



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - February 2021

Dear %firstname%,

As we anxiously await the end of this long winter cold snap and the arrival of spring I write to let you know that our local Democratic Party remains hard at work in shaping the future of our local community.

Since last we wrote, the Party has met to make a number of critical leadership appointments. Our Central Committee selected Gary Horning of Randolph as our Treasurer, and former State Representative Randi Clites of Ravenna to fill a vacancy on the County's Board of Elections. Both of these positions are critical, and we extend our thanks to these servant-leaders for stepping forward!

In addition to those positions, our Central Committee recently agreed to fill key committees that will help us make our Party more effective moving forward. Our Finance, Audit, Membership, Service and Constitutional Review Committees will make sure our organization has the resources it needs to succeed, follows all applicable rules, maximizes member time and efforts, lives our service ethic and is organized appropriately to do that work. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all who are serving in those important roles, as well.

Below, you will find some updates on upcoming events, election deadlines, and other important information. If you have additional items you would like us to share in a future newsletter, please let us know by [emailing 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes](#).

Democrats win when we engage our people in the important work of making our community better for all of us. I'm excited by what we're doing to help make that a reality in Portage County, and hope you'll continue to join us in that effort.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action - Keep Commissioners' Meetings On Video!

At a meeting of the Portage County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Republican Commissioners Sabrina Christian-Bennett and Tony Badalamenti discussed adopting a last-minute resolution that would eliminate video broadcasts of future meetings. That idea would move Portage County backward, and eliminate opportunities for citizens to engage safely in the midst of a pandemic.

The Commissioners will consider this resolution TOMORROW - so if you want to make your voice heard, you need to do so now! [Complete this form](#) courtesy of the Portage County Young Democrats and your response will automatically be emailed to all three Commissioners.

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Upcoming Events

Central Committee Meeting - 2/25/21 - 6pm - 7:00pm - Zoom

Our Central Committee will meet via Zoom this Thursday to review our annual audit, discuss our budget, and to conduct other regular business of the Party. Members will receive instructions and a Zoom link one week prior to the meeting. Others wishing to participate should [contact Secretary Cindy Greene](#) ASAP.

[Local Roots of Racial Disparities - 2/25/21 - 7pm - 8pm - Zoom](#)

The Portage County NAACP hosts a panel discussion of local African Americans, featuring their stories of experiences in Portage County and how our past can inform a more inclusive future.

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Board of Elections Updates

Poll workers needed.

The Board of Elections is looking for poll workers for the May 4, 2021 Primary Election. Applications are available [here](#).

Request your absentee ballot!

It's not too early to request an absentee ballot for May. Unlike 2020, voters will not be automatically sent an absentee ballot application, and must mail a request. You can print yours [here](#).

Voter registration deadline.

The voter registration deadline for May is April 5th. You can [register online here](#).

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*New York Times - How Nan Whaley, Dayton's Mayor, sees Ohio politics and Portman's Senate seat - 1/26/21*](#)

"...Ms. Whaley has long been seen as a likely candidate for governor or Senate. In 2019, she led her city through the aftermath of a mass shooting in which nine people were killed."

[*Advance Ohio - Amy Acton is considering a run for Senate, sources say - 1/26/21*](#)

"Dr. Amy Acton, the popular former director of the Ohio Department of Health, is considering a run for U.S. Senate, multiple sources confirmed to cleveland.com."

[*Ohio.com - Emilia Sykes: The face of leadership is changing - 1/31/21*](#)

"In Vice President Harris, we see ourselves and our potential to be one of those portraits on the walls of our highest institutions, a symbol of the role we must play to move our country forward."

[*Ohio Public Radio - Governor lays out his proposed two-year budget - 2/1/21*](#)

"DeWine also says his budget will 'tell Ohio's story' by investing \$50 million to bring Ohioans who have moved elsewhere back home and try to attract new residents and entrepreneurs..."

[*Spectrum1News - How Sen. Brown will lead a powerful Senate committee - 2/2/21*](#)

"As Democrats become the party in power in the U.S. Senate, Brown will lead the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs...Brown argues the committee has spent too much time focusing on Wall Street instead of workers and on big banks instead of helping people gain access to banking."

[WVXU.org - Analysis: Tim Ryan is for real this time - 2/3/21](#)

"He's really doing it this time. Tim Ryan, the longtime Democratic congressman from the Mahoning Valley, will run for the U.S. Senate in 2022."

[Ohio Capital Journal - It's the extremist regressive politics, not a lack of PR, that makes people not want to move to Ohio - 2/10/21](#)

"Given a choice between embracing open-minded, forward-thinking public policy or lurching backward with an extreme agenda overwhelmingly opposed by most residents, Ohio Republicans choose the latter. Consistently."

[WFMJ - Ryan in talks to help United Steel Workers keep jobs - 2/10/21](#)

"In a letter to the president of Howmet Structure and Wheel Systems, Ryan urged Howmet to consider other options rather than closing down the melt operation. He pledged to help identify resources and incentives to help keep the factory open and keep Steel Workers employed."

[The Portager - Commissioners signal support for King-Kennedy gym despite tumultuous application process - 2/12/21](#)

"Although county commissioners suggested they would approve the project last year, they have not released funding because the application was not in line with a new approval process."

[USA Today - A historic housing crisis has America in its grip. Can Marcia Fudge save the day? - 2/14/21](#)

"The Department of Housing and Urban Development was created in 1965 and was supposed to help low-income Americans enter the housing market after decades of redlining and predatory financing practices by the federal government and private lenders had locked out Black and brown families."

[Columbus Dispatch - Franklin Co. Recorder Danny O'Connor weighs statewide run - 2/17/21](#)

"O'Connor came within about 1,600 votes of winning an August special congressional election in 2018...'An executive office in a state like Ohio is always going to have more of an impact than legislative offices,' O'Connor said. '...I love the thought of running across this state...and having conversations about the type of Democrat that I am.'"

[*Record-Courier - Portage health commissioner says maskless county officials should be "setting a good example" - 2/18/21*](#)

"Two (Republican) Portage County commissioners aren't wearing masks during their weekly meetings, and have invited guests to remove their masks when they address the board...Portage County Health Commissioner Joe Diorio disagrees."

[*Ohio Capital Journal - U.S. Senate hears from Ohio on the need for economic relief, minimum wage boost - 2/19/21*](#)

"In anticipation of U.S. House votes on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, Sen. Sherrod Brown held a Thursday hearing heavy on Ohio witnesses who stressed the urgent need for help at the grassroots."

[*The Portager - College student in Sheriff's new 'wanted poster' has been harassed online for two days - 2/19/21*](#)

"(The student) said her court date was postponed because of the pandemic and she did not receive any updates - until she saw the sheriff's Facebook Page."

[*Advance Ohio - LaRose sticks to limiting ballot boxes, despite judges' rulings that he doesn't have to - 2/23/21*](#)

"Every judge who has formally reviewed the issue has agreed that under state law, Secretary of State Frank LaRose could order multiple ballot drop boxes per county if he wanted to. LaRose has also said that he personally would support allowing multiple drop boxes per county...So why then did LaRose this month again limit drop boxes to one per county for the upcoming primary election in May?"

[*Record-Courier - Commissioners consider ending video streaming meetings - 2/24/21*](#)

"Portage County commissioners are considering no longer live streaming their meetings to the public after this week, something that has been taking place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year."

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