

# [***Trump-Backed Candidate Wins Ohio Senate Primary To Take On Vulnerable Dem Senator***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BKY-2R01-DXXD-70G5-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GettyImages-2087318593-scaled-e1710861835202.jpg)

Republican businessman Bernie Moreno won the Ohio Senate primary Tuesday evening with the help of former President Donald Trump and his allies, according to The Associated Press.

Moreno secured 50.4% support compared to state Sen. Matt Dolan's 32.7% and Secretary of State Frank LaRose's 16.9%, the AP [*projected*](https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/ohio/?r=37232) at the time of writing. The Trump-backed businessman will face vulnerable Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown in November for what will likely be one of the most [*competitive*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/02/01/ohio-sherrod-brown-vulnerable-dem-senators-lead-over-gop-challengers-narrows-bernie-moreno-frank-larose-matt-dolan/) races of the 2024 cycle. [***(RELATED: Here's Where Contentious Ohio GOP Primary Stands On Eve Of Voting)***](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/18/competitive-ohio-senate-primary-shaping-election-day-moreno-dolan-larose/)

“I am so grateful for the resounding support of Ohioans in all 88 counties,” Moreno said in a statement. “I thank Matt Dolan and Frank LaRose for a spirited primary contest. I look forward to uniting our party and working to send Sherrod Brown packing in November!”

LaRose had a steady advantage in the primary until the race started tightening in December, [*according*](https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls/senate/2024/ohio/republican-primary/) to FiveThirtyEight's survey compilation. Moreno took the lead on March 1, but Dolan saw a late spike just ahead of election day that nearly tied the two in the average.

“I'm honored and humbled by the thousands of Ohioans who stood with me in this campaign. While this is not my time to serve as our party's nominee for the United States Senate, I'm profoundly grateful for those who gave me their support,” LaRose said in a statement. “Now is the time to stand together as a party. Moments ago, I called to congratulate Bernie Moreno and wish him well. We all share the same mission to retire Sherrod Brown and restore Ohio's voice and values to the United States Senate. The stakes for this election couldn't be higher.”

[*Moreno*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/02/22/bernie-moreno-donald-trump-ohio-senate-candidate-notches-endorsement-cindy-hyde-smith/) notched key endorsements from prominent Trump-aligned national Republicans, including Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, while [*Dolan*](https://dolanforohio.com/endorsements/) and [*LaRose*](https://www.franklarose.com/endorsements/) received most of their support from state and local leaders. Days before voters took to the polls, Dolan [*scored*](https://x.com/MikeDeWine/status/1767479930542076263?s=20) Ohio GOP Gov. Mike DeWine's support.

[*Trump*](https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/ohio/?r=37543) also won Ohio's Republican presidential primary on Tuesday with 79.2% support, and President [*Joe Biden*](https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/ohio/?r=36815) secured his party's nod at 87%, according to the AP.

Moreno and Dolan ran in the 2022 GOP primary for the [*seat*](https://ballotpedia.org/J.D._Vance) currently held by Vance, which the state senator came in third for. The businessman withdrew from the race before votes were cast.

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GettyImages-1240432136-scaled.jpg)

CLEVELAND, OH - MAY 03: Republican U.S. Senate candidate Matt Dolan addresses the media after his loss to J.D. Vance during an election night watch party at the Tavern of Independence. (Nic Antaya/Getty Images)

The [*race*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/18/competitive-ohio-senate-primary-shaping-election-day-moreno-dolan-larose/) became quite expensive as the Republicans sparred largely over border policy, abortion restrictions and Ukraine funding. Roughly $54 million has been spent on ads for the Senate race, including $19.1 million boosting Dolan, $15 million supporting Moreno and $5.5 million promoting LaRose, [*according*](https://adimpact.com/blog/54m-buckeye-state-battle-tomorrows-oh-senate-primary/?utm_content=286569864&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&hss_channel=tw-752608758476468224) to data compiled by AdImpact.

Dolan, who was in the race for the [*longest*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/01/17/matt-dolan-announces-ohio-senate-run-sherrod-brown/), out-raised and out-spent the other Republicans, [*according*](https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00831636/?cycle=2024) to Federal Election Commission (FEC) data. [*Moreno*](https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00837484/?cycle=2024) followed closely behind Dolan, while [*LaRose*](https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00845735/?cycle=2024), who was the [*l*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/07/17/frank-larose-berine-moreno-matt-dolan-sherrod-brown-ohio-secretary-state-race-unseat-dem-senator-2024/) [*ast*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/07/17/frank-larose-berine-moreno-matt-dolan-sherrod-brown-ohio-secretary-state-race-unseat-dem-senator-2024/) to jump in the race, lagged behind them both.

Both Dolan and Moreno had roughly $2.4 million in the bank going into primary day, while LaRose reported less than $600,000 in hard dollars, FEC data shows.

Moreno will have to compete with Brown's massive fundraising advantage, as he's already brought in $26.7 million this cycle and has $13.5 million cash on hand, [*according*](https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00264697/?cycle=2024) to FEC data. The senator also reported spending $16.6 million.

The Cook Political Report [*characterizes*](https://www.cookpolitical.com/ratings/senate-race-ratings) the Senate race as in the “Toss Up” category for 2024, as well as seats currently held by Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana and independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.

Also in Ohio, Republican state Rep. Dereck Merrin won the competitive primary against former state Rep. Craig Riedel to take on [*vulnerable*](https://www.cookpolitical.com/ratings/house-race-ratings) Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur in November, [*according*](https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/ohio/?r=36032) to the AP. Merrin had Trump's [*backing*](https://x.com/TrumpDailyPosts/status/1769826699716563424?s=20), as well as the [*support*](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/campaigns/2817458/speaker-johnson-state-lawmaker-gop-ohio-house-seat/) from House Republican Speaker Mike Johnson.

*Editor's Note: This story has been updated with comments from Moreno and LaRose, as well as the most recent results.*

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**Graphic**

US Senate candidate Bernie Moreno, Republican of Ohio, speaks before former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump takes the stage during a Buckeye Values PAC Rally in Vandalia, Ohio, on March 16, 2024. (Photo by KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI / AFP) (Photo by KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP via Getty Images)

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