



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - August 2020

Dear %firstname%,

I write to you in the middle of a momentous week, ahead of even more important milestones to come. On Tuesday, our nominee for President Joe Biden selected Sen. Kamala Harris to be his running mate. She is the first African-American and Asian-American woman on a presidential ticket - but more importantly, she's an accomplished champion of change who will serve our country well as Vice President.

Both Biden and Harris will be officially nominated next week during the Democratic National Convention. This will be a convention unlike any other - held entirely virtually - and one to remember. I hope you'll consider [watching some or all of it](#) from the comfort of your home.

National headlines aside, we remain very busy locally working to elect Democrats up and down the ticket. Our office at 210 S. Meridian St. in Ravenna is now regularly open for sign and swag pick-up. You can also take advantage of those opportunities to pick up literature for our candidates, and hard-copy phone lists for contacting neighbors in Portage County. You can even sign up to help staff the office! Details are available on our [Facebook Page](#). If you are comfortable with technology, we also regularly share virtual phone banks on our Party [Events Page](#) and at [Mobilize.us](#). Please consider lending a hand using one - or several - of these tools.

There is much more to cover - and more information is available below. Whatever you're doing in these waning days of summer, I encourage you to stay safe while getting engaged with our efforts. What we do now sets the state for what will be a busy and - if we do the work - successful fall.

Let's get to it.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action - Volunteering

We are now just 83 days away from Election Day. The time to get familiar with volunteering is NOW so that we're ready to rock when the heat of campaign season - the sprit from Labor Day through November 3rd - arrives.

We need help with 1) placing yard signs, 2) staffing the office, 3) making phone calls, 4) dropping literature, 5) recruiting poll workers...and MORE! To sign up, [contact us](#) via our website and let us know what you'd like to do.

Don't see your ideal opportunity above? You can get creative, too! We ask that you [let us know](#) what you're up to so we can help spread the word...but by all means, if something strikes you as worth doing, do it!

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Elections Updates

Request your General Election vote-by-mail ballot today! It's not too early to begin planning for the November General Election. One great way to do that is to get your absentee ballot request form in now so that you're in line to receive a ballot this fall. Visit the Board's [website](#) and print off an absentee ballot request form, complete it, and return it ASAP.

Poll workers needed ASAP! The coronavirus outbreak may severely limit the number of poll workers available this fall...which could lead to other unintended consequences. Don't let it happen! If you or someone you know might be a good

poll worker, have them complete an application [online](#) ASAP.

For more information, please call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

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Upcoming Events

NOTE: The list below does not include all the events going on - only the ones we have room for here! For a full list, visit our website's [Events](#) page, and check our [Facebook Page](#) regularly.

[Central Committee Meeting - August 13th - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom](#)

The Portage Co. Democratic Party Central Committee will meet for a regular meeting to conduct the business of the Party and hear from our newly-endorsed candidates.

[Sunday Fun Day Phone Banks - Sundays August 16th - Sept. 27th - 6pm - 8pm - Mobilize.us](#)

Restoring the soul of the nation and turning Ohio blue begins with you! We need your help to reach our community and ensure our candidates win up and down the ticket. All phone banks are conducted online, and trainings are provided before beginning calls.

[Democratic National Convention - August 17th - 20th - 9pm - 11pm - Virtual](#)

The Democratic National Convention goes virtual! Join us online and hear from the exciting team that is working to build America back better by electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris President and Vice President. For details, check the link above.

[Ryan/Clyde/Kennedy Phone Bank - August 18th - 6pm - 8pm - Mobilize.us](#)

Join Congressman Tim Ryan, Portage Co. Commissioner Kathleen Clyde and candidate for Commissioner John Kennedy for a virtual phone bank! There will be a quick meeting with the candidates and training via Zoom, then we'll dive into making calls!

[Hit a Grand Slam with Fink! - August 18th - 7pm - 10pm - Big Dog Saloon, Ravenna](#)

Come out and help our candidate for Recorder Leighann Fink hit a grand slam this November! The event will be outdoors to assure distancing, and the

ballgame will be on their giant screen. If Leighann don't win it's a shame...so don't strike out!

[Portage CARES Pop-Up Pantry - August 22nd - 9am - 11am - Brady Lake Park](#)

#PortageCARES will continue our on-going pop-up pantry, this time in Brady Lake. Distribution begins at 9am and will go until we run out of food or 11am, whichever comes first. We will serve 40-45 families, first-come, first-served!

[Battleground Ohio Phone Banks - Tuesdays August 25th - Sept. 29th - 6pm - 8pm - Mobilize.us](#)

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[Tim Ryan Yard Sign Delivery - On-Going - Various](#)

Team Tim is out and about in Portage County delivering yard signs...and they'd like to place one in your yard! Tim's facing a stiff challenge from a Trumpista who doesn't even live in the District. Help show your friends and neighbors that you know Tim has your back by signing up at the link above!

Due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, in-person political events are significantly limited. We invite you to follow our local Party on [Facebook](#) for updates as we have them.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Columbus Dispatch - Sen. Brown blames one-party rule for corruption scheme - 7/22/20](#)

"During a conference call with reporters Wednesday, Brown, a Democrat, said Householder's arrest in an alleged racketeering scheme is a result of decades of control by the Ohio Republican Party. 'This is a Republican party that is intrinsically corrupt,' he said. 'Look at what's happened in this state because one party has rules for so long. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.'"

[WCMH - With 100 days left, many in OH are anticipating a different kind of election - 7/26/20](#)

"Democrats and Republicans are focusing on voter turnout and drumming up support for their candidates. Leaders of both parties in Ohio say the next 100 days are crucial to their campaigns."

[*Advance Ohio - Sykes: Republican abuses at the Statehouse run deep - 7/26/20*](#)

"We now know that a simple change in leadership isn't enough to overcome the deep-seated notion within today's Ohio Republican Party that power comes without responsibility, that accountability does not apply to them, and dirty politics come without consequence."

[*Ohio Public Radio - Lawmakers set sights on dark money - 7/27/20*](#)

"One bipartisan bill, HB737, would create reporting requirements for entities that make political contributions."

[*Cincinnati.com - With ouster of Householder, Ohio House GOP lost its top donor - 7/29/20*](#)

"Without Speaker Larry Householder's fundraising operation, House Republicans find themselves in a disastrous financial spot heading into competitive fall races."

[*Ohio Capital Journal - Dems introduce legislation to repeal House Bill 6 - 7/29/20*](#)

"Since Householder's arrest on July 21, there have been two simultaneous efforts led by both political parties to repeal the controversial energy bill that was signed into law in 2019."

[*Record-Courier - Clites targeted by dark money group - 7/31/20*](#)

"A Columbus Dispatch report has named State Rep. Randi Clites' 2018 campaign for the 75th District seat, which includes Portage County, as one of those allegedly targeted by a dark money group associated with the FBI investigation into now-former Speaker of the House Larry Householder."

[*Advance Ohio - Ohio elections chief faces two new lawsuits 95 days from election - 7/31/20*](#)

"Two new lawsuits were filed against Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose on Friday: one by the Ohio Democratic Party to allow online requests for absentee ballots and another by the League of Women Voters of Ohio over the practice of signature-matching when absentee ballots are requested."

[*CBS News - Democrats think OH is within reach. But the GOP is confident Trump can win. - 8/4/20*](#)

"Ohio Democrats see opportunity on the horizon for presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden, given the coronavirus pandemic the Trump administration is still struggling to control and the economic fallout that has ensued."

[*Record-Courier - Portage Dems stump for Biden - 8/4/20*](#)

"Portage County Democrats hosted a virtual meeting to rally support for Joe Biden's presidential campaign Tuesday. The Kent event, hosted by Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde, was one of four stops this week, with other online rallies planned in Chillicothe, Lima and Cleveland."

[*Politico - Trump takes pitch to OH as Biden gains ground from afar - 8/6/20*](#)

"In 2016, Ohio was vital to Trump's surprise victory. The reality TV star captured the state by a comfortable eight-point margin over Hillary Clinton, helping propel him to the White House...And Democratic operatives insist they've seen gains in both major Ohio cities and the state's suburbs."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Clyde: Pass HB 739 to reform dark money - 8/9/20*](#)

"When I introduced the DISCLOSE Act in 2018, then-Sen. Frank LaRose (now Ohio secretary of state) was advancing his nuclear bailout bill and his campaign finance reform platform was simply to permit local campaign filings to be posted on the Internet. That was small ball compared to the big multi-million dollar secret deals happening in Ohio elections year after year."

[*The Portager - Senate candidate Rader called out her opponent for poor COVID-19 safety - 8/10/20*](#)

"Just Thursday, Cirino spent over 40 minutes indoors next to his colleagues without a mask on. Scientists say this is bad."

[*Record-Courier - Food distribution in Kent benefits many - 8/10/20*](#)

"Portage County Common Pleas Judge Laurie Pittman formed the group in the spring to distribute food to people in the county. The organization primarily consists of Democrat elected officials and candidates...Greg Johnson, the Democratic candidate for Portage County Sheriff, said he is participating because 'there's a need in the county. It gives you a good opportunity to get out and meet people.'"

[*WKYC - Ohio Dems react to Biden's choice of Kamala Harris as VP - 8/11/20*](#)

Summation of reactions from Democratic elected officials across Ohio to Joe Biden's choice of Kamala Harris as his running mate.

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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](#).

Check us out on Facebook!



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