



## news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# “As Ohio Goes...”

## *What makes Ohio the bellwether state in presidential elections?*

Kent, OHIO—Oct. 5, 2016—Since 1896 the Buckeye state has picked the commander-in-chief 28 out of 30 times—a frequency unmatched by any other state in the union.

“As Ohio Goes...” examines what makes Ohio the bellwether battleground that it is today. The one-hour documentary premieres Sunday, Oct. 16, at 5 PM on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1). Additional air dates and times for the production are available at <http://westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm>.

Why is Ohio an important state in presidential elections? The answer lies somewhere in the state’s internal—but invisible—geographic borders. These borders demarcate five areas, each of which corresponds to distinct geographic and demographic regions of the country. Together these regions are known to scholars and strategists as The Five Ohios, a phenomenon that says Ohio—and its parts—is a political microcosm of the nation. With commentary from some of Ohio’s top political science minds, along with voices of many Ohioians, “As Ohio Goes...” travels the state to shine a light on what every presidential campaign must understand: To appeal to voters in Ohio is to appeal to voters across the United States.

Political experts include John C. Green, PhD, Ray C. Bliss Institute for Applied Politics, University of Akron; Herb Asher, PhD, professor emeritus of political science at The Ohio State University, Columbus; Paul Leonard, J.D., professor, Wright State University, former Ohio lieutenant governor, general assembly member and mayor of Dayton; Melissa Miller, PhD, associate professor, Bowling Green State University; David Niven, PhD, assistant professor, University of Cincinnati; State Representative Debbie Phillips, 94th House District of Ohio; Jimmy

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Stewart, former state senator, 20th District of Ohio; and Morgan Bommer-Guinn, campaign organizer and activist.

In addition to expert commentary, “As Ohio Goes...” will give voice to voters from The Five Ohios and feature snippets of historical importance, with the intent of revealing how the past paints the present, and how it is that the accumulation of our votes throughout history have turned Ohio into the bellwether, swing state it is today. After all, as Ohio goes, so goes the nation.

“As Ohio Goes...” is a production of Public Media Connect, CET in Cincinnati and ThinkTV in Dayton and has been made possible in part by Wright State University College of Education and Human Services, Dayton, Ohio.

### **About Public Media Connect**

Public Media Connect is Southwest Ohio’s leading provider of education and enrichment in both living rooms and classrooms, serving more than 3 million people in the Greater Cincinnati and Dayton communities. Through PBS and local programming, innovative multimedia curriculum projects, parent workshops and professional development for teachers, Public Media Connect – CET and ThinkTV – positively impacts our community with rich and diverse resources.

Public Media Connect’s mission is to strengthen the communities and region we serve by providing content and services that engage, inspire and inform, educate and entertain, fostering culture and citizenship, the joy of learning and the power of diverse perspectives. For more information visit [www.CETconnect.org](http://www.CETconnect.org) or [www.thinktv.org](http://www.thinktv.org).

### **About Wright State**

Wright State University serves nearly 18,000 students and offers more than 190 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional degree programs through eight colleges and three schools, including Professional Psychology and the Boonshoft School of Medicine. A Carnegie-classified research university, Wright State’s main campus is 12 miles northeast of downtown Dayton, Ohio, near the historic landmarks where the Wright brothers taught the world to fly. The university operates a branch campus, Wright State University–Lake Campus, on the shores of Grand Lake St. Marys in Celina, Ohio. For more information, please visit: [www.wright.edu](http://www.wright.edu)

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is the business name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Our Educational Services Department provides technology training and educational content to over 24,000 educators and over 300,000 K-12 students, plus Ready To Learn Services to over 100,000 preschool children's parents and child-care providers.

For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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