



## Ohio GOP Senate showdown: Dolan spotlights law enforcement support in new massive ad buy

Ad spending soars in Ohio's expensive GOP Senate primary showdown

Paul Steinhauser | Fox News | March 9, 2022

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Matt Dolan is touting his efforts to fund Ohio's sheriffs and police departments as he launches his second straight seven-figure ad blitz in a month in his bid for the Republican Senate nomination in the state's crowded and competitive GOP primary.

"Across the country, crime is surging, and liberals are demonizing and defunding our police," charges the narrator in the spot, with which was shared first with Fox News on Wednesday.

The commercial then switches to Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn and retired Macedonia police department sergeant Keith Olby saying that "thankfully, Ohio has Matt Dolan. In the legislature, Matt delivered for law enforcement. Funding, training, equipment, you name it. So we can keep our communities safe."

The two law enforcement veterans then emphasize that "when Matt Dolan tells you he will protect Ohio....he will keep his word."

Dolan, a state senator from Cleveland and a former county chief assistant prosecutor and state assistant attorney general before running for elected office, pledges in an accompanying statement that if elected to the Senate, he'll "oppose any effort by Democrats to restrain the ability for law enforcement to keep our communities safe."

Dolan – whose family owns Major League Baseball's Cleveland Guardians – is one of eight GOP candidates running in the race to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Rob Portman. The primary field also

includes 2018 Ohio Republican Senate candidate Mike Gibbons, a Cleveland entrepreneur, real estate developer and investment banker; former Ohio treasurer and former two-time Senate candidate Josh Mandel; former Ohio GOP Chair Jane Timken; and venture capitalist and best-selling author J.D. Vance.

Dolan currently stands in single digits in a new Fox News Poll on which candidate Ohio Republican primary voters would prefer. Gibbons and Mandel lead the pack.

But the race is unsettled, according to the poll conducted March 2-4. Nearly one-quarter of voters (24%) are undecided – and about two-thirds of Gibbons' (62%) and Mandel's (64%) supporters say they may change their mind.

Fighting crime and beefing up funding for law enforcement are pressing issues with Republican voters in Ohio and across the country.

And as part of the roll-out of his new ad, Dolan also announced that he landed the endorsement of Betty Montgomery, who in 1994 won election as Ohio's first female attorney general. Dolan also showcased the endorsement of Deb Burchett, who is the first woman to be elected sheriff in Clark County, which is located northeast of Dayton.

Dolan's campaign tells Fox News that it will spend \$2.5 million to run the commercial on broadcast and cable TV, as well as online and on radio across the Buckeye State. Dolan has now shelled out roughly \$5 million to run ads since going up with his first spot in mid-January.

Dolan's massive new ad buy is the latest sign that in a primary race where all nearly all the major contenders have plenty of personal wealth, or are backed by well financed outside groups, ad spending is soaring. According to figures from the national ad tracking firm AdImpact, \$26 million had been spent through early Tuesday by the campaigns and super PACs to run ads in the Ohio Senate race, with nearly all the spending coming in the GOP primary.

According to AdImpact, the Ohio Senate race to date is the second most expensive in the country this cycle, behind the showdown in the neighboring battleground state of Pennsylvania for another GOP-held open seat.

The winner of the May 3 Republican primary may face off against longtime Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan of northeastern Ohio. Ryan is considered the favorite for the Democratic nomination in race that also

includes progressive Morgan Harper, a former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau senior adviser and 2020 congressional candidate.



## **Ohio GOP Senate showdown: Dolan takes aim at Biden over border security in massive ad buy**

Ad spending soars in Ohio's expensive GOP Senate primary showdown

Paul Steinhauser | Fox News | February 14, 2022

[WATCH HERE](#)

Matt Dolan is taking aim at President Biden over border security as he launches his second massive ad blitz in a month in his bid for the Republican Senate nomination in Ohio's crowded and competitive GOP primary.

"Fentanyl on the tip of this pencil is enough to kill," the state senator from suburban Cleveland warns as he speaks to camera in his campaign commercial, which was shared first with Fox News on Monday.

Dolan then charges that "because of Joe Biden, fentanyl, cartels, and human traffickers pour across our border. The rule of law has broken down. Our national sovereignty is at risk."

A former county chief assistant prosecutor and state assistant attorney general before running for elected office, Dolan highlights that "as a prosecutor and a legislator, I cracked down on drug dealers and traffickers here in Ohio. In the U.S. Senate, I will fight for more Border Patrol and to finish the Wall."

Border security is a top issue with Republican voters in Ohio and across the country, and Dolan emphasizes at the end of his ad that "without a border, we have no country."

Dolan's campaign says the spot will run statewide on broadcast and cable TV plus digitally as well, and that it is backed by a \$2 million ad buy.

Last month Dolan shelled out seven-figures to run his first campaign commercial, in which he took aim at Biden and vowed to "defeat communist China." Talk of taking a muscular approach to U.S.-Chinese relations and curbing Beijing's influence is a message most Republican voters want to hear, and many GOP candidates running in the 2022 cycle are spotlighting the issue.

Dolan - whose family owns Major League Baseball's Cleveland Guardians, who until last year were known for more than a century as the Indians - is one of eight GOP candidates running in the race to succeed retiring Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

The Republican field also includes former Ohio treasurer and former two-time Senate candidate Josh Mandel; former Ohio GOP Chair Jane Timken; venture capitalist and best-selling author J.D. Vance; and 2018 Ohio Republican Senate candidate Mike Gibbons, a Cleveland entrepreneur, real estate developer and investment banker.

But unlike the other major contenders, Dolan, who has criticized former President Donald Trump over his unfounded claims the 2020 presidential election was "rigged" and "stolen," is not making a hard sell for Trump's endorsement.

Both of Dolan's first two commercials target Biden and neither mention Trump, although they emphasize his support for Trump policies on border security and China

Dolan's major ad buys are the latest sign that in a primary race where all nearly all the major contenders have plenty of personal wealth, ad spending is soaring. According to figures from the national ad tracking firm AdImpact, nearly \$16 million had been spent through Thursday by the campaigns and super PACs to run ads in the Ohio Senate race, with nearly all the spending coming in the GOP primary.

The Ohio Senate race to date is the second most expensive in the country this cycle, behind the showdown in the neighboring battleground state of Pennsylvania for another GOP-held open seat.

The winner of the May 3 Republican primary may face off against longtime Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan of northeastern Ohio. Ryan is considered the favorite for the Democratic nomination in race that also

includes progressive Morgan Harper, a former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau senior adviser and 2020 congressional candidate.



## **Ohio Republican Senate showdown: 'Cold war' with China spotlighted in latest major ad blitz**

Matt Dolan becomes latest Republican candidate to take to airwaves in expensive GOP Senate clash in Ohio

**Paul Steinhauser** | Fox News | January 18, 2022

[WATCH HERE](#)

Matt Dolan is taking aim at China and President Biden as he launches his first ad blitz in his campaign for the Republican Senate nomination in Ohio – a massive seven-figure buy.

"We are in a Cold War, this time with China," the state senator from suburban Cleveland says to camera in his campaign commercial, which was shared first with Fox News on Tuesday. "And it's not just being fought on factory floors because China wants to dominate the world economically and militarily."

"Washington has caused this, and Joe Biden's weakness makes it even worse," Dolan charges in his ad. "My priority in the U.S. Senate is to defeat communist China by bringing back our jobs and renewing our strength in the world. Our economic and national security depend on it."

Dolan's campaign says the spot will run statewide on broadcast and cable TV plus digitally as well, and that it's backed by an initial \$1.7 million ad buy.

"The Biden Administration's failures have spurred crisis after crisis and project weakness on the world stage," Dolan argued in a statement to Fox News.

And he emphasized that "meeting the evolving national security challenges posed by China requires new leadership with a focus of driving investments in our economy, job creation, innovation and alliance building we have not seen since the height of our conflict with the Soviet Union."

Talk of taking a muscular approach to U.S.-Chinese relations and curbing Beijing's influence is a message most Republican voters want to hear, and many GOP candidates running in the 2022 cycle are spotlighting the issue.

Dolan, a longtime state lawmaker whose family owns Major League Baseball's Cleveland Guardians, who until last year were known for more than a century as the Cleveland Indians. He's one of 11 GOP candidates running into the 2022 race to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, which is one of the most crowded and combustible GOP Senate primaries in the country.



*Ohio state Sen. Matt Dolan, who's running for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination in Ohio, campaigns in Independence, Ohio, on Dec. 1, 2021.*

The field also includes former Ohio treasurer and former two-time Senate candidate Josh Mandel; former Ohio GOP Chair Jane Timken; venture capitalist and best-selling author J.D. Vance, Cleveland businessman and luxury auto dealership giant Bernie Moreno; and 2018 Ohio Republican Senate candidate Mike Gibbons, a Cleveland entrepreneur, real estate developer and investment banker.

And in a primary race where all nearly all the major contenders have plenty of personal wealth, Dolan becomes the latest to spend big bucks to run ads.

Gibbons announced last summer that he'd dish out \$10 million to run ads through this May's primary. Moreno spent \$4 million at the beginning of December to launch a six-week ad buy, with Timken's spending roughly \$1.7 million. Mandel has spent a miniscule \$28,000 on ads, while Vance has yet to spend any money to run spots. But outside groups supporting Mandel and Vance have launched ads.

The winner of next year's Republican primary may face off against longtime Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan of northeastern Ohio. Ryan, who declared his candidacy for the Senate in April, is considered the favorite for the Democratic nomination in a primary field expected to be much smaller than the large GOP roster of contenders. Progressive Morgan Harper, a former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau senior adviser and 2020 congressional candidate, announced her candidacy earlier this summer.

The U.S. Senate is split 50-50 between the two parties, but the Democrats hold a razor-thin majority due to the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Kamala Harris, who serves as president of the Senate. That means the GOP only needs a one-seat pickup to regain the majority.

But Republicans are defending 20 of the 34 seats up for grabs in 2022. Besides Ohio, the GOP is also defending open seats in the key battlegrounds of North Carolina and Pennsylvania as well as in Missouri and Alabama.