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**Ohio at a glance.....**

In comparison to their neighbors in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Ohioans have the least amount of trust in their state government. State specific results in the Joyce Foundation survey on political reform also shows that concerns over money and corruption in government are now on par with issues such as health care, schools and the economy. Not only do Ohio residents believe the influence of money in politics has become an obstacle to action on key issues, they also believe it is prohibiting good candidates from running for office.

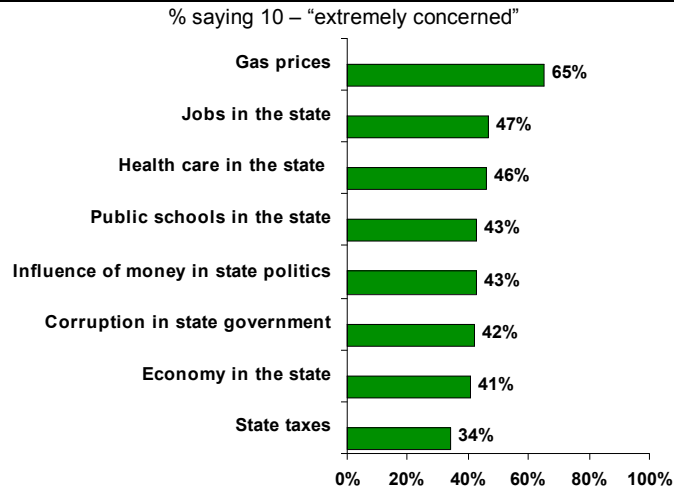
However, much like their fellow Midwesterners, Ohio residents haven't thrown in the towel. Ohioans value an honest and accountable government and support reforms to change the climate. Large majorities back specific judicial, special interest, and campaign finance initiatives. In fact, 70 percent of Ohio residents believe that prohibiting judges from taking contributions from interests that may have cases in their courts would make a big difference.

**Below is a summary and comparison of key Ohio findings:**

**Ohioans are concerned about making state government work better ...**

When asked how often they expect state government to do "what is right," 69 percent of Ohioans said "never" or only "some of the time," while only 30 percent said "always" or "most of the time."

## Ohio Concerns



Q. On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: [RANDOMIZE Q6-Q13]

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 12. Gas prices                | 11. The influence of money in state politics |
| 7. Health care in [STATE]     | 6. The economy in [STATE]                    |
| 13. Jobs in [STATE]           | 8. Corruption in state government            |
| 10. Public schools in [STATE] | 9. State taxes                               |

*Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=2040 residents of 5 Midwestern states (Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), June 14-July 6, 2006*

### Connecting the dots...

74 percent of Ohio residents believe that “unless we limit the influence of money in government, elected officials will not be able to keep their promises on issues that are important to people like me.”

68 percent of Ohio residents feel that candidates who could represent them do not run for office because they do not have the money to win. 41 percent of Ohio residents “strongly agreed.”

### Citizens are engaged and are not giving up...

67 percent of Ohio residents disagreed with the statement that “corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.”

### Reforms widely supported....

70 percent of Ohio residents feel that prohibiting judges from taking money from interests that may have cases in their courts would make a big difference in making government work better.

58 percent of Ohio residents believe public financing of campaigns would make a big difference in making government work better.

57 percent of Ohio residents believe that not allowing lobbyists to raise money for candidates would make a big difference in making government work better.

**Statement from Catherine Turcer of the Ohio Citizen Action Fund and Linda Lalley and Carol Gibson from the Ohio League of Women Voters**

We hope these survey results send a strong message to those who think that Ohio residents don't care about political and government reform. The overall level of concern about money and dishonesty in state government tell us Ohio has had enough of business as usual. More importantly, Ohioans want change and support common sense measures that would help clean up government.

Ohioans demand and deserve better from their state government, and we don't feel that asking for honest and responsive representation is too large of a request. It's time for our elected officials to stop sitting on their hands or wringing them. It's time for change in Ohio.

(Additional information about the five-state survey as well as reform recommendations for Ohio can be found on Ohio Citizen Action's web site at [www.ohiocitizen.org](http://www.ohiocitizen.org) and the Ohio League of Women Voters' website at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org))

*The Joyce Foundation Survey was conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart. A random survey of 2,040 residents of five Midwestern states was conducted from June 14-July 6, 2006. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points for the entire study. The margin of sampling error for individual state results is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.*

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