



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - November 2020

Dear %firstname%,

With this month's election behind us, it is now time for us to take stock and reflect on what went well, what did not, and where we go from here.

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank our candidates for stepping into the arena and making a positive case for a better Portage County to our voters. While the outcomes locally were not what we had hoped, we should all be immensely proud of the work these candidates did - and the way they did it. Their efforts directly impacted hundreds of families positively through our Portage CARES giveaways - and Commissioner candidate John Kennedy directly raised more than \$3,000 to support Change Hunger Portage County. Those efforts matter, and unequivocally helped those hurting most in our community.

I also want to thank the dozens of volunteers who helped make this campaign possible. Whether you staffed the office, made phone calls, wrote postcards or passed out our slate cards at the polls, you made a difference. No where is that clearer than in Aurora, where the newly-formed Aurora for Change group helped Joe Biden win two precincts - the first time we have done so there in living memory. These efforts and outcomes offer glimmers of hope for the future, and exemplify the sorts of things we will need to do to be successful going forward.

With that said, it cannot be ignored that we must do better. Our Party leadership is currently in the process of reviewing operations from top to bottom to identify areas for improvement that can lead to better outcomes at the polls. I pledge to you that we will not rest in this work, and will aim to deliver the best possible program in support of our local candidates we can. If you have thoughts or feelings about how we can do that, I welcome your feedback. Please respond to

this message directly and we will incorporate your responses into our action plan for the future.

Democrats remain the party of working people, and we will continue to fight tenaciously to protect the dignity of work and promote justice for all. I am grateful that you are with us in that endeavor, and I look forward to redoubling our efforts in the days to come.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action - Win Georgia, Win the Senate!

We now 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

NOTE: No further events are presently scheduled for the month of November. With that said, we anticipate scheduling a Central Committee meeting for December soon to review results from the election and to discuss the way forward. Stay up to date on our website's [Events](#) page, and check our [Facebook Page](#) regularly.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Columbus Dispatch - Ohio Supreme Court: Brunner ousts French to narrow GOP majority to 4-3 -11/3/20](#)

"Jennifer Brunner believes her election to the Ohio Supreme Court creates a more diverse legal atmosphere demanding more compromise and consensus...Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said picking up one of the two Ohio Supreme Court seats was significant, observing that Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor has been less partisan than the other Republican justices."

[WKYC - What's next for Ohio after Trump's decisive victory in the state? - 11/5/20](#)

"'It's disappointing,' (Ohio Dems Chairman David) Pepper admitted. 'I would have loved to turn Ohio blue for Joe Biden, but given how close it is nationally and in these other swing states, in the big picture, I think this is where Ohio falls...it wasn't as if Ohio was at the center of the priority map for the Biden campaign. I am proud that we, until the very end, had Donald Trump worried about Ohio. He was literally here with a week to go.'"

[The Portager - Republicans take a County Commission majority, leaving Democrats' future uncertain - 11/6/20](#)

"Republicans swept the Portage County elections this year, winning all but one partisan contest and flipping the County Commission's Democratic majority. Vicki Kline will remain the Commission's lone Democrat in 2021...'I don't know that people were necessarily ready to be engaged or to be open to having the conversation about some of the big problems that we're facing,' (candidate John Kennedy) said. 'And I'm not even blaming people for that. I understand it. I get it, but it doesn't mean that we shouldn't still push forward and try to overcome some of this stuff because I know we can.'"

[New York Times - The Times called election officials in every state: no evidence of fraud - 11/10/20](#)

"Election officials in dozens of states representing both political parties said that there was no evidence that fraud or other irregularities played a role in the outcome of the presidential race, amounting to a forceful rebuke of President Trump's portrait of a fraudulent election."

[*Ohio Capital Journal \(Commentary\) - Trump, Republican enablers busy proving they are a threat to the integrity of the American Republic - 11/11/20*](#)

"Instead of defending the integrity of our elections, many elected Republican leaders are choosing to once again enable Trump, either by echoing his false claims of widespread fraud or by remaining silent in the face of them."

[*Spectrum 1 - State Dems celebrate Biden's win, rethinking strategy in Ohio - 11/11/20*](#)

"Democrats did manage though to cut into the conservative margin once again in the Ohio Supreme Court. Pepper says the court was always top priority."

[*Cleveland.com \(Opinion\) - Trump's 2020 Ohio inroads mirror economic decline - 11/15/20*](#)

"Meaning: Ohio hasn't changed in ways that would build better lives for rank-and-file voters. Median household income was \$54,533 in Ohio in 2018; nationwide, it was \$60,294. And the last time per capita income in Ohio matched or exceeded national per capita income was in 1969."

[*Ohio Public Radio - Ohio starts redistricting next year. What will the state's new process look like? - 11/16/20*](#)

"One of the chief efforts to keep things above board is to keep borders along existing municipal lines. For instance, there's a hard limit on how many times counties can be split. Most of Ohio's 88 counties can't be split at all. Up to 18 can be split once, and five can be split twice."

[*Cincinnati.com - FBI searches home of Ohio's top utility regulator - 11/16/20*](#)

"FBI agents removed boxes of materials Monday from the Columbus home of Sam Randazzo, chairman of the Public Utilities Commission for Ohio, the state's top utilities regulator."

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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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