



## **Kasich 'Absolutely Thrilled' Women Playing Bigger Role**

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COLUMBUS, Ohio - While Planned Parenthood continues to air a television ad attacking Gov. John Kasich for signing several anti-abortions bills in the state budget, Kasich worked Friday to assure women that his administration is not working against them.

"It's probably from my mother who had such a profound influence on me that many of the people that are the advisors and movers and shakers in the administration are women," said Kasich. "My chief of staff is the first woman to come in with a new governor in the history of the state of Ohio. And, I'm very excited about the cabinet members and appointees that we've made."

Kasich's critics, including Kellie Copeland from NARAL Pro Choice Ohio, say the governor's words cannot cover his actions.

"He doesn't trust one of those competent women to make their own choice on their reproductive healthcare decisions without the government's involvement," said Copeland. "When you have a governor who gets involved in what rape counselors can say to rape survivors, there's nothing we can't say loud enough to bring that to the attention of Ohio voters."

Kasich addressed the National Association of Women Business Owners in Columbus at their annual awards gala.

Planned Parenthood is spending \$100,000 for ads in Columbus that feature a rape victim who says she is "sad for Ohio women" because Kasich signed a budget that cuts Planned Parenthood funding and prohibits rape-crisis center counselors.

The ads against Kasich are running 17 months before the 2014 general election.

Dale Butland from Innovation Ohio, a progressive think tank, says Kasich is leading the narrative nationally that Republicans are at war with women.

"From Texas to Ohio, women are fed up," Butland said. "Ohio Republicans just passed the most anti-women budget in the history of our state. It contains six new restrictions on women's access to healthcare and Governor Kasich didn't veto a single one. Women don't want men controlling their healthcare decisions. Republicans need to learn no means no."

Republican strategist Bob Clegg says the GOP is not worried that the ads are helping widen a gap between Kasich and women voters.

"If this was one of the top issues before voters, let alone women voters, it might have some effect," Clegg said. "Unfortunately for Democrats, even though they want to constantly talk about abortion, the main issue is going to be jobs and the economy. That's why Democrats won't do well next year because they want to focus on issues that nobody really cares about all that much."

Kasich told the group of roughly 500 women business owners that he wanted more women involved in his administration.

"I'm absolutely thrilled women are taking a much larger role," said Kasich. "You offer something so different than what men offer. My legislators who understand issues like autism and Medicaid expansion, I go to women with a different point of view and a different understanding."

Copeland says women voters could cost Kasich his reelection.

"The more they learn about his record, Ohioans will be outraged he didn't stand up for women's health," said Copeland. "He has most definitely decided to jeopardize women's healthcare and we will remember in November, 2014."

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