



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - February 2019

Dear %firstname%,

Since last we reached out to you in January, a number of milestones have passed.

Our Central Committee met at a new location for us - Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna - one we hope will serve us well far into the future. At that meeting, I am happy to report that we reappointed the Chair of our local Board of Elections, former Chief Assistant Prosecutor Denise Smith, to serve a full term as Chair. This will ensure our local elections this year - and the important ones to come in 2020 and 2022 - are in good hands.

We also want to congratulate Gloria Haven and the rest of the new leaders of the Federated Democratic Women for 2019, selected earlier this year. We look forward to working with you to move our County forward.

With the filing deadlines for candidates running for local office in Kent, Streetsboro, and Ravenna in 2019 passed, I am happy to report that a number of new faces will be on the ballot this year in each of those communities. Their energy and enthusiasm are absolutely critical to ensuring the vitality of our local Party, and I'm looking forward to watching them grow throughout the coming year as candidates and supporting them as I'm able. I hope you will do the same.

Lastly, we hosted a joint "meet & greet" event at the West Main St. Winery in Ravenna with the Federated Democratic Women and local black elected officials that drew more than 60 folks out on a cold and snowy Monday in February. The enthusiasm for change in Portage County is real, and we look forward to harnessing it in the months to come.

With those things noted, much remains to be done as we move through the early part of this year - and there are many opportunities for you to get involved and #BeTheChange in Portage County right now. A number of those opportunities are listed below.

If you have any suggestions for items we should list or share here in the future, please share them with 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes via [email](#) at your convenience. Otherwise, thanks for all you do, and I look forward to seeing you out and about as we work to make Portage County the best place to call home it can be.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chariman

PS - If you haven't yet noticed, our headquarters in Ravenna is now ADA accessible, thanks to a ramp that was installed last fall. We want to thank our landlord, Mike Cipriano, and Central Committee member Rick Hawksley for their leadership in helping us make it easier for everyone in our County to engage with the Party.

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Upcoming Events

[Ohio Dems Main Street Initiative Training - 3/2/19, 8:30a - 4:30p - Ohio Dems HQ](#)

The Ohio Democratic Party is hosting a training for first-time candidates (or anyone running in 2019 who would like a refresher on how to run an effective operation). Training will include how to make a campaign plan, messaging training, fundraising tips and more.

[Community Talk with Jeff Allen - 3/6/19, 7p - 9p - Streetsboro Eagles](#)

Join Jeff Allen, candidate for Mayor of Streetsboro, for a community conversation about the issues that matter to local residents. Space is limited;

follow the link to RSVP.

[Federated Women Meeting - 3/9/19, 9a - 11a - Little City Grill Kent](#)

The Federated Democratic Women of Portage County will gather for their regular monthly meeting. Please RSVP no later than 3/6/19 to Terrie Nielsen at 330-442-5095 or via [email](#).

["F The Purge" Weekend of Action - 3/9/19 - 3/10/19 - Various Locations](#)

Ohio Democrats and concerned citizens are banding together to contact Ohio voters purged from the voting rolls by Republicans in recent years and encourage them to re-register. It's a great opportunity to stay active and make sure all Ohio voices are being heard. Physical locations and instructions for calling from home available at the link above.

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Elections Updates

Poll Workers Needed. There is a critical need for Precinct Election Officials to work the May 7, 2019 Primary Election in Portage County. Trainings are beginning soon. Please contact the Board of Elections at your earliest convenience to sign up at 330-297-3518, or visit their [website](#).

Voter Registration Deadline Approaching. The deadline to register to vote in the May 7, 2019 Primary Election is April 8th. To check your registration - and register online - visit www.myohiovote.com.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Record-Courier - Ravenna mayor hails financial comeback in State of the City - 1/30/19](#)

Seman said the city's finances are considerably less dire than during past State of the City addresses. He noted that in his first State of the City, he was pushing for passage of for the second of two income taxes..."The response of this community when you really need them is good," he said. "It's really good."

[WOSU - Justice Melody Stewart makes history on the Ohio Supreme Court - 1/30/19](#)

After taking the bench earlier this month, Justice Melody Stewart will be ceremonially sworn in to the Ohio Supreme Court on Thursday. She is the first African American woman to be elected to the Supreme Court in Ohio's history.

[Ohio Public Radio - Bill to repeal "pink tax" reintroduced - 2/5/19](#)

Once again, a proposal to eliminate sales tax on feminine hygiene products has resurfaced in the Ohio Legislature. But this time, it has bipartisan co-sponsors. And it has a companion bill that goes one step further.

[WKBN - State of the Union through the eyes of GM Lordstown - 2/5/19](#)

Three members of the UAW Local 1112 joined Anchor Stan Boney to watch the SOTU (video).

[Akron Beacon-Journal \(Opinion\) - Ohio isn't reliably red. It's rigged. - 2/9/19](#)

The coup de grace has been the nation's most aggressive voter purging policy, which has resulted in more than 2 million registered voters being removed from the rolls since 2010. (As a comparison, DeWine won the governor's race by 160,000 votes.) Ohio isn't a red state - it's a rigged state. And if Ohio is a polarized state, it's only so because Republicans have made it that way.

[Record-Courier - Candidates, issues certified for ballot - 2/12/19](#)

There will be a contested Democratic primary in the race for Portage County Municipal Court judge, where attorney Steve Smith of Kent and Melissa Roubic of Windham are seeking election to the court...In Streetsboro's non-partisan primaries, there will be a citywide primary in the mayor's race, where Jeff Allen, a former city councilman, an Jon Hannan, city council president, are challenging incumbent Mayor Glenn Broska.

[WFMJ - What are Congressman Ryan's chances if he runs in 2020? - 2/20/19](#)

21 News talked to local political pundits who have been covering politics in the Valley and Washington for decades as well as Congressman Ryan and got some interesting feedback on what Ryan' chances would be should he throw his hat in the ring.

[New York Times - Sun Belt, Rust Belt, or both? Democrats eye 2020 path -](#)

[2/25/19](#)

A description of different paths available to Democrats as they eye an electoral majority in the 2020 presidential election.

[Columbus Dispatch - Ohio Democrats push expansion of tax credit for lower income Ohioans - 2/27/19](#)

Arguing that Ohio needs to go further in using tax breaks to help lower-income families, House Democrats on Wednesday proposed removing limitations on Ohio's earned income tax credit.

[Record-Courier - Ravenna candidates certified for ballot - 2/27/19](#)

The only primary that will take place is in the council at-large position no held by Bruce Ribelin. During the May 7 primary, the field of candidates that now includes Christina West, Kristel Razayeski and Lance Summers will be narrowed to two.

[HuffPost - Sherrod Brown wants to reclaim "The Dignity of Work" from Republicans - 2/27/19](#)

Sen. Sherrod Brown is testing the waters of the 2020 Democratic primary with a slogan designed to win over increasingly anxious blue collar workers: "the dignity of work."

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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](#).

The Portage County Democratic Party

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