

TO: NRCC
FROM: Jim McLaughlin & Patrick Shaw, McLaughlin & Associates
Re: Ohio CD 9 General Election Survey Results
Date: May 13th, 2026

Recent polling conducted among general election voters in Ohio Congressional District 9 shows that Republican, Derek Merrin leads longtime incumbent Democrat Marcy Kaptur, 47%-43%, with only 7% undecided. Below are key findings from this research.

Derek Merrin Leads Marcy Kaptur

Often when an incumbent member of Congress is under 50% of the vote in the ballot test, they are considered vulnerable. Marcy Kaptur only receives 43% of the vote against Derek Merrin, which means Kaptur is significantly below this benchmark. Kaptur begins the race with significant negatives as more than four of ten voters (42%) already disapprove of the job she has been doing even before the general election campaign has begun. Furthermore, the all-important undecided voters are showing signs that they are much more likely to vote Republican as 67% disapprove of Kaptur and they prefer to vote Republican by a better than two to one margin. These findings clearly show that that Merrin has the ability to replicate the working and middle class coalition that propelled President Trump and Republicans to victory in 2024.

Q. If the General Election for United States Congress were held today between the following candidates, for whom would you vote?

	TOTAL	Less than College	Union H.H.	Non-Union	Over 55
Derek Merrin (R)	47%	52%	49%	47%	53%
Marcy Kaptur (D)	43%	40%	43%	43%	39%
David Gedert (L)	3%	2%	4%	2%	1%
Undecided	7%	6%	4%	7%	6%

The Generic Ballot for Congress shows that a Republican holds the advantage over a Democrat 48%-45%, with 8% saying they are undecided.

Q. If the General Election for United States Congress were held today, which one of the following best describes how you are likely to vote between the Republican Candidate and the Democratic Candidate?

	TOTAL	Less than College	Union H.H.	Non-Union	Over 55
Republican	48%	53%	47%	49%	54%
Democrat	45%	40%	46%	44%	40%
Undecided	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%

- Marcy Kaptur’s job approval is virtually split, with 45% saying they approve and 42% saying they disapprove. However, it is important to note that there is more intensity to her disapproval numbers, as 33% say they strongly disapprove, compared to only 24% that say they strongly approve. Almost half (49%) of the voters who are undecided on the ballot against Derek Merrin disapprove of the job Marcy Kaptur is doing.

Conclusions:

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur begins the general election campaign with real negatives and is not only under 50% in the ballot vs. Derek Merrin, but shows weakness with key voter groups and has virtually no room to grow among the few voters that are undecided. Kaptur's 40-year record of extremism, failure and just simply being out of touch is clearly coming under scrutiny and chances are will only get worse once the real general election campaign begins. The bottom line is this race is a great opportunity for Republicans to pick up a seat in Congress.

Methodology:

McLaughlin & Associates conducted a survey of 400 likely November General election voters in Ohio’s 9th Congressional District from 18th-20th, 2026. A multi-modal approach was employed via live telephone calls and self-administered text messages. The live telephone interviews were conducted by professional interviewers with respondents contacted by both landline phone and cell phone. The text message respondents were sent a personalized invitation to complete the survey on a secure online platform. Interview selection was random and interviews were stratified by area, race/ethnicity, age, gender, and vote history to correlate with actual voter turnout from previous general elections. In order to qualify for this survey, respondents had to indicate that they are likely to vote in the November 2026 General Elections. This poll of 400 likely November 2026 General Election voters has an accuracy of +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence interval. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations. Totals may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding and refusals.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Age	%	Race	%	Area	%
18-34	15	White	86	Toledo DMA	82
35-54	33	Black/African American	8	Lucas	51
55-64	22	Hispanic	4	Ottawa/Wood	12
65-74	18	Asian	1	Fulton/Henry	9
Over 75	12	Other	1	Defiance/Williams	10
Mean	53.3	Marital Status	%	Cleveland DMA	10
Union H.H.	%	Single	17	Lima/Ft. Wayne DMA	8
Yes	29	Married	67	Party Affiliation	%
No	68	Separated	1	Republican	45
Gender	%	Divorced	8	Democrat	33
Male	47	Widowed	6	Independent/Unaff.	21
Female	53			Education	%
				Less than College	69
				Bach/Post Grad	31