

# **BUTLER COUNTY OHIO**

## **2000 – 2020 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

### **DATA SUMMARY & ANALYSIS**

#### **POPULATION/CENSUS:**

Butler County estimated population between 2000 and 2020 increased around 17%, up 57,000 from around 334,000 to 390,000 which averages to around 2,800 increase in population each year. Note that 2020 Official Census has not yet been received and the Butler County's Official population may very well be less than the 2020 estimated population due to the recent statement that 2020 Ohio Census had a 176,000 overcount. Actual population increases were above 3,000 in years 2000-2004 and peaked between 2004 and 2008 above 4,000 a year, then decreased to around 2,000 in years 2008-2010. 2011 and 2012 saw the smallest increase in population at less than 1,000 each year. Years 2014 thru 2017 saw actual population increases around 2,300, while 2018 and 2019 had around 1,200 population increases. The estimated census jumped 7,000 in 2020, which is unusual since it was during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, but that number will likely be revised downward due to Ohio's Census overcount.

#### **VOTING AGE POPULATION (AGE 18+):**

Age 18 and over estimated population of Butler County averaged 75% of the total estimated population in Butler County beginning in 2010 and gradually increases to 77% by 2020. Age 18 and over estimated population prior to 2010 is not readily available online, so 75% is used as a basis of population in years 2000 – 2012, 76% in 2013 – 2019 and 77% in 2020.

Voting Age (Age 18 and over) estimated population increased by around 50,000 between 2000 and 2020, which averages 2,450 increase in estimated voting age population per year.

#### **REGISTERED VOTERS:**

Butler County Registered Voters 2000-2020 changed from around 216,000 to 257,000, an increase of 41,000. But that doesn't include the abnormal increase of 19,000 registered voters between 1999-2000 alone. When comparing registered voters 1999-2020, there is an average of 2,800 new registered voters per year. This is an unnatural increase based on voting age population increase average of 2,450 a year for the same time period. If around 80% of the voting age population registers to vote, there is just under 2,000 average naturally voting age population that normally registers to vote on average per year.

Online Butler County Board of Election "Official Results" of Registered Voters do not match Secretary of State "Official Canvass" in the past 6 years reported; in all cases the SOS results are lower than BOE

results. Why is there a difference? One of the “Official” results is obviously incorrect; which is incorrect – Secretary of State “Official Canvass”, or “Wayne County Board of Election “Official Results”?

### **REGISTERED VOTERS AND POPULATION COMPARISONS OVER THE PAST 20+ YEARS:**

Registered Voter counts experienced huge increases and decreases upwards of tens of thousands year to year, totally unnatural to an average 2,800 increase in voting age population per year.

- 1999 – 2000 SOS registered voter change +18,556
- 2000 – 2001 SOS registered voter change -10,219
- 2001 – 2002 SOS registered voter change +9,740
- 2002 – 2003 SOS registered voter change -8,128
- 2003 – 2004 SOS registered voter change +30,354
- 2004 – 2005 SOS registered voter change -7,149
- 2005 – 2006 SOS registered voter change +6,096
- 2007 – 2008 SOS registered voter change +20,615
- 2008 – 2009 SOS registered voter change -24,096
- 2015 – 2016 SOS registered voter change +14,651

Why are there such large increases and decreases by the thousands and tens of thousands in Registered Voters year-to-year, especially when the overall year-to-year voting age population estimates incur relative consistent changes each year? The biggest increase in registered voters occur prior to presidential elections and purges of registered voters seem to follow a pattern of massive decreases in the year following a presidential election.

In a natural situation, when a citizen reaches voting age or older, or moves into Ohio, the citizen registers to vote. The registered voter isn't removed from the voter rolls if they vote regularly (at least once every presidential election or so). If a citizen dies, moves out of Ohio, or doesn't vote in any election for a period of years, the citizen is removed from voter registration rolls. The Ohio voter registration roll counts have incurred unnatural spikes of registrations followed by unnatural purges, hence the term 'dirty voter rolls'. Ohio was sued in 2012 because Ohio failed to properly maintain clean voter registration rolls. The lawsuit settled in 2014 in which Ohio was forced to take measures to clean up the voter registration rolls. Given the pattern shown above, are registered voter rolls artificially inflated prior to a presidential election to allow for Ballot Stuffing and somewhat cleaned up following a presidential election?

80% of Butler County voting age citizens were registered to vote in 1999. That increased to 87% prior to the 2000 presidential elections, increased again to 92% prior to the 2004 presidential elections and peaked at 95% prior to the 2008 presidential elections. Is it reasonable that over 9 out of every 10 voting age citizens in Ohio were registered to vote in 2004 and 2008? The voting age population decreased to around 86% for the 2012, 2016 and 2020 elections.

## **PRESIDENTIAL YEAR GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS COUNTED:**

There were close to 30,000 more Ballots Counted in 2004 than in 2000, and almost 22,000 new voter registrations in the same time period. The voting age population only increased by around 10,000 between 2000 and 2004. If around 91% (9,100) of the increase in voting age population registered to vote, and 71% (6,500) of the registered voters cast ballots, that leaves 23,500 ballots cast outside the natural increase in the voting age population. Where did all these 23,500 votes come from? Are they all valid votes?

Between 2004 and 2016, Ballots Counted increased a net of 7,300 while the voting age population increased 28,000. In this time period, ballots cast were actually less than the expected overall voting age population change, further implicating the 2000 – 2004 massive increase in ballots counted as highly unusual.

Ballots Counted increased by over 11,500 from 2016 to 2020, along with a 9,000 increase in registered voters while the estimated voting age population increased around 10,800. The official voting age population is likely to be less than stated as a recent statement has been made that Ohio's 2020 Census was overcounted by 176,000; however, official county populations have not yet been released. The period of 2016 to 2020 somewhat mirrors the 2000 to 2004 election cycle where large increases of registered voters and ballots counted are not natural to the voting age population change.

## **PRESIDENTIAL YEAR GENERAL ELECTION REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT:**

Butler County Voter Turnout was 64% in the 2000 presidential election and 67% in the 2008 presidential election. It was around 71% in 2004, 2012 and 2016 presidential elections. Voter Turnout was it's highest in at least 20 years above 73% in 2020, which is unusual given restrictions that were in place in 2020 while in the midst of a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

56% of Butler County voting age citizens voted in the 2000 presidential election, increasing to 61% in the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections, and increasing to 63%, 64% and 65% respectfully in the 2020, 2008 and 2008 presidential elections. Over 6 out of every 10 Butler County voting age citizens voted in all presidential elections since 2004, which is around 185,000 to 195,000 of the total approximate 300,000 voting age population.

## **SOURCES:**

[census.gov](https://www.census.gov), [ohiosos.gov](https://www.ohiosos.gov), [elections.bcohoio.gov](https://elections.bcohoio.gov)

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