

Ohio - 7th District

## 7 Michael DeWine (R)

Of Cedarville — Elected 1982

**Born:** Jan. 5, 1947, Springfield, Ohio.

**Education:** Miami U. (Ohio), B.S. 1968; Ohio Northern U., LL.B. 1972.

**Occupation:** Lawyer.

**Family:** Wife, Frances Struewing; five children.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic.

**Political Career:** Greene County prosecuting attorney, 1977-81; Ohio Senate, 1981-83.

**Capitol Office:** 1407 Longworth Bldg. 20515; 225-4324.



**The Path to Washington:** DeWine, a rising star in the Ohio GOP firmament, took control of a seat that had been held for 44 years by the Clarence Brown family, father and son. The 7th's Republican complexion — Ronald Reagan won 55 percent of the vote there in 1980 — should ensure that DeWine can retain the seat for as long as he wants. In light of his political history, however, he may not be content to sit tight if an opportunity for higher office arises.

A native of Xenia, DeWine was named a Greene County assistant prosecuting attorney in 1973 and immediately began exhibiting the traits that have marked his political career. Energetic, hard working and ambitious, he also had the good fortune to be an injured party in a political scandal growing out of revelations that his employer, the incumbent Democratic prosecuting attorney, had placed listening devices in the offices of his assistants. DeWine effectively exploited the controversy, challenging his boss in 1976 and defeating him for county prosecuting attorney. In 1980 he moved on. He ran against an incumbent Democratic state senator and handily won election to the Ohio Senate.

Although he spent just two years in the state Senate, DeWine won the attention of his colleagues and his constituents. A member of the Judiciary Committee, he emphasized law-and-order issues, sponsoring a mandatory sentencing measure and a bill to increase penalties for drunken driving. More important to his future, he influenced the state's plan for new congressional district boundaries.

When Rep. Clarence Brown Jr. announced in November of 1981 that he would surrender the 7th District to seek the GOP gubernatorial nomination, state legislators considered breaking the 7th apart and using it to fill out

population deficits in surrounding areas. But DeWine prevailed upon his Senate colleagues to tamper with the district boundaries as little as possible. In the end, the 7th was not only maintained but additional GOP territory was placed inside it.

DeWine began to mount his congressional campaign shortly after Brown announced his statehouse ambitions. He had little trouble gaining the Republican nomination in the redrawn 7th, almost half of which he represented in the Ohio Senate. Against a field of five opponents, two of them people of some local reputation, he won more than two-thirds of the vote. He ran on his law-and-order record, stressing his accomplishments as a county prosecutor and state senator, and benefited from a meticulously organized and carefully executed campaign.

In the general election, Democrat Roger D. Tackett emphasized the state of the economy, potentially a winning issue in a district where troubled International Harvester is a major employer. Tackett, confined to a wheelchair as a result of injuries suffered as a Marine during the Vietnam War, waged an active campaign. But his organization was no match for DeWine's and could not close the wide gap in name recognition.

Tackett hoped to run up a large margin in Clark County (Springfield), where he serves as a county commissioner. But he carried Clark, the district's most populous county, by only about 2,200 votes out of 45,000 cast there. DeWine, who ran with the strong endorsement of Rep. Brown, won all of the eight remaining counties, garnering 56 percent districtwide. Only Tackett's war record and local economic conditions prevented DeWine from winning a more impressive victory.

Michael DeWine, R-Ohio

## Ohio 7

Situated between Columbus and Dayton, the new 7th is bisected by U.S. Route 40. North of that highway are four solidly Republican counties that cast one-third of the district vote. Combining agriculture and small industry, they have been GOP strongholds for generations. Champaign, Logan and Union counties backed Alfred M. Landon for president in 1936. Marion County, at the district's far northern end, was the home of President Warren G. Harding. Ronald Reagan won 62 percent in these four counties in 1980.

Marion claims to be the birthplace of the steam shovel, and the local Marion Power Shovel Company is still a major employer. But Marion has been hard hit by the recession. The demand for large power shovels has decreased since the strip mining boom of the 1970s, and a local steel plant has had major layoffs. In 1982 the unemployment rate in Marion County hovered around 17 percent, a problem that helped Democratic Gov. Richard Celeste come within 300 votes of carrying the county even though the Republican gubernatorial nominee, Clarence J. Brown, was the area's incumbent congressman.

The economic picture is rosier in neighboring Union County. Its population grew by 24 percent in the last decade, a far greater rate than that of any other county in

## West Central — Springfield; Marion

the district. Just northwest of Columbus, it is an attractive site for industries seeking open land and low taxes. Honda has already built a motorcycle plant in the western part of the county, and the Japanese firm's first American automobile plant is being constructed nearby.

The population south of Route 40 is concentrated in Clark County (Springfield) and Greene County, which extends into the eastern suburbs of Dayton. Greene has a working-class mixture of blacks and southern whites. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is responsible for a substantial amount of military-related employment. In 1982 Clark gave an almost 2,000-vote margin to Celeste, while Greene County stayed with Clarence Brown.

Springfield's site along Route 40, the old National Road, enabled it to develop into the leading population center in the area, but it has been in an economic slump in recent years. The city has already lost a major publishing company, and International Harvester, the district's largest employer, has made significant layoffs.

Population: 512,706. White 481,017 (94%), Black 27,502 (5%). Spanish origin 3,086 (1%). 18 and over 361,062 (70%), 65 and over 51,059 (10%). Median age: 30.

### Committees

Judiciary (11th of 11 Republicans)  
Civil and Constitutional Rights; Courts, Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice; Criminal Justice.

### Elections

<b>1982 General</b>		
Michael DeWine (R)	87,842	(56%)
Roger Tackett (D)	65,543	(42%)
<b>1982 Primary</b>		
Michael DeWine (R)	32,615	(69%)
Peter Knowlton (R)	6,534	(14%)
John Evans (R)	4,223	(9%)

### District Vote For President

	<b>1980</b>		<b>1976</b>
D	65,353 (38%)	D	75,186 (45%)
R	94,970 (55%)	R	88,833 (53%)
I	9,759 (6%)		

### Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
<b>1982</b>			
DeWine (R)	\$220,489	\$102,695 (47%)	\$203,854
Tackett (D)	\$85,400	\$10,575 (12%)	\$85,398

### Key Vote

Adopt nuclear freeze (1983) N