



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - May 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the Memorial Day holiday fast approaching, this month we're providing you with just the basics - action items, upcoming events, and news updates. Other content, including our "Letter from the Chair," will return in June. We wish you all a safe and meaningful Memorial Day - and join you in expressing our gratitude to those who serve and have served to preserve the idea of America.

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Call To Action - Ohio Voter Suppression Bill

All over the country, Republicans are introducing so-called "election integrity" bills in response to the #BigLie that Donald Trump actually won the 2020 election. These bills are meant to keep people from voting - including minorities, students, and even those who rely on mail ballots like our military members serving overseas.

In Ohio, the legislation is called House Bill 294. It limits drop boxes, imposes confusing voter ID rules, and shortens the early voting period, among other things. It's a disaster for voting rights, and we cannot allow it to become law.

[Learn more about the bill - and how to fight back against it - here.](#)

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Upcoming Events

[Write Postcards to Flip Ohio's Senate Seat Blue - Ongoing - Virtual Event](#)

In 2022, Ohioans will have a stark choice for their next Senator: a champion for working people in our Congressman, Tim Ryan, or a dangerous extremist like

Josh Mandel or Jane Timken. This effort seeks to reach out early to swing voters to tell them why it's so important we elect Tim...and you're invited to help!

[Webinar: Is Justice Truly Blind? - 6/2/21 and 6/9/21 - 7pm - Virtual Event](#)

The equity - or lack thereof - in our criminal justice system has been a hot topic in this country for much of the past year. As we mark the one-year anniversary of the death of George Floyd, this two-part webinar series examines Ohio's court system, and how race, poverty, structural racism and racial bias tip the scales of justice.

[Ohio Democratic Women Meeting - 6/12/21 - 10am - Virtual Event](#)

It's time for us to begin reactivating the grassroots network of Ohio Democratic women to prepare for the elections coming in 2021 and 2022. Join the Ohio Democratic Party Women's Caucus for a free event to talk about how we can do that most effectively.

Central Committee Meeting - 6/24/21 - 6pm - 7:30pm - TBD

Save the date for the next meeting of the Portage Co. Democratic Party Central Committee. The Committee will discuss fundraising plans, opportunities to engage with candidates for office in 2021 and 2022, and more. We are currently reviewing protocols for moving back to in-person meetings, and will have more on this in the days ahead...so stay tuned!

Breakfast with Congressman Tim Ryan - 6/26/21 - 10am - 11am - Virtual Event

Save the date for a special breakfast meeting with Rep. Tim Ryan - the first in Portage County since he announced his campaign for Senate in 2022! This event will be sponsored by the Portage Co. Democratic Party, Federated Democratic Women of Portage County, and other affiliated organizations. The cost is \$25/person, and more information (including how to sign up) will be coming soon.

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Board of Elections Updates

Register to vote...then help your neighbors to the same!

It's not too early to register to vote (or update your registration) for the November 2, 2021 General Election. [You can do so here.](#)

Our democracy works best when everyone participates...so after you've registered, plan to reach out to your friends and neighbors and ensure they're registered too. [Here's one tool that's available to do that.](#)

Post-Primary campaign finance reports due 6/11.

Candidates who appeared on the May Primary Election ballot must file campaign finance reports with the Board of Elections no later than 4pm on Friday, 6/11/21.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*WKSU - Whaley's road from Dayton to Columbus - 4/29/21*](#)

"In this week's episode of Snollygoster, Ohio's politics podcast from WOSU, hosts Mike Thompson and Steve Brown talk with Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley about her run for governor."

[*The Portager - Cromes: A fresh start with a "People's Budget" - 4/30/21*](#)

"The last time Ohio had anything resembling a tax system that asked all Ohioans to pay their fair share I was barely out of diapers. Since then, due to the policy choices of certain politicians, inequity in our taxation scheme has gotten worse. It may be hard to remember, but we can see what an unrigging of our reverse-Robin Hood tax system would look like by looking to the past."

[*The Portager - Ravenna's downtown district plan gathers steam with city council endorsement - 5/5/21*](#)

"Young people have told Bill Barber, chairman of Main Street Ravenna's design committee, that the city is uninviting. Its hodgepodge of boutiques, restaurants, professional offices, service-oriented organizations and empty storefronts doesn't appeal to the younger crowd. Barber is hoping to sell his vision for revitalizing downtown Ravenna to city, township, and county leaders to change to that perception."

[*The Portager - Letters: A discussion of proposed voter ID laws in Ohio - 5/6/21*](#)

"Let's be honest. Fear of the growing number of Black and brown people participating in American democracy is what's behind a massive push by conservative lawmakers in 47 states (so far) to pass voter suppression bills, laws that would make it much more difficult to cast a ballot in elections."

[*Record-Courier - Low voter turnout in Tuesday's primary may be a record - 5/7/21*](#)

"A possible record low number of voters voted on Tuesday, following a record high voter turnout last November, Board of Elections officials said."

[*NBC News - Parscale advising potential primary challenge to Ohio governor - 5/12/21*](#)

"The one-time Trump campaign manager is advising Jim Renacci as the former congressman decides whether to run against Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine in 2022."

[*The Portager - Ruediger resigns from Streetsboro council after felony charge - 5/12/21*](#)

"Streetsboro City Council member John Ruediger resigned from his position Monday after being charged with sending inappropriate photos of himself to a 13-year-old boy."

[*Record-Courier - Masks no longer will be required at Portage County buildings, commissioners say - 5/20/21*](#)

"People who enter buildings under the control of Portage County Commissioners won't have to wear face coverings, commissioners decided Thursday."

[*CNN - 'Holy cow': See Rep. Ryan's stunned reaction to Republican vote against January 6th Commission - 5/20/21*](#)

"Rep. Tim Ryan gave an impassioned speech on the House floor after the vast majority of House Republicans voted against an independent commission to investigate the January 6 attack on the Capitol."

[*WHBC - Redistricting is messy, former State Rep. Kathleen Clyde explains why - 5/24/21*](#)

"Why does redistricting tend to be such a messy topic? How can we make it easier to understand? Listen to Jon's conversation with Kathleen Clyde below. She shares some really important information that all of us should know."

[*Record-Courier - Patricia Dennison appointed to Ravenna School Board - 5/24/21*](#)

"The Rev. Patricia Dennison has been appointed to the Ravenna Board of Education, replacing Roger Boltz."

[NBC4i - Ohio Vax-a-Million: Vaccinations are up, but county increases vary widely - 5/25/21](#)

"Data shows vaccine lottery's impact was small in some counties."

[The Portager - Cleanup work on vacant property in Edinburg center will put the lot back into use - 5/26/21](#)

"From the 1950s and into the 90s, Edinburg Township had a gas station in the center of town. Then it was abandoned and eventually condemned, demolished and spent two decades as a vacant lot, too contaminated for development. Now the property has a chance to take on a new commercial tenant, thanks to the Portage County Land Bank and a state cleanup grant."

[The Portager - Commissioners hire veteran staffer as new county administrator - 5/26/21](#)

"County commissioners selected Stow resident Michelle Crombie as the new Portage County administrator at a salary of \$98,696."

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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](#).

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