



## **Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - February 2021**

Dear %firstname%,

Spring is in the air - and with it the long-awaited return of birdsongs, scent of flowers, and sense of hope and rebirth.

This sense of opportunity extends to your local Democratic Party. Thanks in large part to the work of President Joe Biden and Congressional Democrats like Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Tim Ryan, relief checks have arrived in most residents' bank accounts. Vaccine deployment is increasing rapidly, and with our continued diligence in distancing and mask wearing suggests normalcy may return soon. And our local Party committees are hard at work to lay the foundation for successful campaigns for our Democratic officials - this year and beyond.

Below, you will find more information about opportunities to get involved. I want to draw particular attention to the work our Service Committee is doing to identify and promote opportunities for us to give back and tangibly help our neighbors. We are a #PeopleFirst Party - and these events give us a real chance to prove it.

Whatever you're doing this spring, I hope it's providing you with the breath of fresh air we all so desperately need and deserve. The work goes on - and renewal and growth are important parts of preparing ourselves for what's next. Thank you for your part in it - and may this season of optimism bring us all renewed energy for the seasons to come.

Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean DePerro'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dean DePerro, Chairman

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## **Call to Service - #DemocratsServingOurCommunity**

*Salvation Army Donations - March 29th - 3pm - 5pm - Portage Dems HQ, 210 S. Meridian St. Ravenna*

The Portage Co. Democratic Party will be donating non-perishable items for distribution during the Salvation Army's Windham food giveaway on 3/30. Deodorant, men's and ladie's shaving cream and razors, shampoo, TP, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and brushes, dish detergent, laundry detergent, fabric softener and other such items are in high demand and much appreciated. Dem HQ will be open from 3pm - 5pm 3/29 to accept donations. Please [contact Denise Smith with questions](#).

*Box Lunches for The Haven Volunteers - April 24th - 9am - 10:30am - Portage Dems HQ, 210 S. Meridian St. Ravenna*

The Portage Co. Democratic Party will provide 25 box lunches for a youth group doing landscape services at The Haven of Portage County as part of Global Services Weekend. We are asking volunteers to prepare and donate one or more box lunches (including a sandwich, drink, chips/side and fruit). Please avoid nuts due to allergies. Label boxes with contents and drop off at Dem HQ 9am - 10:30am 4/24. [Please contact Denise Smith](#) by 4/16 to sign up to help.

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## **Upcoming Events**

[\*Racism as a Public Health Crisis Webinar feat. Kathleen Clyde - 4/7/21 - 7pm - 8pm - Zoom\*](#)

Meet the state, county, and city leaders who forcefully name racism as a public health crisis. Hear why they prioritize health and safety of communities of color, and how they engage entire communities to dismantle systems that perpetuate racism. Featuring Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Shontel Brown, Akron City Council President Margo Sommerville and former Portage Co. Commissioner Kathleen Clyde.

[\*Absentee/Early Vote Phone Bank - 4/8/21 - 6pm - 8pm - Zoom\*](#)

Join the Portage County Young Democrats for a phone bank urging voters to "Make A Plan" to vote in the 2021 Primary Election. Talk to voters about voting early in-person, or walk them through requesting an absentee ballot. Hosted through Zoom, join online and call from the comfort of your home!

*Central Committee Meeting - 4/22/21 - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom*

The Portage County Democratic Party Central Committee will meet to review a budget, discuss 2020 election data, share information about the May 4, 2021 Primary Election and conduct other regular business.

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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. There's still time to sign up, and your help is needed! Applications are available [here](#).

*Request your absentee ballot for the May 4, 2021 Primary Election.*

It's not too early to request an absentee ballot for the May 4, 2021 Primary Election. 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 is fast approaching.*

The voter registration deadline for the May 4, 2021 Primary Election is April 5th. You can [register online here](#).

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## **ICYMI - News and Notes**

[\*WEWS - "Darren's Law" would allow 9-1-1 call victims to sue caller for false claims - 2/25/21\*](#)

"Two Democratic Ohio lawmakers have proposed a bill to address the rising issue with false 9-1-1 calls...Last August (Darren) Cooper (an African-American man) was the victim of one of these false 9-1-1 calls (sitting in his car in Ravenna)."

[\*Cincinnati.com - Opinion: LaRose doing the dirty work for extremist Republicans - 3/1/21\*](#)

"(Republican Secretary of State) Frank LaRose is one more politician who says one thing and does another, all while carrying water for extremist Republicans. Ohioans deserve better from their secretary of state."

[\*The Portager - Sheriff's spending plan would add \\$2.9 million to the budget over three years - 3/1/21\*](#)

"(Republican) Sheriff Bruce Zuchowski unveiled the proposal on Thursday. It includes salary increases, building repairs, new hires and equipment updates."

[\*Warren Tribune-Chronicle - Sherrod Brown, Tim Ryan lead the charge to stop deal - 3/2/21\*](#)

"A trio of Democratic lawmakers is urging President Biden to halt a U.S. Postal Service truck contract to review whether inappropriate political influence was involved with its award."

[\*Ohio Capital Journal - Local leaders look to new COVID-19 relief bill, state officials ask for changes - 3/2/21\*](#)

"Ohio treasurers and local mayors said the new COVID-19 relief bill is vital for addressing immediate needs, making the path to recovery easier for some of the state's biggest employers."

[\*Record-Courier - Seven candidates files for four Ravenna council seats; May primary ballot light in Portage - 3/4/21\*](#)

"There won't be much on the May primary ballot for voters in Portage County, although each community will elect new leaders in 2021."

[\*Ohio Capital Journal - Anti-discrimination "Fairness Act" back in legislature with more GOP support - 3/5/21\*](#)

"A bill to add LGBTQ people to the list of those protected from discrimination in the state of Ohio is once again coming to the legislature, this time with more bipartisan support."

[\*Record-Courier - Commissioners pledge return to livestreaming - eventually - 3/5/21\*](#)

"Portage County commissioners said they may go back to livestreaming, but it could be weeks or longer until that happens."

[\*Huff Post - Democrats' relief bill shores up a million people's pensions. That's a huge deal. - 3/7/21\*](#)

"Sen. Sherrod Brown, who has spent years working on this issue, noted that a lot of the workers whose pensions were threatened work in essential fields, like trucking and food processing."

[\*Washington Post - Senate confirms Marcia Fudge to lead HUD - 3/10/21\*](#)

"The Senate voted Wednesday to confirm President Biden's nomination of Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) as secretary of housing and urban development, making her the first Black woman to lead the agency in more than four decades."

[\*Record-Courier - Portage commissioner says journalist 'should be taken out back' during meeting - 3/10/21\*](#)

"A Portage County Commissioner (Republican Tony Badalamenti) said a journalist 'should be taken out back' during Tuesday's commissioners meeting."

[\*Cincinnati.com - PAC supporting candidates with background in science backs Amy Acton for U.S. Senate - 3/11/21\*](#)

"A national political group that supports scientists running for office is putting its weight and money behind urging Dr. Amy Acton to run for U.S. Senate."

[\*Record-Courier - Portage commissioners change course, support sheriff's take-home cruiser proposal - 3/12/21\*](#)

"Portage County commissioners did an about-face on the take home car program proposed by the county sheriff, with two commissioners voting in support."

[\*Columbus Dispatch - Capitol Insider: Portman pans partisan COVID relief; Brown hails reducing child poverty - 3/12/21\*](#)

"Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown concentrated on spelling out how lower- and middle-income Americans would get by far the most help from the bill - in sharp contrast to the 2017 federal tax cuts supported by Portman and President Donald Trump."

[\*The Portager - Commissioners fire budget director Todd Bragg - 3/12/21\*](#)

"In a 2-1 vote, the commissioners fired Finance Director Todd Bragg yesterday."

[\*WEWS - \\$11.2 billion in extra funds coming to Ohio as part of the American Rescue Plan - 3/15/21\*](#)

"On top of being left out, Ohio cities were hit harder early on, and here's why: while most local governments across the country rely on slow-to-fluctuate property taxes to fund operations...fewer than 10 percent rely on income taxes - a slim piece of the pie - that includes Ohio."

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