



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - April 2021

Dear %firstname%,

A lot can happen in a few short days. This week marks the end of the first 100 days of Joe Biden's presidency, and will include the President's first speech to a joint speech of Congress on Wednesday. This week also saw us pass the milestone of more than half of U.S. adults being at least partially vaccinated for COVID-19 - and by week's end we'll be just hours from the May 4, 2021 Primary Election.

A lot can happen in a few short days - but as we've seen from the recent past, it only happens when people of good will work together to make it so. I am happy to report that the members of your local Democratic Party have been hard at work to make change happen here in Portage County. Our Service Committee has, in the past month, delivered dry goods to the Salvation Army and meals to students building Portage County's first homeless shelter. Our Membership Committee is finalizing recommendations on how we can better support our activists, our Constitution Committee is reviewing documents to ensure we're structured to be nimble and strong, and our Finance Committee is planning events to ensure we've got the resources to succeed.

All this, while strong Democratic candidates like Judges Kevin Poland and Mark Fankhauser work to keep their seats and local Democrats in communities all over Portage County are running for local office to put the people first.

A lot can happen in a few short days - but it takes all of us working together to make sure we're in a position to make it so. Thanks for all you do in that effort - and below are some ways to keep at it.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Watch Party - President Biden's Joint Address/First 100 Days Speech

[Virtual Event - April 28, 2021 - 9pm - 10pm](#)

President Joe Biden will address lawmakers in a joint session of Congress on Wednesday April 28th, delivering his first remarks to both chambers nearly 100 days after taking office. Join Democratic supporters across the country in a watch party and strategy session.

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Upcoming Events

[Federated Women "Grow the Seeds of Democracy" - Ongoing - Virtual Event](#)

There are great opportunities to elect Democrats across Portage County, but the Federated Women can't do it alone. Donate today using the link above to support the organization as it gears up to help local Democratic candidates this year and in 2022.

[NDTC Midwest Regional Bootcamp - 5/15/21 - 10am - 5pm - Virtual Event](#)

Join the National Democratic Training Committee for their first-ever Midwest Regional Bootcamp. If you're running for office or working on a campaign in 2021 or 2022, the regional bootcamp will prepare you with the tools you need to win. Space is limited, so sign up ASAP!

[Day of Service: Salvation Army Food Distribution - 5/25/21 - 9:30am - 12:30pm - 9005 Wilverne Dr. Windham](#)

Join the Portage Co. Democratic Party as we assist with the Salvation Army's food distribution efforts at the Renaissance Family Center in Windham. Doors open at 9:30am, with food distribution from 10am - 12pm. Please [RSVP with 1st Vice Chair Denise Smith.](#)

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Board of Elections Updates

The Primary Election is this coming Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

Everyone has at least one issue on the ballot on Tuesday. Find your ballot - and information about polling locations and hours - [on the Board's "Current Election" page](#).

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*Record-Courier - Bragg out as budget director next week; sheriff's budget chief tapped to replace him - 3/19/21*](#)

"Portage County's head of budget and finance is expected to be fired next week, and the budget director for the county sheriff's office has been tapped as his interim replacement."

[*Record-Courier - County commissioners approve funding for King-Kennedy Center gym - 3/27/21*](#)

"Funding for the gym planned at the King Kennedy Center has finally been approved, after being called into question previously."

[*The Portager - Commissioners are divided over the sheriff's spending requests - 4/1/21*](#)

"Commissioners have repeatedly asked the sheriff to prioritize his requests, which total millions of dollars. Christian-Bennett, though she approved the funds to lease the vehicles, knows commissioners have to take the long view."

[*Record-Courier - Specialized drug court earns initial certification from the Supreme Court - 4/2/21*](#)

"The Court - championed by Municipal Court Judges Kevin Poland and Mark Fankhauser - will commence with its first referrals and team meeting on April 13, 2021."

[*Crain's Cleveland Business - Top Senate Democrats, including Sherrod Brown, float alternative to Biden's corporate tax plan - 4/5/21*](#)

"Three top U.S. Senate Democrats, including Sen. Sherrod Brown, released a proposal to overhaul the U.S. international tax system that could shape the

outcome of the global tax revamp the White House is pursuing to fund infrastructure spending."

[*The Portager - Kent community rallies with faculty group against anti-Asian racism - 4/7/21*](#)

"After a wave of anti-Asian hate crimes nationally, the Kent State University Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Alliance hosted a rally Wednesday on campus to show solidarity against racism."

[*Loveland Magazine - Groups call for budget that "cares for all Ohioans" - 4/7/21*](#)

"The Ohio Organizing Collaborative and Policy Matters Ohio unveiled their 'People's Budget' on Tuesday, which the groups say will ensure the government is working for its people. Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes joined the release, saying budgets are moral documents and should reflect that. 'For too long, we have been saying that the financial wellness of a very few is more important than the financial wellness of everybody in the state,' he said, 'and that's got to change if we're ever going to start moving our state forward.'"

[*The Portager - County auditor skips mask rules for indoor budget meeting - 4/13/21*](#)

"Portage County Auditor Janet Esposito flouted pandemic safety guidance and traded expletives with another county official during a routine budget commission meeting, according to a livestream posted to the county's YouTube channel."

[*WKSU - Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley announces bid for Governor - 4/19/21*](#)

"Nan Whaley, the Democratic mayor of Dayton, has announced she's running for governor in 2022. Whaley has gained statewide and national attention for her response to several critical events in Dayton."

[*The Portager - Commission notebook: New overflow room, budgeting help, EMA roof repair - 4/20/21*](#)

"With no livestreaming yet available, and with council chambers so small that meeting attendees are severely limited, county commissioners announced the creation of an overflow room."

[*CNN - Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan launches campaign for US Senate seat in Ohio - 4/26/21*](#)

"Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan launched his Senate campaign on Monday, betting that the state that turned red in the Trump era can return to the Democratic Party in 2022."

[Statehouse News - Democrats in Ohio Legislature Outline Their Policing Reform Plan - 4/27/21](#)

"Democrats say their plan focuses on increasing accountability for police, addressing racial bias and building relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes says the plan is multi-faceted."

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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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