

NEWS AND NOTES - December 2018

Friend -

As this year draws to a close, I am writing with a few quick updates for you - and a call to action.

First, I want to extend my congratulations to our newest County Commissioner, Kathleen Clyde, and my thanks to her successor, Mike Kerrigan. In his brief tenure as a Commissioner, Mike exhibited a strong mind and challenged Portage County leaders to think more creatively about the issues we all face. He leaves behind a number of projects that need completing, and I am confident that Kathleen (together with Vicki Kline) will take up the challenge of leadership and position Portage County to thrive.

I also want to thank all those who stepped forward and put their names out as possible replacements for Mike in the Commissioner's Office. Our pool of candidates was deep and diverse, and is a testament to the strength of our local Party. I look forward to working with you all, and hope you will stay active in the years to come.

To those ends, it bears repeating that one of the best ways to get involved is to run for office. In 2019, we'll be electing city, township and school officials. The need for strong leaders in those roles is great, and I encourage any who are interested in running to do so. More information on how can be found below.

In closing, I would like to say "thank you" once again to each of you for your hard work over the past year (and beyond). Democrats do well in Portage County because we are genuinely committed to putting people first - and that starts with the work each of you do to make your communities better. I am proud to be your Chair, and look forward to fighting with you for working families locally in the year ahead.

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Randi Clites' Swearing In Ceremony - December 31, 2018 - 3p - 4p - Portage County Courthouse

Join friends and family of our new State Representative as we celebrate her swearing in by Judge Laurie Pittman. The event will take place in Judge Pittman's Court Room. Refreshments to follow.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast - January 19, 2019 - 9a - 12p - Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St. Kent

Portage County will celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at its annual prayer breakfast, sponsored by the NAACP. Tickets are \$10/person, and include a hot breakfast and the program. Those interested should contact [Frank Hairston](#).

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

LOCAL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES: Petitions and/or declarations of candidacy for local offices (including mayors, city council members, school board members, township trustees and township fiscal officers) are due as early as February 6, 2019. If you are interested in running for local office, please contact the Board of Elections as soon as possible for details pertaining to your specific race at 330-297-3511. For more general information, the [2019 Candidate Guide](#) is now available from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: It's never too early to sign up to be a poll worker and help make sure our elections run smoothly (and it's never more necessary than in odd-year elections). Being a poll worker is an easy, fun way to give back to your community...plus, you get paid to do it! If you're interested, please contact the Board of Elections at 330-297-3518.

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

WOSU - [Ohio's Rate of Uninsured Children Jumps 20%](#) - November 29, 2018

"Ohio did have one of the worst increases that we saw," says Joan Alker, executive director of the Center...She says the increase is due to a decline in public coverage for kids. 'While kids were getting more coverage through their

parents jobs, for a lot of those low-wage working families that cannot get coverage through their jobs, Medicaid, CHIP, or Affordable Care Act marketplaces are really the way to go,' she says. Her team believes that the Trump administration's funding cut for advertising and outreach led to a decline of those areas."

The Atlantic - [Why Democrats' Response to GM Matters](#) - November 30, 2018

"After General Motors announced Monday that it would lay off nearly 15,000 workers and cease production at five North American plants, Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio, whose district is home to one such plant, called on Congress to investigate the automaker. 'The American people deserve to know if the tax cuts they paid for are being used to inflate corporate profits at the expense of their economic security and the survival of American workers,' Ryan wrote in a letter to the leaders of the House Ways and Means Committee."

Advance Ohio (Opinion) - [Latest Ohio House 'Let's Make a Deal' includes anti-democratic clamp-down on voters' ability to amend the constitution](#) - December 1, 2018

"The odds against winning approval of voter-proposed pro-consumer, pro-environment, pro-ratepayer constitutional amendments are tough enough now in Ohio. Requiring a supermajority "yes" vote of 60 percent would make it even tougher. HJR 19, whatever its stated goals, is functionally anti-consumer and pro-status quo – the last things that Ohioans need."

Record-Courier - [Kerrigan resignation surprises fellow Democrats](#) - December 3, 2018

"Fellow Democrats say they were shocked to learn of Portage County Commissioner Mike Kerrigan's plan to resign next week — just a month after he won election...Kerrigan announced his decision on Monday, just four weeks after winning election to a 2-year-term. His resignation is effective Dec. 13. He cited personal reasons related to his wife's career..."

Columbus Free Press (Opinion) - [It Was Not Trump. Ohio Is Not Red. Cordray Fails to Tag DeWine with "Corruption" Tag](#) - December 4, 2018

"(Ohio Dems) Chair David Pepper deserves credit for rebuilding the Ohio Democratic Party from the wipe-out of 2014. His 88 county strategy that included recruiting candidates for all legislative and county offices, even in heavily Republican areas, was the right way to get the party back on its feet. This surely helped Brown win, helped Democrats capture two Supreme Court justice positions and helped Democrats gain five seats in the Ohio House."

Advance Ohio - [Ohio House passes "pink tax" exemption for feminine products](#) - December 5, 2018

"State Rep. Brigid Kelly, a Cincinnati Democrat, co-sponsored a 'pink tax' bill last year, but it immediately stalled. But Kelly said Wednesday that state Rep. Steve Arndt, a Port Clinton Republican sponsoring HB 545, agreed to fold the 'pink tax' proposal into his bill."

New York Magazine - [Is looking this ruffled a path to the presidency?](#) - December 9, 2018

"The industrial Midwest will likely be central to the 2020 race, and Brown is waiting to see if anyone else can beat Trump in the region using a message of fighting for workers. When I ask if he's ever heard of any other Democrat doing that satisfactorily, he says quickly, "Oh, sure. Yeah. Probably ... Harry Truman did ... Not to make comparisons. I don't want to go there."...No one who's served in the past four decades, in other words. Brown thinks he can teach his party to do it."

Youngstown Business Journal - [Trump Lordstown comments draws rebuke from Ryan, Brown](#) - December 14, 2018

"Donald Trump yesterday following comments on Fox News Channel that appeared to dismiss concerns of workers at General Motors Lordstown plant. Trump, during an interview said, it 'doesn't really matter' whether GM moves forward with closing the Lordstown plant, where the Chevrolet Cruze is manufactured, idling some 1,600 hourly and salaried workers."

Ohio Public Radio - [Democrats weighing options in Ohio Speaker battle](#) - December 18, 2018

"The behind-the-scenes battle over who will lead the Republican-dominated Ohio House next year isn't just between supporters of current Speaker Ryan Smith and former speaker Larry Householder. Longtime state Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) said with recent bills on abortion and gun rights, he's open to options besides backing the current speaker. 'Clearly there's no difference between Smith and Householder, and if Democrats can impact the speaker's race, then the question is, what can we do for the people we represent?' Leland said."

Record-Courier - [Ohio's heartbeat bill aims to trigger Supreme Court battle](#) - December 19, 2018

"For context, by the time a woman misses her period, she's generally considered four weeks pregnant. So if a woman has a perfect 28-day menstrual cycle, she would have about two weeks to discover she's pregnant, decide to have an abortion and schedule appointments with an abortion clinic. Abortion advocates and medical professionals say the quick timeline would make it impossible for most women to get an abortion. 'It would essentially, make abortion if not illegal, inaccessible in Ohio,' Chrisee France, executive director of Cleveland's Preterm Abortion Clinic said. That's the idea."

Record-Courier - [Clyde named to succeed Kerrigan](#) - December 20, 2018

"Kathleen Clyde, the outgoing state representative who represented Portage County's 75th district for the past eight

