

★ ELECTION 2024 UPDATE ★

JULY 15, 2024

TRUMP PICKS JD VANCE AS RUNNING MATE

Senator JD Vance (R-OH), age 39 and a father of three young children, was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022, his first ever run for political office. Vance first reached prominence in conservative circles after writing his 2016 memoir and New York Times best seller, "Hillbilly Elogy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis," which garnered widespread acclaim among GOP critics for its resonance with the Republican base in Appalachia. Vance enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps straight out of high school and served in the Iraq War. Vance attended Ohio State University and Yale Law School, before eventually venturing into corporate law and transitioning to the tech industry in San Francisco, where he became a venture capitalist at Peter Thiel's Mithril Capital. He is known as an economic populist and "America first" Senator. If elected, he would be the first Vice President from the state of Ohio.



POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND LIABILITIES

+ Veteran on the Ballot
Vance is a former Marine who served in the Iraq war.

+ Youth Refresh
At 39, Vance would be the first millennial VP.

+ Influencer Capital
Vance's connections to Silicon Valley could provide a potential fundraising boon to the ticket.

- Past Trump Criticism
Vance virulently criticized Trump in 2016, which could be used by Democrats while campaigning.

- Electoral Performance
Vance's only election in the 2022 U.S. Senate race was hard fought for a red state and he underperformed Trump's 2020 margin by two points.

- Inexperienced in Governance
Vance was first elected to the Senate in 2022 and has served less than two years in elective office.



“
As Vice President, J.D. will continue to fight for our Constitution, stand with our Troops, and will do everything he can to help me MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN.
”

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IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Former President Trump won Ohio twice and is favored to win it again in 2024, with or without Senator Vance on the ticket. However, expect to see Vance campaigning hard in Rust Belt states including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan, which are critical to the presidential election and all have competitive Senate races. Vance may also take his populist economic message to other swing states like Nevada and Arizona.



Michigan
Trump +1.3



Ohio
Trump +10.7



Pennsylvania
Trump +4.5



Wisconsin
Trump +3.0

Source: Real Clear Politics as of 7/15/24

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SENATE

Should the Trump/Vance ticket prevail in November, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will name a replacement until a special election can be held in 2026. His departure from the Senate would create vacancies on the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committees, on which he currently serves. Senate Banking Chair Sherrod Brown (D-OH) is also on the ballot in November and if he loses, Ohio could lose all of its representation on the committee unless Senate GOP leadership decides to place a new Ohio senator on the GOP roster.

Political forecasters currently give Republicans the edge to gain Senate control with polling suggesting a 52R/48D composition if the 2024 election were held today. A special election in November 2026 to replace Vance would likely attract major investment from both parties if Republicans win such a thin majority in November. A Vice President Vance would preside over and serve as a tie-breaking vote in the Senate, a duty outlined in the Constitution.



Michigan
D + 5.0



Ohio
D + 5.2



Pennsylvania
D + 6.2



Wisconsin
D + 4.8

Source: Real Clear Politics as of 7/15/24