



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - June 2021

Dear %firstname%,

We now find ourselves officially in the midst of summer - and while that means celebrating good weather with cook-outs, long-stalled family trips, and lots of time outdoors, it also means fall's elections are just around the corner.

We are preparing an effort to support our candidates up and down the ballot this year, and laying the ground work to win Portage County back. Our countywide candidates this year are Municipal Court Judges Kevin Poland and Mark Fankhauser. Both have done an exemplary job on the bench, and deserve our full support. Stay on top of their latest efforts, and learn how to get involved, at www.judgekevinpoland.com and www.judgefankhauser.com.

In addition to those countywide judicial seats, this year we'll be voting on city council members, school board members, township trustees and more. In the months ahead, we'll be featuring some of those candidates in this newsletter and on our Facebook Page. To get a head start learning about some of them in the meantime, you can visit the Portage County Young Dems' [website](#).

Lastly, but just as importantly, we continue our work to build the Party for the future. Our membership and constitutional review committees are completing their work, and our Central Committee will review it next week. Our service committee continues to seek opportunities to live and demonstrate our people-first values, and our finance committee and affiliated groups are assembling some terrific events for later this year.

Some of that work is highlighted below. If you have additional ideas for how we build back better, contact 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes [via email](#). Thank you for your commitment to helping us serve the people of Portage County. May this be a summer of growth and positive change for us all.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Office Opening and Call To Action - Redistricting Reform and More!

This year Ohio will draw new district maps for Congress and the General Assembly. These maps are supposed to be drawn using new rules overwhelming approved by voters to make the process more fair...but Statehouse Republicans are working to game the system.

Help us push back by writing postcards, making calls, and more. Our office is now open for this important work, Monday and Wednesday 10am - 2pm and 5pm - 7pm, Friday 10am - 2pm, and Saturday 11am - 1pm.

Stop in and let's make sure we get the fair districts we deserve!

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Upcoming Events

[Portage Young Dems Fundraiser - Ongoing - Virtual Event](#)

Our Young Democrats chapter in Portage County is one of the hard-working anywhere. Help ensure they've got the resources they need to do the important work of supporting candidates and causes in our community by donating today.

Central Committee Meeting - 6/30/21 - 6pm - 7pm - Reed Memorial Library

The Portage County Democratic Party Central Committee will meet in-person in the Haymaker/Jenkins Rooms on the lower level of Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna. Parking is available on-site. Masks are not necessary for vaccinated individuals, but encouraged for others.

Independence Day (Observed) - 7/5/21 - Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021 in observance of Independence Day. Celebrate America's birthday by making your plan to defend

our democracy once the fireworks are finished!

Breakfast w/ Rep. Tim Ryan - 7/17/21 - 10am - 11am - In-Person and Zoom

Join us for a special breakfast event with our Congressman and Ohio's next Senator, Tim Ryan! Learn how to cut workers in on the deal and create a country that works for all of us. \$25/person, special student rate available. More information to come, so save the date and stay tuned!

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Board of Elections Updates

No August Special - Apply for November absentee ballots now!

There will be no August Special Election in Portage County this year. That means the next election is the November 2, 2021 General Election. You can request your absentee ballot now [on the Board's "Absentee Voting" page](#).

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*Record-Courier - Controversial Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor-Greene to speak to Portage Republicans - 5/26/21*](#)

"Days after her controversial comments comparing COVID mask wearing to actions of the Nazi regime, the Portage County Republican Party announced that Georgia Congresswoman Majorie Taylor-Green will address the Party in Portage County...Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes, second vice chairman of the Portage County Democratic Party, said Taylor-Green and her comments are not welcome in Portage County. 'Lets be clear: the hateful, violent, conspiracy-based rhetoric she has used to rise to national prominence has no place in our politics,' Cromes wrote on his Facebook Page. 'It's not welcome in Portage County, and should be rejected by all who claim patriotism and reside in fact-based reality.'"

[*Record-Courier - Site of former gas station cleaned up, rehabilitated - 5/27/21*](#)

"A highly visible property in Edinburg may eventually see new life, thanks to a grant secured by the Portage County Land Bank."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Mandel's campaign see exodus of fundraisers - 5/27/21*](#)

"Three fundraisers recently resigned from Republican Josh Mandel's U.S. Senate campaign, prompting questions about the strength of his fundraising operation, according to Republican sources close to the campaign."

[*Record-Courier - Our View: Republicans' choice of Majorie Taylor-Greene as speaker adds to divide in Portage County - 5/30/21*](#)

"There are far more worthy conservative speakers to inspire Portage County Republicans."

[*Record-Courier - Sheriff wants \\$1 million to hire staff, suggests renting out jail space to fund it - 6/5/21*](#)

"The Portage County Sheriff is requesting more than \$1 million in staffing requests, including staff to open a closed cell block at the county jail."

[*Akron Beacon-Journal - Democratic leaders and local advocates express concerns over new 'anti-voter bill' - 6/6/21*](#)

"The Republican-backed House Bill 294 would make significant changes to Ohio's election laws by reducing early voting opportunities, among other things."

[*The Portager - Commissioners lift all COVID restrictions in county buildings - 6/7/21*](#)

"Commissioners removed COVID restrictions, including social distancing and mask requirements, as of June 2 in all offices under the commissioners' control."

[*AP - Democratic Justice Jennifer Brunner vying for chief justice - 6/8/21*](#)

"Ohio Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Brunner entered the race for chief justice Tuesday, touching off likely bipartisan competition next year for the state judiciary's top job."

[*Statehouse News Bureau - Sherrod Brown on passing voting rights bill: "Failure is not an option" - 6/11/21*](#)

"Democratic leaders in the U.S. Senate, including Ohio's senior senator, are working on legislation they say would improve voting rights around the country."

[*Record-Courier - Portage County sales tax might be on the ballot in November to help fund jail operations - 6/12/21*](#)

"The possible return of a sales tax was discussed by commissioners recently."

[*NBC News - EMILY's List endorses Nan Whaley in race for Ohio governor - 6/16/21*](#)

"The endorsement is the first prominent women's group has issued for a gubernatorial challenger in the 2022 cycle."

[*AP - Ohio House expels former Republican speaker in historic vote - 6/16/21*](#)

"Members of the Ohio House expelled Rep. Larry Householder, the federally indicted Republican ex-speaker, Wednesday in a bipartisan vote that invoked their powers to remove a member for the first time in 150 years."

[*The Portager - Mantua Village employees say they endured years of workplace harassment under Mayor Clark - 6/17/21*](#)

"Mayor Linda Clark has led the village of Mantua for nearly a decade...She has also created a work environment in the village administration that some employees called hostile, directing constant criticism and inappropriate sexual comments at certain employees, causing at least three of them to residn in distress and prompting an investigation into workplace bullying by the Portage County Prosecutor's Office."

[*Akron Beacon-Journal - Colleague's outburst 'an attempt to bully and humiliate,' says Akron's Rep. Sykes - 6/17/21*](#)

"Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes said Thursday she will not be intimidated after being shouted at by a Cincinnati colleague."

[*The Portager - Roger Di Paolo, chronicler of Portage County, dies at 66 - 6/18/21*](#)

"Roger Di Paolo, a historian and journalist whose work enlightened Portage County residents about their own community for over 40 years, died June 18 at the age of 66."

[*Chillicothe Gazette - Meet the candidate: Tim Ryan runs to replace Rob Portman - 6/21/21*](#)

"Congressman Tim Ryan pledged to gather Southern Ohio leaders to fight for jobs and healthcare during a recent campaign stop in Chillicothe."

[*The Portager - Meet Portage County's new budget director, Joe Harris - 6/21/21*](#)

"Portage County's new director of budget and financial management as of June 1, Joe Harris...grew up in Brimfield, the son of a nurse and a contractor, and attended Field."

[CityBeat - Expelled Ohio Rep. Larry Householder's influence continues in bill that reforms energy rates and preserves coal subsidies - 6/22/21](#)

"A new plan is on the table to phase out rate programs that have let Ohio's electric utilities collect billions in subsidies over the past dozen years. But the bill aims to continue coal plant subsidies and cuts authority for utility energy efficiency programs."

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