

# The New York Times

July 1, 2011

## In Ohio, a New Governor Is Off to a Smooth Start

By Sabrina Tavernise

In Washington, Congress may still be fighting over the national budget, but in Ohio, where Republicans control the House, the Senate and the governor's office, the budget passage has been about as smooth as a knife through butter.

Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, left, after signing the state budget bill into law, at the Statehouse on Thursday in Columbus.

That is partly because Republicans kept tight party unity, voting together on bills that Democrats say are some of the most conservative the state has ever seen. But the driving force was Ohio's governor, John R. Kasich (pronounced KAY-sik), who has pressed his legislative agenda with remarkable success since his election in November.

On Thursday night, he signed his \$56 billion budget into law, with few major changes from the version he had originally proposed and neatly ahead of a July 1 deadline. On Friday, he held a news conference in Columbus to celebrate.

"We faced our problems and took them on," Mr. Kasich said. "We have now stabilized the state. It is a new way, and it is a new day and, we are delivering."

It was a fireworks finale to a legislative season steered by Mr. Kasich, who is among the closely watched class of new Republican governors in key electoral battle-ground states. His stewardship of the state budget could have outside political implications, influencing the mood of voters and their economic circumstances, which will help set the backdrop for next year's presidential election.

In his five months in office, Mr. Kasich, a former congressman and Lehman Brothers executive, has established himself as a get-things-done governor who has expansive powers and is not afraid to use them.

"Inning after inning, the guy scored every round," said Gene Beaupre, a political science professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati. "I don't see where he lost anything in the budget game."

Article continued here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/02/us/02ohio.html>

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