



Life in Brief

Born: January 5, 1947

Hometown: Springfield, OH

Current Residence: Yellow Springs, OH

Education:

- JD, Ohio Northern University, 1972
- BS, Miami University, 1969

Family:

- Wife, Frances Struewing Dewine
- Eight Children

Work History:

- Governor of Ohio, 2019-present
- Attorney General of Ohio, 2011-19
- Co-Chair, corporate investigations group, Keating Muething & Klekamp 2007-10
- Visiting Scholar, Cedarville University, 2007-09
- U.S. Senator from Ohio, 1995-2007
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, 1991-94
- U.S. Representative (OH-07), 1983-91
- Ohio State Senator for 10th District, 1981-82
- Prosecutor of Greene County, Ohio, 1977-81
- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Greene County, 1973-75

Professional Affiliations

- Parishioner, St. Paul Catholic Church
- Trustee, Spring Hill College

Electoral Overview

- Won the 2018 Ohio gubernatorial election by 4 points, after winning the Republican primary against Mary Taylor by 20 points
- After a close victory for Ohio Attorney General in 2010, swept the 2014 election by more than 20 points
- Dominated the 2006 Senate Republican primary for Ohio, but lost to Sherrod Brown

Quick Summary

Longtime Ohio Republican with deep roots in criminal justice and pro-life politics who has patiently risen through the political ranks

- Powerful, resilient fixture in Ohio politics for nearly 40 years
- Raised in small town outside of Dayton; cites his parents' conservatism and prosecutorial background as inspiration Catholic faith influences his ideology and prioritization of issues
- Advocates for traditional social and fiscally conservative policy principles but has reputation as a pragmatic deal-maker
- Prioritizes policies to protect children, often empowering law enforcement
- In Congress, took bipartisan deal-making approach; as AG, policy priorities were notably more ideologically conservative, but made indications of being more bipartisan as governor

Approach and Motivations

A quiet, deliberate deal-maker, guided by his catholic faith and family business experience

- Results oriented approach led to fruitful working relationships with Senate Democrats on adoption, protecting the Great Lakes, and establishing the poison control hotline
- Drew ire from conservatives for being one of the "Gang of 14" that – at the time – negotiated a compromise to avoid eliminating the filibuster for judicial appointments
- Believes his faith compels him to help other people, chose to do so through public service
- Experience handling child abuse and drug cases as Greene County prosecutor demonstrated to him that children were the most in need of help
- Believes businesses have a bigger role than government in building a stronger economy
- Background growing up working for his parents business forms foundation for empowering private sector

Policy Positions and Areas of Focus

Early career as prosecutor served as catalyst for public service career and still influences his policy decisions in the present day

Child Welfare Reform: *Public service rooted in helping children, often by empowering law enforcement*

- Deeply impacted by his time prosecuting crimes against children; says helping children is “an obligation...and...a common thread” for him
- Favors policies giving law enforcement more tools to protect children, specifically against child predators
- Passed bipartisan legislation to speed up the adoption process for abused children

Conservative Judicial Activism: *Joined numerous amicus briefs as AG*

- Joined amicus briefs defending the Trump Administration travel ban, and against DACA
- Sued to block the ACA from being implemented
- Filed amicus brief in support of a Texas law increasing medical licensing regulations for abortion facilities and admitting privileges

Workforce Development: *Believes in significant collaboration with business community in order to meet needs of Ohio's economy*

- Strong advocate for public-private partnerships
- Cites lack of skilled workers as number one issue for small businesses
- Favors investments in career-tech centers and two-year community colleges to fill skills gaps
- As governor, launched initiative to reimburse employers who pay to retrain employees with in-demand industry credentials

Staunchly Pro-Life: *Long held belief that's been given increased focus as AG and governor*

- As AG, initiated investigation into whether Planned Parenthood sold aborted fetus parts
- Partnered with Sen. Rick Santorum to lead fight against partial-birth abortions in Senate Signed controversial heartbeat bill in 2019

Core Communities

Works closely with Ohioans and pro-life groups

Pro-Life Activists – *Close with Ohio activists*

- Strong allies with state-based pro-life groups like Ohio Right to Life and has personal relationship with their president, Mike Gonidakis
- As AG, maintained regular contact with head of Cincinnati's Right to Life chapter, Paula Westwood

Ohio Politicos – *Network of top consultants and lobbyists from years in state politics*

- Former campaign manager is executive director of New Day for America
- Columbus-based government relations firm CJR Group has several ties to DeWine including his former campaign communications director, Brittany Warner, former campaign manager Josh Rubin, and current chief of staff Laurel Dawson
- Former appropriations director, Becky Watts, is the director of government affairs for lobbying firm G2G consulting in Cleveland

Dayton Area Business Community – *Deeply invested in local business*

- Strong ties from being a lifelong resident and elected leader in community
- Lt. Gov. Husted was previously a VP at the Dayton Area Chamber; both are close to current EVP Chris Kershner
- Appointed CEO of Centerville-based SelectTech Services, Scott Sullivan, to serve on JobsOhio board
- Chose J.P. Nauseef, Dayton businessowner, as new President and CIO of JobsOhio

Former Senate Colleagues – *Years forging ties to members from both sides of the aisle*

- Close relationship with Trent and Tricia Lott from his time in the Senate
- Christopher Dodd, former Senator, worked closely with DeWine on underage drinking
- Rick Santorum, former Senator, collaborated with DeWine on pro-life issues

Relevant Financial Information

An independently wealthy candidate funded by wealthy Ohioans

Biggest Industry Donors (Congressional Career)

- Lawyers/law firms - \$1.66 million
- Manufacturing & Distributing – \$1.17 million
- Real Estate – \$1.05 million
- Insurance – \$979,000
- Securities & Investment – \$845,000

Biggest Corporate Donors (Congressional Career)

- National City Corp. (Cleveland) – \$116,000
- Timken Co. (North Canton) – \$115,000
- Forest City Ent. (Cleveland) – \$113,000
- AT&T Inc. – \$102,000
- American Financial Group (Cincinnati) – \$97,000

Biggest Individual Donors (Career)

- Mike DeWine (Columbus, OH): \$5.7 million
- Albert Ratner, Former CEO of Forest City Realty, (Beachwood, OH): \$62,000
- Anthony Alexander, CEO of FirstEnergy (Akron, OH): \$62,000
- Douglas Preisse, Lobbyist, (Columbus, OH): \$59,000
- Wayne Boich, CEO of Boich Co. (Columbus, OH): \$59,000

Political Donations (If applicable)

- Dan Sullivan, 2014: \$5,000

Miscellaneous (If applicable)

- Has a approximated net worth close to \$40 million

Publications, Media, and Speaking

Long time in public service has refined DeWine's consistent conservative messaging

Media: *Uses national conservative outlets for pro-life issues*

- Preferred Outlets: National Review, The Hugh Hewitt Show
- Favorite Subjects: Abortion, Gun Control
- Social Media Habits: List if relevant (i.e. manages their own tweets)

Speaking: *A long-time public official speaks often to electorate on core issues*

- Favorite Subjects: abortion, improving Ohio
- Preferred Audience: donors and supporters

Family and Personal Background

Son of successful rural Ohio seed farmers who still has strong ties to his roots, married middle-school sweetheart, and built large family

- Great grandparents were Irish and immigrated in 1840s to escape the potato famine
- Traces political leanings to conservative parents who frequently discussed politics with him; mother wrote a regular column for the local paper espousing conservative views
- In his youth, worked for parents' business – DeWine-Hamma Seed Company – stenciling seed bags, painting fences, and loading trucks for family business
- Inherited lucrative financial trust from parents and ownership of Ohio Twine Company, which includes over 1,000 acres of farmland
- Has consistently done humanitarian work in Haiti, and has a school there named after his late daughter
- First met wife Fran in first grade, first dated in 7th grade, and married between sophomore and junior years of college
- Fran is a prolific cook who publishes a cookbook and regularly hands them out on the campaign trail
- Owns the Whitelaw Reid House in Cedarville, Ohio and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Cousin is Kevin DeWine, former Ohio GOP chairman and former Ohio state representative
- Eight children, 24 grandchildren
- Son Pat is an associate justice of the Ohio Supreme Court
- Daughter Alice is an assistant prosecutor in Greene County
- Son Brian is president of the Asheville Tourists baseball team
- Daughter Becky died in a car crash in 1993

Criticisms and Controversies

Criticized for relationship with FirstEnergy

Nuclear Subsidy Bill

- Scrutinized for signing HB 6, which created a customer-paid \$1.1 billion subsidy for two nuclear plants in northern Ohio
- FirstEnergy, the owner of the plants, donated nearly \$48,000 to his gubernatorial campaign and transition fund

COVID-19 Response

Was proactive in a pro-public health approach, setting early social distancing restrictions; now collaborating with private enterprise to provide equipment and economic recovery

Relevant Positions

- Governor of Ohio

Actions: *Made decisive preventative measures proactively, and is now making major efforts to support Ohio residents and businesses*

- Implemented gradual closures early on, starting in early March
- In early April, unified the following organizations in a public-private partnership to increase the supply of personal protective equipment: Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network, nursing home organizations, JobsOhio, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Development Services Agency, and the Ohio Department of Health.
- Partnered with the USDA to allow people to use SNAP benefits for online shopping
- Signed a foreclosure prevention order
- Ordered statewide reporting of ventilators for collection and redistribution
- On March 28, asked for FDA to offer flexibility for using Battelle Institute technology for PPE sterilization, which was granted the next day

Statements: *Acknowledged the virus early and took gradual measures to implement social distancing ahead of many states*

- Began gradually cancelling and barring public events in early March, eventually closing restaurants and bars before the shelter in place order
- Statements are made on almost a daily basis addressing public safety and health resources
- Has issued several requests to the federal government to provide personal protective equipment