

NEWS AND NOTES - November 2018

Friend -

First and foremost, I want to take a moment to say "thank you." Throughout this year, you gave of your time, talent, and energy to support candidates you believed in, people who put people first in Portage County. That is a tremendous gift for which I am extremely grateful.

While the results statewide in Ohio were disappointing, we have much to celebrate in Portage County; we returned both Vicki Kline and Mike Kerrigan to the Commissioners' Office, and elected a worthy successor to Kathleen Clyde as our State Representative in Randi Clites. And though he was unsuccessful in his bid for auditor, Lis Regula mounted an impressive campaign against his opponent, leaving me confident we'll see Lis on the ballot in the future. We also returned Judge Mary Jane Trapp to the 11th District Court of Appeals. I am certain all will serve in a way to make us proud and bring the kind of change we need to move our community forward.

We also elected two Democrats to the Ohio Supreme Court - something we have not done in a very long time - including the first African American woman to be elected statewide, Justice-elect Melody Stewart. In addition, Democrats picked up seats in the Ohio House for the first time in more than a decade.

Taken together, these wins give working people a stronger voice in Columbus at a time when that will be critical to pushing back against a backward, right-wing General Assembly, and will help set the table for further pickups in 2020.

With this year's elections behind us, we must now take stock of what went right, what went wrong, and what we can do to improve our efforts to fight for the people Portage County going forward. In the days to come, we will be engaging in many conversations around those topics, and welcome your participation in those discussions.

All of that said, the fight goes on. In 2019, we will be electing mayors, city council and school board members, township trustees and fiscal officers. The earliest filing deadlines for these races are in February, and will be here sooner than we realize.

To win in Portage County, we need strong leaders at all levels of government. As of this writing, more than 40 new individuals here in Portage County alone have raised their hands to contribute in making positive change by running for office as part of the Ohio Democratic Party's Main Street Initiative. I hope you will consider adding your name to that list, also. Below, you'll find information about running for office, as well as a number of listings for upcoming events.

However you choose to engage, I ask you to remain a part of the fight. We need you now more than ever to help maintain the progress we've made and stand against the forces that would take us back. Happy holidays to you and yours, and I look forward to standing beside you as we begin anew our effort to make a more perfect version of our community a reality.

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Portage County Democratic Party Holiday Party - December 5, 2018 - 5:15p - 6:45p - Italian American Society, Ravenna](#)

The Portage County Democratic Party invites you to its annual Holiday Party, to be held at the Italian American Society in Ravenna on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. A brief meeting of the Central Committee will take place at 5:15pm, to be followed by a celebration of food, fellowship and the holiday season. Family, friends, and anyone interest in putting people first in Portage County are welcome! We will be collecting non-perishable food and or a new (in the package) toy for a child under the age of 12 y.o. to be donated to the Center of Hope/Family and Community Services in Ravenna. RSVPs are appreciated by Monday, December 3rd to denisedeperro@gmail.com or 330-697-7403.

Summit County Dems Holiday Celebration - December 6, 2018 - 5p - 7p - The Tangier, 532 W. Market St., Akron
You are invited to join the Summit County Democratic Party in celebrating the holiday season with drinks and

appetizers. Individual tickets are \$50/person. Please RSVP by December 3, 2018 to Felita Grice, info@summitdems.org or 330-434-1311.

Federated Democratic Women Charity Drive - Donations Due December 7, 2018 - Locations Throughout Portage County

In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, the Federated Democratic Women of Portage County will collect donations of checks or money orders (made payable to "The Miller House") to help homeless women and children this holiday season. Please submit your donation to Suzanne Coia no later than December 7, 2018 (mail to Suzanne Coia, 3960 Summit Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266).

Ohio Democratic Party Holiday Party - December 15, 2018 - 2p - 5p - ODP HQ, 340 E. Fulton St., Columbus

Join the Ohio Democratic Party for an end-of-year update and holiday celebration. The event will begin with an overview of the Main Street Initiative for those thinking about running for local offices in 2019 or 2020. That will be followed with an overview of the results and lessons from the 2018 General Election, and a holiday party with appetizers and drinks. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Bridget Doherty at bdoherty@ohiodems.org.

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

LOCAL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES: Petitions and/or declarations of candidacy for local offices (including mayors, city council members, school board members, township trustees and township fiscal officers) are due as early as February 6, 2019. If you are interested in running for local office, please contact the Board of Elections as soon as possible for details pertaining to your specific race at 330-297-3511.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: It's never too early to sign up to be a poll worker and help make sure our elections run smoothly (and it's never more necessary than in odd-year elections). Being a poll worker is an easy, fun way to give back to your community...plus, you get paid to do it! If you're interested, please contact the Board of Elections at 330-297-3518.

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Cincinnati Enquirer - [Gerrymandering: The secret issue Ohio will vote on at midterm](#) - October 23, 2018

"Yes, Ohio [already voted](#) for redistricting reform -- twice. But politicians will still be in charge and have the final say on maps that will shape Ohio's political landscape for many years. Whoever is elected governor, secretary of state and auditor will be part of a new seven-member panel drawing Statehouse district lines in 2021."

Record-Courier - [Kline, Kerrigan, Esposito Re-Elected In Portage](#) - November 6, 2018

"Kline and Kerrigan, celebrating their victory at the Italian American Club in Ravenna, said they were looking forward to working together. Kerrigan cited Kline's experience, while Kline said she appreciated Kerrigan's youth and enthusiasm. 'I'm so proud to be working with this young man,' she said. Kerrigan said he and Kline 'complement each other, not only as commissioners, but also as candidates.'"

Record-Courier - [Clites wins House seat](#) - November 6, 2018

"Democrat Randi Clites will represent much of the southern portion of Portage County, including Kent, Streetsboro, Ravenna in the Ohio House of Representatives after winning the race for the District 75 seat."

Cleveland.com (Editorial) - [Ripple effects of Mike DeWine's election as Governor](#) - November 10, 2018

"Donald Trump [energizes Ohio's Republican grass roots](#). And for at least two generations, Ohioans have known Mike DeWine's name and, roughly, what DeWine stands for. Those facts -- in a state that prefers any changes to be gradual -- are why voters [made DeWine Ohio's next governor](#). As barstool analysts like to say, elections have consequences."

Advance Ohio (Editorial) - [Voters bring historic change to Ohio Supreme Court](#) - November 11, 2018

"On Tuesday, Cleveland appellate court Judge Melody J. Stewart became the first African-American woman and the first African-American Democrat to be [elected to the Ohio Supreme Court](#)."

Record-Courier - [Analysis: 6 Key Facts Breaking Down Portage's Votes](#) - November 11, 2018

"Some see Portage as a bellwether county for Ohio, with different pockets of political support mimicking the state's demographics. Indeed, Tuesday's results reaffirmed that the cities of Kent and Ravenna lean strongly left, with Streetsboro and Brimfield Township falling more to the middle. The rest of the county remained deep red conservative territory in Tuesday's election."

Cleveland Scene - [Is Sherrod Brown's Senate win a playbook for Ohio Democrats?](#) - November 12, 2018

"Brown was first elected in 2006, when he beat now-Governor Elect Mike DeWine by a bruising 12-point margin. Prior to that election, Brown had served in the U.S. House, as Ohio Secretary of State and in the Ohio House of Representatives. According to Brown, the winning streak comes from focusing on working people in the state."

That's been borne out by many of his policy moves, from efforts to restrict the amount payday lending companies can charge borrowers to his opposition to trade deals like NAFTA."

Columbus Dispatch - [Ohio House GOP comes out of the gate with gun, abortion legislation](#) - November 14, 2018

"After plenty of campaign ads talking about health care, education, taxes and job growth, Ohio House Republicans kicked off the post-election lame-duck session with controversial bills on guns and abortion."

Advance Ohio - [Ohio Democrats nearly match Republicans in Statehouse vote, but will remain deep minority](#) - November 15, 2018

"But the Republicans scored their wins for 63 percent of the seats while collecting just over 50 percent of the total vote. This is a lot like what happened in Ohio's 16 congressional districts, where Republicans won 75 percent of the seats with just 52 percent of the overall vote. These are two fresh examples of how skillfully gerrymandered legislative districts can sway the balance of power - especially when one party is in full control of drawing the maps as was the case for the current districts."

The Hill - [Sherrod Brown mulls 2020](#) - November 20, 2018

"Sen. [Sherrod Brown](#) (D-Ohio), who is considering a White House bid in 2020, said Monday that possibly replacing [President Trump](#) would be the 'most important political decision' of his life."

New York Times (Editorial) - [Whaley: Ohio Isn't a Red State Yet](#) - November 23, 2018

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley lays out why, despite election losses, Ohio is not yet a red state - and what Democrats must do in order to make sure it remains competitive in the future.

Record-Courier - [Portage County gets clean bill of fiscal health](#) - November 26, 2018

"Portage County has received its second consecutive clean bill of financial health. The Ohio auditor's office recently released a report on how Ohio's 88 counties scored on 17 'Financial Health Indicators,' similar to report cards issued for school districts...The report shows that Portage and two other counties — Seneca County near Sandusky and Warren County near Cincinnati — scored a positive outlook on all 17 indicators."

CNBC - ["Corporate Greed At Its Worst": Ohio Officials Slam GM Move Out of Lordstown](#) - November 26, 2018

"U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, an Ohio Democrat whose district includes Lordstown, excoriated GM and Trump on Monday. In a statement, he called the move a 'bad combination of greedy corporations and policy makers with no understanding of economic development.' He asked Trump to 'keep his word' from when he came to Ohio's Mahoning Valley last year promising jobs would return."

WBUR Boston - [Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown Speaks Out Against GM Layoffs](#) - November 27, 2018

NPR segment in which Sen. Sherrod Brown makes the case against GM layoffs, places blame for them in part on President Trump's tariffs and a GOP tax cut that incentivizes downsizing, and makes a pledge to continue fighting to keep jobs at the plant.

Cincinnati Enquirer - [Should it be harder to change Ohio Constitution? State lawmakers say yes](#) - November 28, 2018

"Ohio citizens need the ability to make changes to law if the Ohio legislature is not being responsive to the public,' (Ohio League of Women Voters spokesperson and opponent of the move) Miller said. 'Issues like fair districts, campaign finance reform, and other good governance policies are often passed by the people, not legislatures.'"

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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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