



## **Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - December 2020**

Dear %firstname%,

The holidays are upon us - and with them opportunities to celebrate all that is right, reflect on what we can do better, and prepare for the year to come

Your Portage Co. Democratic Party has been engaged in all of those activities over the past month, taking stock of where we are, how we got here, and how we can improve going forward. We celebrate those candidates who were successful this fall - we helped put Jennifer Brunner on the Ohio Supreme Court, elected Tim Ryan to another term in Congress, and held onto the Prosecutor's Office, Clerk of Courts Office, Treasurer's Office, Engineer's Office, and Coroner's Office. We retain a strong base to build from - but we must do more to give our community the sort of people-centered leaders it deserves in every office.

With that in mind, we are continuing our efforts to review the results and glean lessons from them. We are engaging local democratic leaders and candidates in the work of reviewing what happened and how we move forward, and we will share some of that review at our Central Committee meeting this Thursday night. We have also asked all of our local stakeholders for their opinions via an online survey shared last month. Thank you to those of you who completed it - your views matter, and will be critical in informing the path forward.

Below, please find some updates on what's happening through the end of this year. If you have additional thoughts on how we might improve our operations, or any other matter, please share them by [emailing 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes](#).

Thank you again for all you did this year to help bring positive change to our community. May you and yours have a happy and healthy holiday season, and may the year ahead bring renewed opportunities to work toward the more perfect union that is our shared project.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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## **Call to Action - Win Georgia, Win the Senate!**

We know that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, and that Democrats will continue to hold the U.S. House of Representatives.

The United States Senate, however, remains up in the air: and with it the ability of the incoming Administration to pass vital legislation to build our country back better.

There are two Senate seats up for grabs in runoff elections in Georgia on January 5th. Traditionally Republicans win these elections...but if we mobilize behind Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock, we can send Mitch McConnell packing and take our country back!

[Volunteer to help us do that on Mobilize today.](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

*Central Committee Meeting - 12/17/20 - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom*

Our Central Committee will meet via Zoom this Thursday to manage membership changes, discuss our post-election review, and conduct other regular business of the Party. Members should have received instructions and a Zoom link late last week. Those who did not should contact Secretary Cindy Greene ASAP to ensure their ability to participate.

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## **ICYMI - News and Notes**

[Columbus Dispatch \(Editorial\) - If you don't see racism, look harder - 11/18/20](#)

State Rep. Stephanie Howse: "Neither the nation nor Ohio is filled with white people who hate Black and brown people, but that's not all that racism is about."

[Advance Ohio - Sherrod Brown denounces Trump lame duck appointments - 11/18/20](#)

"Brown...told reporters Trump is trying to appoint as many 'pro-bank, anti-consumer regulators and economists,' to long, fixed terms 'when they'd have no chance to be confirmed and no chance to be nominated by the new president who won the election by 5 million votes.'"

[Toledo Blade - Ohio was never a priority state for Biden campaign - 11/20/20](#)

"(Ohio Dems) Chairman David Pepper said this week the Biden campaign never saw Ohio as a stop on its path to the White House, and that was probably for the best...Mr. Pepper said the Biden campaign was ultimately successful because it stuck to its plan, which in the Upper Midwest was invested heavily in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin..."

[Ohio Public Radio - Ohio House Dems frustrated as HB 6 repeal still in committee - 11/23/20](#)

"Leadership in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have said they want to repeal a sweeping energy law, HB6, that's linked to an alleged bribery scheme. But the investigation continues to reveal more corruption, and opponents of the law are growing frustrated with the lack of movement for a repeal."

[Spectrum1 News - Ohio Dems take aim at Portman for 2022 - 11/24/20](#)

"Rob Portman, Ohio's junior senator, is currently serving his second term and is not up for re-election for another two years, but Democrats are not waiting that long to pounce on Portman. They think he is vulnerable because Trump lost."

[Ohio Capital Journal - Ohio anti-vaxxers shift aim toward COVID-19 laws - 11/30/20](#)

"Vaccines are overwhelmingly safe. They can produce side effects, though data from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program shows these are exceedingly rare...Their benefits, meanwhile, are vast: a 2014 CDC report estimated vaccinations will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the next 20 years."

[Cincinnati.com - Pepper stepping down as Ohio Dems Chair - 11/30/20](#)

"Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper announced Monday that he will step down at the end of the year. Democrats now have a month to decide the future of their party and who will lead it. The assignment is a tough one: revive the party in rural Ohio, improve on victories in metropolitan counties and raise enough money to unseat Republicans who control every branch of Ohio government."

[\*Advance Ohio - Ohio TEA Party leader urges Trump to suspend the Constitution, declare martial law to hold new vote - 12/1/20\*](#)

"Zawistowski, also the executive director of the Portage County TEA Party, has been one of Ohio's most visible TEA Party leaders. Known in Ohio political circles as 'Tom Z.,' he ran unsuccessfully for Ohio Republican Party chair in 2013."

[\*WVXU - Tim Ryan v. Rob Portman in 2022? Maybe... - 12/2/20\*](#)

"It seems as if every few years, the Northeast Ohio Democrat has been dropping broad hints about running for statewide office - Ohio governor, U.S. senator, etc."

[\*Columbus Dispatch - Beatty chosen to lead Congressional Black Caucus - 12/3/20\*](#)

"U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty will be the new leader of the Congressional Black Caucus...Beatty is the third Ohioan to serve as chair of the caucus. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge of Cleveland held the post from 2013 to 2015, and Rep. Louis Stokes was chair from 1972 to 1974."

[\*Columbus Dispatch - Ohio Senate won't consider education funding bill passed by House 84-8 - 12/3/20\*](#)

"A long-awaited plan to give Ohio a constitutional school funding system must wait until at least next year."

[\*Record-Courier - Ravenna legislator sponsors rare diseases bill - 12/3/20\*](#)

"Legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Randi Clites of Ravenna will create the Ohio Rare Disease Advisory Council. The bill will bring together medical researchers, physicians, nurses, patients, lawmakers and state officials to begin addressing many of the issues facing those living with rare diseases."

[\*The Hill - Harrison frontrunner to lead DNC at critical moment - 12/9/20\*](#)

"Whoever succeeds current DNC Chairman Tom Perez will be dropped into a pressure cooker after the 2020 elections brought disappointing results for Democrats in House, Senate and statehouse races. Democrats in 2022 will seek to protect their slim majority in the house during Biden's first midterm elections, when the president's party traditionally loses seats."

[Record-Courier - Portage businesses get millions in CARES Act funds - 12/14/20](#)

"A total of 71 businesses in Portage County, including University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, received grants from Portage County commissioners as part of the county's CARES Act funding. Commissioners approved grant requests totaling nearly \$5.4 million recently, along with \$139,973.30 in mortgage, rent and utility assistance to 83 individuals."

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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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