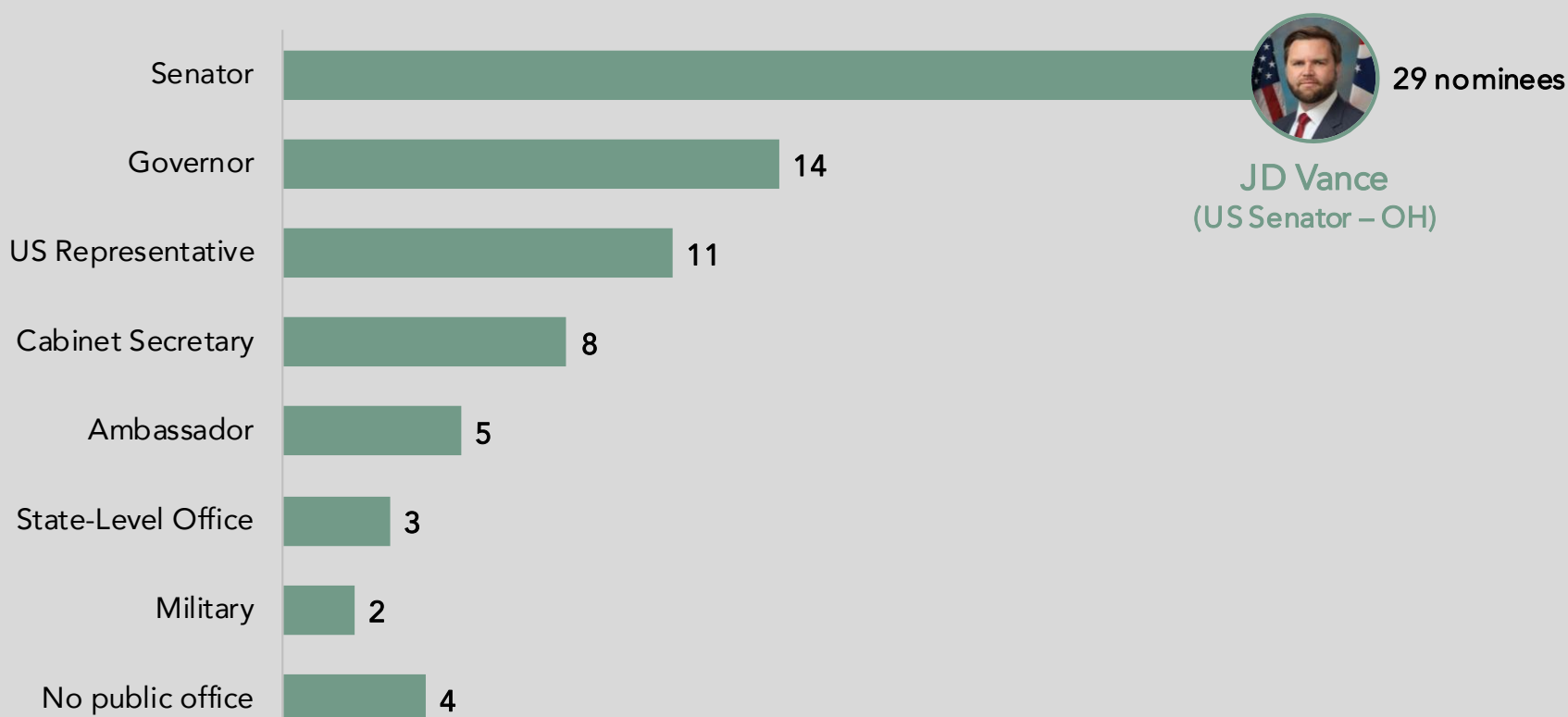


# Chart of the Day



As recently observed by Washington DC-based strategist Bruce Mehlman, most US Vice Presidential nominees come to the position with significant Government experience, most frequently as a US Senator or state Governor. Former President Trump’s VP nominee, JD Vance, has served as the junior Senator from Ohio since January 2023. In addition to aligning well with the former President’s base, the Ohio Senator provides an opportunity to strengthen the campaign’s penetration of the critically important and nearby “Rust Belt” (MI, WI, PA).

### Highest office held by vice presidential nominees (1868 - 2024)



Vice Presidential nominees are typically chosen to strengthen the Presidential ticket by, for example, expanding its geographical footprint or filling a shortcoming in the Presidential candidate’s resume (i.e., age, foreign policy experience). However, history has demonstrated that VP nominees typically have a relatively “small” impact on the ultimate success of the campaign. For Kamala Harris, this time could be different. Having launched her Presidential campaign just 105 days ahead of the election, her VP pick may matter more than historical precedent. In the current cycle, Democrats have a particularly deep bench of young Governors to choose from, including several who could push the geographical focus of the campaign’s strategy beyond defense of “the blue wall”. Notably, while Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan has endorsed Kamala Harris, she has publicly declined to join her campaign.

### Potential Democratic vice presidential candidates

US Governors	US Senators	Others
<p><b>Josh Shapiro</b> Democratic Governor of Pennsylvania PA: 19 electoral college votes</p>	<p><b>Mark Kelly</b> Democratic Senator from Arizona AZ: 11 votes</p>	<p><b>Pete Buttigieg</b> US Secretary of Transportation</p>
<p><b>Roy Cooper</b> Democratic Governor of North Carolina NC: 16 votes</p>	<p><b>Cory Booker</b> Democratic Senator from New Jersey NJ: 14 votes</p>	<p><b>General William H. McRaven</b> Retired US Navy Four-Star Admiral</p>
<p><b>Andy Beshear</b> Democratic Governor of Kentucky KY: 8 votes</p>	<p><b>Amy Klobuchar</b> Democratic Senator from Minnesota MN: 10 votes</p>	<p><b>Cedric Richmond</b> Former Democratic Representative of Louisiana LA: 8 votes</p>
<p><b>Wes Moore</b> Democratic Governor of Maryland MD: 10 votes</p>		<p><b>Gina Raimondo</b> US Secretary of Commerce</p>
<p><b>Tim Walz</b> Democratic Governor of Minnesota MN: 10 votes</p>		
<p><b>JB Pritzker</b> Democratic Governor of Illinois IL: 19 votes</p>		
<p><b>Gavin Newsom</b> Democratic Governor of California CA: 54 votes</p>		

Source: (1-2) Pew Research, “What kind of person runs for vice president?” Mehlman Consulting. Data is the highest office (current or former) held when nominated, for VP candidates from 1868 - 2024. Data as of July 24, 2024. Bloomberg. Politico.

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“Macro stability isn’t everything, but without it, you have nothing.”