

OH-13 District Primer

In 2024, Democrat Emilia Sykes won this seat by 8542 votes — just two votes per precinct. **That's close!** If we can persuade just three voters per precinct, we can win again—and by a more comfortable margin. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: February 4
Primary: May 5
Midterms: November 3

Recent election results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 195,964 (49.6%) Trump: 195,781 (49.5%)	Emilia Sykes (D): 197,466 (51.1%) Kevin Coughlin (R): 188,924 (48.9%)	Emilia Sykes (D): 149,816 (52.7%) Madison G. Gilbert (R): 134,593 (47.3%)

District Facts & Stats



Citizensry

Of the approximately 785,020 people in this district, 76.4% are white and 12.3% are Black. 97.9% of the district's residents are U.S. citizens, and the home ownership rate is 67.3%. A little over 5% of residents lack health insurance, while 26% depend on Medicaid and CHIP, and 15.3% on Medicare. Almost 6% of households speak a foreign language at home, chiefly Spanish. Approximately 37,000 veterans live in OH-13, or about 6% of the population. (All figures are prior to redistricting.)

The Local Vibe

Although OH-13 has been repeatedly redistricted (2022 and 2025), its electorate has continued to favor Democrats, albeit by narrow margins. On November 3, there will also be a statewide special election to fill the rest of the 6-year term to which J.D. Vance was elected in 2022.

There have been multiple No Kings rallies in the district. In February 2026, 150 people in Akron attended a meeting to plan a response to possible ICE raids. In March 2026, thousands gathered in Akron to protest the Trump administration.

The 26% of district residents enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP are vulnerable to cuts to these programs resulting from Trump's Big Ugly Bill.

Largest Cities

- Akron: pop. 189,700
- Canton: 69,200
- Cuyahoga Falls: 51,000

Geography

OH-13 is located in northeastern Ohio, just south of Cleveland. The district includes Summit County, a portion of Stark County, and a small part of Portage County.

Key Issues

- **Environment:** Clean water and air are important to residents, many of whom are contending with aging infrastructure.
 - **Healthcare:** Medicaid and CHIP enrollees will lose access to health care from the cuts demanded by the Trump budget.
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About the Candidates

Emilia Strong Sykes | Democratic Incumbent

Emilia Sykes was first elected to represent OH-13 in 2022 and is the first African-American to represent this district. She previously served as a state representative for eight years and was the state House Minority Leader. She holds degrees in psychology, law, and public health from Kent State and the University of Florida.

In her first year as leader of the state's House Democratic Caucus, the percentage of bipartisan bills passed in the Ohio House was nearly double that of each of the previous four years. She has received numerous awards for her advocacy, and she is an Emily's List Rising Star awardee. She serves on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, and on the Railroads, Pipelines, Hazardous Materials, Water Resources and Environment subcommittees of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Issues: Following the horrific train derailment and release of toxic materials into the air and water of the neighboring Ohio town of East Palestine, Rep. Sykes introduced the bipartisan Water Preservation and Affordability Act of 2025. She helped lead a bipartisan bill to lower costs and improve clean water infrastructure for high-need communities. In 2026 she announced more than \$21 million for Street Safety in Summit County. She also called out Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy as well as Vance and Trump for their inaction on rail safety. In April, Rep. Sykes announced that she had secured \$1.85M in funding for Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, helping to ensure essential health care for thousands of Ohioans..

The DCCC has included Sykes in their 2026 Frontline Program, providing resources and support; and she is endorsed by many individuals and groups including Emily's List, MoveOn, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), End Citizens United, and the League of Conservation Voters. Her fundraising remains strong.

Carey Coleman | Republican Challenger

Carey Coleman, a former radio talk show host and meteorologist with no experience in government, is running on a standard GOP platform of lowering taxes and spending more on wars and policing. He has defended the Big "Beautiful" Bill as a tax reduction, criticizing Sykes for voting against it even though it threatens to kick nearly 30,000 OH-13 residents off their health insurance and take \$63 million in federal funding away from the district's hospitals. He has defended the Jan. 6 riots while condemning the citizens of Minnesota for standing against ICE. As of April 2026 he had less than \$70K on hand.

The contrast: Rep. Sykes has proven during her two terms as OH-13's representative that she can get things done for her district and that she will work in a bipartisan manner to do so. Her laser focus on health and safety, clean water infrastructure and transportation safety shows that the attempt by her opponents to characterize her as a "far-left radical" is simple fear-mongering as well as simply false. That she was re-elected in 2024 in a purple district shows that her constituents know that.