



## POLLING MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FR:** Fritz Wenzel, President, Wenzel Strategies research

Wenzel Strategies LLC is a national opinion research firm working primarily for conservative and Republican clients. It was established in 2005 and has a client list including more than 200 presidential, U.S. Senate, congressional, statewide and state legislative candidates. It conducted a survey of likely voters in Ohio's 89<sup>th</sup> state House District regarding the upcoming November 4<sup>th</sup> election. The survey was conducted Oct. 30 to Nov. 2 and includes 403 respondents. It carries a confidence interval of 95 percent and a margin of error of +/- 4.86 percentage points. The survey was not commissioned by any outside party but was conducted by Wenzel Strategies in the public interest.

The survey of likely voters in OH HD89 shows that incumbent Democrat Chris Redfern has in the last weeks of the campaign consolidated support and leveraged his experience and favorable name recognition to build a significant lead over Republican challenger Steve Kraus.

Redfern leads Kraus by a 52% to 40% margin with just two days to go before Election Day.

With eight percent still undecided, and given the trend in recent weeks in this race, Redfern's advantage could grow larger, perhaps significantly so.

The survey reflects what typically happens in down-ticket legislative races in the last three weeks before an election, as campaign advertising and voter contact efforts increase dramatically and voters begin to pay attention to the candidates and issues. It shows a solid upward move by Redfern, who has gained 8 percentage points in October. Meanwhile, challenger Kraus has lost ground as people took a closer look at the race.

Redfern's favorability rating has increased 10 points over the past three weeks, as has Kraus' favorability rating. The difference is that Redfern started with substantially higher name recognition, which has provided a solid base for his campaign to build upon.

Unlike in other legislative districts around Ohio, the strong Democratic Party base in HD89 has also given a boost to Democratic candidate for governor Ed Fitzgerald, who still trails Republican John Kasich but only by single digits. In that race, Kasich leads by a 51% to 46% margin in the district.

The survey shows that Redfern has done well solidifying support among his political base, as 81% of Democrats support him. Comparatively, 73% of Republicans support Kraus, while 19% of Republicans said they plan to cross over and vote for Redfern. With such erosion of Kraus' partisan base, it is hard to find a scenario in which Kraus would be able to overcome Redfern in this race.

**Q. If you were voting today in the election for state representative from our local area, and the candidates were Democrat Chris Redfern and Republican Steve Kraus, for whom would you vote?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid REDFERN	209	51.7	51.7	51.7
KRAUS	161	40.0	40.0	91.8
NOT SURE	33	8.2	8.2	100.0
Total	403	100.0	100.0	