



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - April 2019

Dear %firstname%,

In less than two weeks, Democrats across Portage County will cast their final ballots for Municipal Court Judge. Barring some last-minute change, the Democrat who wins the May Primary Election will serve as Judge in that court beginning January 1, 2020.

Winning this seat will be a big victory for our Party - the first flip from the Republicans during my tenure as your Chair - and will help ensure that a people first perspective issues from the municipal bench for years to come. A bigger victory still owes to the campaigns Melissa Roubic and Stephen Smith have run, focused on their respective strengths and trusting voters to make the right choice. They are to be commended, and I am confident that regardless of the outcome we will pull together as Democrats to promote our shared ideals and ensure we flip more positions to blue in the future.

In addition to Municipal Court Judge, voters at the May Primary will select candidates for Mayor in Streetsboro, Council At-Large in Ravenna, and Ward 6 Council in Kent. These are the first of many elections for local office that will be on the ballot this year.

Electing Democrats to these offices is critical as we seek to build a bench of strong leaders - both for our present moment and the future. We are committed to helping identify candidates to run, to win, and to lead, and we hope you'll join us in doing so.

To those ends, we are providing some updates below on how to get involved. If there are opportunities you'd like us to share in future newsletters - or individuals you feel we should contact for local office - please don't hesitate to let us know by responding to this email.

Thank you for all you do to keep our Party - and Portage County - strong.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Upcoming Events

[Ohio Young Dems State Convention - 4/27/19, 10a - 3:30p, Ohio Dems HQ](#)

Democrats under 40 years of age are invited to participate in the Ohio Young Democrats' State Convention! In addition to speakers, trainings and updates, the Ohio Young Democrats will be electing leadership for 2019-2020. Please RSVP [here](#).

[Community Breakfast feat. Commissioner Clyde - 5/4/19 - 10a - 12p - Winfield COGIC](#)

Commissioner Kathleen Clyde will be the featured speaker at this month's Community Breakfast at the Winfield Church of God in Christ in Ravenna Township's McElrath community. The breakfast is free and open to all.

[Primary Election - 5/7/19, 6:30a - 7:30p, Various](#)

Get information about your polling place, voter ID requirements, and more at the link above...and go VOTE!

[Ohio Democratic Party Dinner feat. Nancy Pelosi - 5/17/19, 6p - 8p, Columbus](#)

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will highlight the Ohio Democratic Party's annual Legacy Dinner at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. A limited number of tickets are available through the Portage Co. Democratic Party. For details, please contact 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes via [email](#). Additional tickets are available at the link above.

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Elections Updates

Mail Ballot Request Deadline Approaching. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the May 7, 2019 Primary Election is Saturday, May 4th. Applications must be received by Noon on that date to be processed.

Voter ID Requirements. To vote at the May 7, 2019 Primary Election, all voters must provide valid identification. Valid ID includes a current Ohio driver's license or state-issued ID card, military ID, a current utility bill or bank statement showing the voter's current residence address, and several others. For a full list, visit <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Columbus Dispatch - Ohio House Dems introduce bill to address gender pay gaps - 4/2/19](#)

Democrats on Tuesday utilized Equal Pay Day - the day to highlight the wage gap between men and women - to push a trio of bills they say will bring help and fairness.

[Record-Courier - Portage GOP ousts Chairman - 4/3/19](#)

"According to the bylaws an officer 'can be removed from office for malfeasance or failure to perform their official duties as designated by the bylaws," Cross said in a prepared statement. She declined to give a specific reason, saying that the meeting was private.

[WVXU \(Commentary\) - 'Ohio Is Not Red. It's Rigged.' - 4/3/19](#)

In all the U.S. House races since the Republicans re-drew the districts in 2011, the total votes cast statewide for Democratic and Republican candidates has been nearly even. Almost 50-50. And yet, in each of those elections, the Democrats have won only 25 percent of those House seats, despite taking about 50 percent of the vote.

[WFMJ - Rep. Tim Ryan announces 2020 presidential run on The View - 4/4/19](#)

As the congressman exited the show, Congressman Ryan announced "Youngstown goes first"... "I feel like we deserve a lot better, and this is for all the people back home, I'm doing this for you and all the communities around the country that are in the same boat," Ryan told 21 News. For Ryan, a large part of the decision came down to General Motors, he said it had a "deep effect" on him.

[The Hill \(Opinion\) - The Road to the White House still goes through Ohio - 4/6/19](#)

Democrats cannot cede Ohio to Trump. In fact, those trying to beat Trump in 2020 should realize that an investment in Ohio will not only help win the state, but will also force Trump to double down on his commitment here and spread his resources thin.

[Cincinnati Enquirer - Ohio lawmakers pass one of the nation's most](#)

[restrictive abortion bans - 4/9/19](#)

On Wednesday, Democrats offered a slew of amendments to offer an exemption for rape and incest, eliminate the statute of limitations on rape, prevent taxpayers from paying the legal bill for the imminent court battle, exempt African-American women from the abortion ban and even require DNA from all men to ensure child support is paid.

All were rejected by the GOP-controlled House.

[Washington Post \(Opinion\) - The Democrats' new tax plan is their cheapest, most efficient blueprint yet - 4/11/19](#)

The bill, introduced by Democratic Sens. Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Michael F. Bennet (Colo.), Richard J. Durbin (Ill.) and Ron Wyden (Ore.), focuses on expanding the earned-income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit.

[Columbus Dispatch \(Podcast\) - LGBTQ advocate says Ohio needs to outlaw discrimination statewide - 4/16/19](#)

Alana Jochum, Executive Director of Equality Ohio, tells The Other Side how having only a patchwork of local communities that prohibit discrimination means Ohio's LGBTQ community face having their civil rights in jeopardy on their daily commute to work or school.

[Columbus Dispatch - Immigrants driving Ohio's population growth, U.S. Census says - 4/18/19](#)

Without immigrants, Ohio's population would have shrunk since 2010...The Akron metro area would have lost thousands of people, instead of gaining slightly. The Cleveland metro area's population loss would have more than doubled.

[Record-Courier - Suffecool to heat Portage Republican Party - 4/18/19](#)

Suffecool, an engineer from Paris Township, succeeds Jonathan Jennings, who was ousted as party chairman last month after a special meeting.

[WCMH - Sen. Brown on the Mueller Report, Trump's tax returns and more - 4/21/19](#)

Brown pointed to a Pulitzer Prize-winning report from the New York Times last October that detailed alleged tax evasion on Trump's part. "All of those things are part of his public record," Brown said. "I know 50% of Ohio that voted for Trump doesn't really want to hear that, but it's pretty important we know what the president [does], where he comes from in terms of what he does."

[Record-Courier - Two Portage Democrats running for Municipal Court Judge - 4/22/19](#)

There's one countywide primary for Democrats in Portage County, and it's one that could decide who the next Portage County Municipal Court judge will be. No Republicans have filed in the race, and unless an independent files by May 6, the winner of the Democratic Primary will succeed Judge Barbara Oswick.

Toledo Blade - Wind, solar skeptical of Ohio 'clean energy' bill - 4/23/19

While solar, wind, and other renewable power would presumably be allowed to compete for the zero-emissions credits, Andrew Gohn, eastern region director for the American Wind Energy Association, said those in his industry worry that the deck is stacked against them. "I would say that I don't think our members, frankly, are highly confident that they will have access to those resources," he said.

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For more news and notes on the activities of Democrats from around Ohio, sign up for the Ohio Democratic Party Daily Update [here](#).

The Portage County Democratic Party

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