

BLUE WAVE turns out to just be a surge of Tidy Bowl toilet water



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GOP Victory in OH-12: A Win is a Win, Despite Reasons for Concern

Voters in Ohio's 12th Congressional District appear to have [narrowly elected](#) Republican Troy Balderson in yesterday's special election, thwarting Democrats' hopes to flip another GOP-held seat ahead of the midterm elections. The race came down to the wire, but the incumbent party ultimately prevailed. There's a small chance that provisional ballots could trigger a recount, and that absentee ballots [could shift votes](#), but left-leaning elections guru Dave Wasserman looks at the math and effectively calls the contest over, discerning that defeated Democrat Danny O'Connor would "[need a miracle](#)" to reverse the outcome. For all intents and purposes, and barring major developments, it's over; Balderson won. Winning is always better than losing (with *very* rare arguable exceptions), so the GOP has ample reason to celebrate -- but the broader picture is less rosy than they'd have you believe. A few key takeaways, starting with the good news for Republicans:

(1) A win is a win. I realize that's some deep and profound political analysis, but that's why they pay me the big bucks. Seriously, though, a loss would have been so much worse than a too-close-for-comfort victory. Sure, the House GOP conference would be down a seat, but the bigger problem would be psychological. Notching a [second consecutive](#) special election win in a [fairly heavy \(+11\) Trump district](#) would have been yet another shot in the arm to national Democrats. It would also have been a morale crusher for Republicans, whose fretting,