
No	23	31	36
DK/NA	10	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	54%	80%	34%	54%	57%	52%	42%	50%	54%	68%
No	31	10	48	33	32	30	37	35	34	19
DK/NA	15	11	18	12	11	18	20	15	12	13

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013
Yes	54	52	53
No	31	35	33
DK/NA	15	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	53%	83%	28%	52%	56%	50%	53%	53%	48%	57%
No	39	11	65	39	37	41	32	42	44	34
DK/NA	8	6	7	9	8	9	15	4	8	10

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	May 09 2012
Yes	53	43	40
No	39	47	50
DK/NA	8	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	57%	85%	30%	59%	61%	53%	56%	56%	52%	62%
No	30	7	54	29	28	32	24	32	37	26
DK/NA	13	9	16	12	11	15	20	12	11	12

TREND: Would you say that John Kasich has good judgment or not?

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014
Yes	57	49
No	30	38
DK/NA	13	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	11%	10%	8%	13%	11%	10%	9%	14%	10%	9%
Conservative	28	5	55	25	27	28	25	25	35	26
About right	49	79	24	49	51	47	43	50	46	54
DK/NA	13	7	13	14	11	14	23	12	9	12

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

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013
Liberal	11	13	10	10	10
Conservative	28	29	27	26	26
About right	49	45	47	48	47
DK/NA	13	13	17	16	16

38. Would you describe the state of Ohio's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	1%	3%	1%	-	1%	1%	-	-	2%	3%
Good	41	61	25	39	47	37	40	41	41	42
Not so good	42	30	53	43	41	43	46	43	44	38
Poor	14	5	20	16	10	17	12	15	13	14
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	-	-	3

TREND: Would you describe the state of Ohio's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor? (*High also 42% Jun 2013, **Low also 5% Dec 2008, Feb 2009)

	May 14 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Mar 18 2009	EXCELLENT+GOOD	
						High May 14 2014*	Low Mar 18 2009**
Excellent	1	1	2	2	-	1	-
Good	41	38	40	36	5	41	5
Not so good	42	40	42	44	36	42	36
Poor	14	18	15	16	59	14	59
DK/NA	1	2	1	2	-	1	-

39a. (If economy excellent/good q38) How much credit do you give Governor Kasich for the state of Ohio's economy; a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

Economy excellent/Good Q38

A lot	34%
Some	52
Not much	10
None at all	2
DK/NA	3

39b. (If economy not so good/poor q38) How much blame do you give Governor Kasich for the state of Ohio's economy; a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

Economy not so good/Poor Q38

A lot	14%
Some	54
Not much	25
None at all	4
DK/NA	3

40. Do you think Ohio's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Better	41%	52%	31%	41%	48%	34%	26%	44%	44%	43%
Worse	14	8	21	13	10	17	18	16	15	7
The same	44	39	47	45	41	46	53	40	40	48
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	-	2	2	-	1	2

TREND: Do you think Ohio's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	May 14 2014	Nov 26 2013	Jun 25 2013	Apr 18 2013	Dec 11 2012
Better	41	35	44	43	42
Worse	14	17	11	13	19
The same	44	46	42	43	38
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	1

41. Compared with four years ago, do you think Ohio's economy is better today, worse today, or about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Better	50%	60%	38%	52%	58%	43%	37%	53%	52%	51%
Worse	18	11	22	20	14	22	18	24	15	12
About the same	30	26	39	26	27	32	42	22	32	33
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	4

42. Compared with four years ago, are you and your family financially better off today, worse off today, or about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Better off	25%	28%	19%	28%	33%	19%	36%	31%	22%	14%
Worse off	25	18	28	26	23	26	16	29	28	20
About the same	49	54	52	45	43	54	48	40	49	64
DK/NA	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	2

45. 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	69%	84%	55%	72%	76%	64%	66%	72%	70%	68%
Oppose	25	10	41	22	19	31	26	25	25	24
DK/NA	5	6	3	5	5	5	8	3	4	8

TREND: Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014
Favor	69	68
Oppose	25	26
DK/NA	5	6

46. 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	43%	51%	30%	49%	49%	38%	33%	49%	45%	40%
Life/No parole	40	36	51	37	33	47	46	36	42	43
Life/Chance parole	9	7	13	6	10	8	13	10	6	8
DK/NA	7	5	7	8	8	7	8	6	7	9

TREND: 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?

	May 14 2014	Feb 19 2014
Death penalty	43	47
Life/No parole	40	36
Life/Chance parole	9	12
DK/NA	7	5