

NEWS AND NOTES - May 2018

{{ recipient.first_name_or_friend }} -

"Thank you." Two words that are inadequate to express my appreciation for your support over the last 12 years. During the time I served you as Chair of our Party, together we achieved monumental success in the election or re-election of Democratic candidates.

For the last 12 years, our Party worked on candidate elections and spent monumental amounts of money on our various candidates. During that period of time the Republicans have out-registered us by seven points. We were still able to accomplish the following successes in local elections:

Judicial: Democrats 5, Republicans 2

Countywide Officials: Democrats 6, Republicans 2

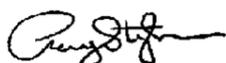
During the last year my medical conditions have caused me not to seek the chairmanship of our Party. I have worked diligently to review the possible candidates for this year's officers. It is my strong opinion that in order to be successful we must have qualified and electable candidates. The Party will need your help in fundraising, staffing of fairs and festivals and putting up yard signs. We need to maintain that spirit that we have developed over the last several years.

Our reorganization meeting will be June 6, 2018, 6pm at the Ravenna Elks Lodge, 776 N. Freedom St. in Ravenna. Details are below in the "Upcoming Events" section.

What follows are notes about additional upcoming opportunities to get involved locally - and there is no time like the present to do so. If there's anything else you think we should include here in the future, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting County Treasurer Brad Cromes via [email](#).

Thank you, as always, for all you do, and for allowing me the privilege of being your leader these past years. I have enjoyed it immensely, and look forward to seeing the Party continue to grow and thrive in Portage County.

Onward,



Craig Stephens, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

SHERROD BROWN CAMPAIGN: Central Committee Member Dawn Olsen, in her new capacity as Portage Co. Volunteer Coordinator for the Sherrod Brown campaign, is in the process of identifying leaders supporting Sherrod's bid for another term as our U.S. Senator in a number of different interest groups (i.e. Agricultural/Rural, Military Members & Families, Disability Community, Latinx, etc.). If you believe you or someone you know would be a good fit, please contact her [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Ohio Dems Candidate Training](#) - June 2, 2018 - 10am - 4pm - Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH

The Ohio Democratic Party's Main Street Initiative invites you to take part in the Party's next training! This training will be focused on candidates that are planning to run for local or state legislative office in 2019 or 2020 (or beyond). The Party will teach you the skills you need to get a leg up and about how you can get more involved today! For more and to sign up, visit the link.

African American Leaders for Sherrod Launch Event - June 4, 2018 - 10am - 11:30am - 18240 Harvard Ave., Cleveland, OH

Who: Senator Sherrod Brown + YOU What: African American Leaders for Sherrod kickoff event
Where: Harvard Community Services Center (18240 Harvard Ave, Cleveland, OH 44128) Parking is available in the lots around the building. Date: Monday, June 4th Time: 10:15am-11:30am. Hope to see you there!

[Central Committee Reorganization Meeting](#) - June 6, 2018 - 6pm - 8pm - Elks Club, 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, OH 44266

The reorganization of the Portage County Democratic Party will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 @ 6 pm at the Ravenna Elks Club located at 776 N Freedom St., Ravenna OH 44266. Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and our Party's Constitution at the reorganization meeting several objectives will be accomplished. First, duly elected candidates for precinct committee will receive the oath of office from the party's current Parliamentarian, Glenda Enders. Second, after receiving the oath of office the central committee people will then elect party officers for the period from 2018 to 2022. The officers to be elected are Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian.

Kathleen Clyde for Secretary of State House Party - June 10, 2018 - 2:30pm - 4pm - 738 Dominion Dr., Kent, OH 44240

Please join us at the home of Scott & Connie Hamilton as we continue to support our State Representative, Kathleen Clyde, in her race for Secretary of State. Donations accepted ranging from \$50-1000. Please RSVP to cornelius@kathleenclayde.com.

Garrettsville Summerfest - June 22-24, 2018 - Various Times - Garrettsville

The Party will again be participating in Garrettsville's annual summertime tradition, Summerfest. We will have a booth along Main St., and various candidates will participate in the event's parade. We will be asking in the weeks to come for volunteers to help staff the booth. Please "Save The Date" for this important event.

Kent Heritage Festival - June 30, 2018 - All Day - Kent

With July 4th falling in the middle of the week on a Wednesday this year, please note that the 23rd Annual Kent Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, June 30th. The all-day celebration held in downtown Kent runs from 9:00 am - 11:00 pm. Fireworks will be set off from Kramer Ball Fields at 10:00 pm. The Party will again be hosting a booth, and we would appreciate your help! Please "Save The Date" for this event, as well.

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

FINAL PRIMARY RESULTS POSTED: Final results from this May's Primary Election are now posted on the Board's [website](#). Check 'em out!

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: There is presently a SEVERE shortage of Democratic poll workers in Portage County - so much so that we had no alternates available on Election Day this May. Don't let this happen again! Being a poll worker is an easy, fun way to give back to your community...plus, you get paid to do it! Learn more about the job and sign up [here](#).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: It's never too soon to make your plan for voting this fall. The registration deadline is October 9, 2018. [Get registered](#), and make sure your friends and family do the same! Not sure if you're currently registered? [Check!](#)

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GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES - Auditor Nominee Lis Kenneth Regula

Traditionally in this section, we focus on profiles of our elected office holders. Given that we have a first-time candidate as our nominee for Auditor this fall, we felt that this month you'd be better served by a piece that will let you get to know him a little better. His name is Lis Kenneth Regula, and he is a Biology Professor at the University of Akron and President of the Kent Environmental Council. We sat down with Lis to discuss his candidacy, and a lightly edited version of our conversation follows.

Thanks for taking the time to chat with us Lis. Can you give us a little background about yourself? Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? What's something unique about you that sets you apart?

"I grew up in Lima, Ohio. Technically, it was Elida, Ohio but few people know where that is. I graduated from Elida High School in 1999 and Ohio State University in 2005. Twelve years ago, I moved to Kent after earning my PhD in biology from Kent State. I'm a first generation college and the son of a small business owner. I'm also a transgender man, which sets me apart in some ways, but also motivates me to stand up for the underdog, to work on behalf of everyone who's struggling to get by."

What are you most proud of having accomplished in your career to date?

"My proudest professional achievement so far is my work with EnviroScience in Stow in 2016. That summer, NASA Glenn was updating their surveys of species found on the Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station. I was in charge of amphibians and reptiles. In 2001, one of my heroes, Dr. Ralph Pfungsten, conducted the previous survey there. Following in his footsteps reminded me how lucky I am to be able to do something I love while serving my community."

What challenges facing our community are the most troubling to you?

"As an educator, I believe that access to information is crucial. Although new technology offers plentiful information faster than ever, it's still difficult to find reliable and accurate information, especially in government. This is why local government offices, schools, and libraries need to step up to the plate and prioritize expanding access to information. Portage County has made improvements recently, such as within the treasurer's office. But we can still be a better resource to county residents. I'd like to make it easier to find information and do business in Portage County, and I believe there are cost-effective, efficient ways to do that. By expanding access to information and updating our communication systems, I'll make it easier for people to start businesses, file and pay taxes, investigate property, and generally interact with the auditor's office. For working parents trying to start small businesses or third shift workers trying to buy their first home, county government should ease the process."

What opportunities are you most excited about for Portage County and Ohio going forward?

"Right now, I'm most excited about hearing from the people of Portage about what they need from their elected officials. Many people feel disconnected from local government and I want to help change that. If there's anything that I've learned in the dozen years I've lived here, it's that Portage County residents are a diverse group of people who all bring unique perspectives, experiences, and potential solutions to any problem they face. There's a saying in the Crooked River Alliance of Timebanks that goes, "We have what we need if we use what we have!" and I believe this captures our county's spirit. We have an abundance of natural resources, hardworking people, and infrastructure that can improve our economy and living quality for everyone in the county. We just have to work together."

Thanks again, Lis, and good luck this fall!

For more on Lis' campaign, follow him on [Facebook](#) and visit his [website](#), where you can volunteer or make a donation.

For past profiles, please see our Newsletter [Archive](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Record-Courier - [Breaking Ground on \\$21 Million Portage Jail Expansion](#) - April 24, 2018

"Ground has officially been broken at the site of a nearly \$21 million expansion and renovation to the Portage County Jail. Portage County commissioners, along with Sheriff David Doak and his jail administrators, held a small ceremony on Tuesday with representatives from Granger Construction, the project management firm. Funding will come from revenue generated by a five-year, quarter-percent sales tax imposed on the county in 2015 by the commissioners. It is expected to generate \$25 million over those five years."

Columbus Dispatch - [Democrats Say ECOT Should Already Be Under Criminal Investigation](#) - April 24, 2018

"Democrat Steve Dettelbach, a former federal prosecutor, says state officials — including Auditor Dave Yost — should not have waited to refer to law enforcement allegations that ECOT officials intentionally inflated enrollment numbers to boost state payments."

Cleveland.com - [Sen. Sherrod Brown says Mick Mulvaney Should Resign from CFPB](#) - April 25, 2018

"Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, on Wednesday said Mick Mulvaney should resign as acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau after telling a group of banking industry executives that he only met with lobbyists who gave him campaign donations when he was a member of Congress."

Plunderbund - [Downticket Democrats Outraise GOP Opponents. Again.](#) - April 26, 2018

"Today was another important milestone for Ohio political watchers and another good sign for Democrats running statewide. Pre-primary campaign finance reports were due, and in all four of the downticket races — for Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Auditor — Democrats outraised their Republican counterparts. Furthermore, when today's haul is combined with money carried over from the [last filing period](#), two of the four: Kathleen Clyde and Rob Richardson—have leapfrogged ahead of their opponents in the amount of cash sitting in their campaign warchests."

Record-Courier - [Portage Juvenile Court Helps Parents Put Children First](#) - April 30, 2018

"Through education and mediation, the Portage County Juvenile Court is helping parents put 'Children First,' its presiding judge said. Juvenile-Probate Judge Robert Berger said all parents who come before the court must take the 'Children First' class before they have a hearing on custody, visitation or parentage."

WCMH-TV Columbus - [ECOT accused of using taxpayer dollars as hush money](#) - April 30, 2018

"Embattled online charter school Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) is being accused of using taxpayer dollars given to them by the state based on full-time student enrollment to pay off employees for their silence."

Record-Courier - [Portage Eyes Sales Tax Proposals Again](#) - May 2, 2018

"Portage County could soon finally see tangible results from revenue generated by the increased sales and use tax. On Wednesday, the county Sales and Use Tax Subcommittee voted to recommend roughly \$844,000 in proposed projects aimed at addressing the opioid crisis."

Youngstown Vindicator (Editorial) - [Scandals Plague Ohio GOP](#) - May 6, 2018

"Democrats intend to use a broad brush in painting Republicans as corrupt. They will argue that the GOP's stranglehold on the governor's office, statewide administrative offices and the Ohio General Assembly has given the party a sense of entitlement. There are two main issues that will haunt Republicans in the fall: The for-profit charter school system that has drained more than \$1 billion from the state's public schools. The lack of transparency and oversight and the GOP's refusal to treat the charters and public schools equally have led to widespread corruption. The Electronic Classroom of

Tomorrow (ECOT) has become the poster child of this corrupt industry. Democrats have labeled the scandal 'Chartergate.'"

ABC News - [Democrats Hopeful After Tuesday's Primaries](#) - May 9, 2018

"Democratic women had a big night. In Ohio alone, women will make up 10 of 16 congressional Democratic candidates, and half of the state senate candidates. In races that some Democrats feared were pulling candidates to the left or causing divisions in the ranks, party voters actually broadly stuck together. Though he faced three Democratic opponents, former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray won 62 percent of the vote in the Ohio Democratic gubernatorial primary..."

New York Magazine - [Cordray Proves Voters Don't Always Want a Showman Like Trump](#) - May 11, 2018

"Cordray is, indeed, not aiming to invigorate the furious Democratic base with the anti-Establishment fire of Elizabeth Warren, his highest-profile surrogate and political ally. Instead, his game is to remind voters that as a onetime Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director under Barack Obama, an Ohio attorney general, state treasurer, and state solicitor general, he has the experience to protect everyday voters and ensure them quality health care and economic security."

Record-Courier - [Portage Give OK to Grant Projects](#) - May 12, 2018

"Portage County could see almost \$400,000 in state funding for community development projects if everything goes as planned. The Board of Commissioners has given the green light for the Portage County Regional Planning Commissioner to submit six proposals to the state for Community Development Block Grants. In the past, the grants were allocated annually, but under the administration of President Donald Trump, funding for the program was slashed and is now allocated biannually."

Toledo Blade - [House Republicans Struggle to Select Speaker](#) - May 15, 2018

"'We don't know who will end up in charge,' Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said. 'Both camps are badly tainted by scandal, and we still have no idea who else was involved in the Rosenberger shenanigans, let alone Chartergate. Whatever happens, it's fair to say that The Who got it right when they said, 'Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.'"

Record-Courier - [Portage Set To Address Opioid Crisis](#) - May 15, 2018

"Proposals for four programs aimed at addressing the opioid crisis in Portage County took yet another step toward becoming reality. The Portage County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday approved moving ahead with writing contracts and allocating funding to a majority of the six proposals recommended by the Sales and Use Tax Committee. In total, roughly \$700,000 in programs could be funded by June."

Yahoo News - [Sherrod Brown Lays Out Agenda For "The Little Guy"](#) - May 15, 2018

"'Are you on the side of Wall Street or are you fighting for the little guy?' That was the question posed by Sen. Sherrod Brown, Democrat of Ohio, at the opening of the 2018 Ideas Conference, an annual gathering of liberals hosted by the Center for American Progress. It was directed to the members of the Democratic establishment seated in the Washington, D.C., hotel ballroom finishing their breakfasts, and to the members of Congress who would take to the stage later that day — including those who, like Brown, are likely to enter the 2020 presidential race."

INTOMore.com - [Meet The 10 LGBTQ Politicians Who Just Won Their Primary Races in Ohio](#) - May 21, 2018

"Also unopposed in the May primary races was Lis Kenneth Regula, who is contending for the position of Portage County auditor..."

Advance Ohio - [Dysfunction in OH Legislature Worsens Amid Cancelled Sessions, FBI Raid](#) - May 24, 2018

"'The biggest thing is that this dysfunction coming from the Statehouse is harming Ohioans,' said Kathleen Clyde, a Democratic state representative who's running for Secretary of State. 'It holds up important work of the people of Ohio such as predatory lending legislation and a bill to fund upgrades to voting equipment.'"

Lima News - [Auditor's Race Includes Claims of Corruption, Hypocrisy](#) - May 26, 2018

"Space's campaign has alleged that Republicans did not do enough to track ECOT during Faber's time as top Ohio Republican lawmaker because of Lager's role as a high-profile campaign donor to Republican candidates. Space has called on Republicans to give those donations to charity."

Record-Courier - [Portage Courts Get \\$21,000 In Tech Grants](#) - May 28, 2018

"Two Portage County courts have been awarded more than \$21,000 in technology grants by the Ohio Supreme Court. Portage County Common Pleas Judge Laurie Pittman applied to and was awarded the grants, totaling \$21,146, to upgrade the Common Pleas Court case management system and the Probate Court clerk's case management equipment."

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For more news and notes on the activities of Democrats from around Ohio, subscribe to the Ohio Democratic Party Daily Update [here](#).

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