



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - December 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy holidays, everyone! In the interest of keeping this newsletter brief and focused on what you need to close out this year and prepare for the next, the Chair's letter is taking a hiatus this month and will return in 2022.

Use the information below to do your part and #BeTheChange in Portage County!

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Call To Action - Run For Office in 2022!

We call on our members to #BeTheChange all the time. What better way to "be the change" in our community than to run for public office in 2022?

In the coming year, we'll be electing a County Commissioner and County Auditor, as well as new state and federal representatives. We'll also be reorganizing the Party and electing new members of our Central Committee.

The filing deadline for petitions is 2/2/22 at 4pm...so if you're interested, don't wait! Call our Board of Elections at 330-297-3511 for more information ASAP.

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Upcoming Events

[Central Committee Meeting - 6pm - 7:30pm - Independence of Portage Co. and Zoom - 1/5/22](#)

Join the Portage County Democratic Party for our first official function of 2022! At this meeting, we'll be signing up members to run for Central Committee, gathering signatures on petitions for statewide Democratic candidates, and conducting other regular business of the Party. Masks required, vaccination

expected (honor system) for in-person attendance. [Zoom link available upon request to Party Secretary Audrey Kessler](#). Hope to see you there!

[*Federated Democratic Women Meeting - 6pm - 7:30pm - Zoom - 1/12/22*](#)

Join the Federated Democratic Women for their monthly membership meeting, the second Wednesday of every month at 6pm. During COVID restriction period, meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Please contact FDW Secretary Terrie Nielsen using the link above for more information.

[*Portage Co. Young Democrats Meeting - 6pm - 7:30pm - Zoom - 1/19/22*](#)

Join the Portage County Young Democrats for their monthly membership meeting, the third Wednesday of every month at 6pm. During COVID restriction period, meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Please contact Young Dems President Christopher Clevenger-Morris using the link above for more information.

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Board of Elections Updates

[*Candidate Filing Deadlines are February 2nd!*](#)

Filing deadlines for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election are rapidly approaching. If you intend to run for the County Central Committee, you must file a Form 2-M with the Board of Elections by 4pm on February 2nd. [*We ask that you inform our Membership Committee of your intentions by January 10th*](#). Candidates for other offices must also file by 2/2/22 at 4pm, and can find additional information in the candidate guide linked above or by calling the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

[*Request your absentee ballot!*](#)

It's not too early to request your absentee ballot for this May's Primary Election. Follow the link above to make your request, and call 330-297-3511 with questions.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*The Portager - Sitting judges win municipal court races in landslide victories - 11/3/21*](#)

"Judges Mark Fankhauser and Kevin Poland each won another six years on the bench in Portage County Municipal Court, defeating their Republican-backed opponents by large margins in the Nov. 2 election."

[*The Portager - Op-Ed: Aurora school board used kids as the 'canary in the classroom' - 11/19/21*](#)

John Kennedy: "Turns out a canary is exactly what the Aurora Board of Education wanted, and that's exactly what they got - a lot of sick kids."

[*Weekly Villager - Portage Financial Wellness Fair receives state recognition - 12/7/21*](#)

"The Portage County Financial Wellness Fair (a project of Treasurer Brad Cromes)...has been recognized by the Ohio Treasurer of State with a Compass Award for December 2021. The monthly recognition program commends organizations, programs, and individuals across the state who are working to guide Ohioans toward financial literacy education and empowerment."

[*Ohio Capital Journal - Redistricting plans for Statehouse now up to the Ohio Supreme Court - 12/9/21*](#)

"Three groups challenging district maps for the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate made their cases Wednesday that the Ohio Supreme Court should reject maps approved by state Republican leaders."

[*Chronicle-Telegram - Ohio labor unions back Tim Ryan for U.S. Senate - 12/16/21*](#)

"The Ohio Federation of Teachers, the United Auto Workers and the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters have endorsed U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Niles, to represent Ohio in the U.S. Senate."

[*Cleveland.com - Parma State Rep. Jeff Crossman announces run for Ohio Attorney General - 12/16/21*](#)

"Crossman, a former Parma city councilman and attorney, most recently was re-elected in November 2020, winning by 5 points...In an interview, Crossman faulted Yost and other Republicans in Columbus for not doing more in response

to the HB6 scandal, which led to the arrest of former House Speaker Larry Householder and four Republican political operatives."

[*The Portager - Kent will consider forming a commission to examine systemic racism in the city - 12/22/21*](#)

"At the urging of several community leaders, Kent City Council pledged to consider forming an anti-racism committee as part of its February committee meeting."

[*The Portager - From the publisher: The top stories in Portage County in 2021 - 12/22/21*](#)

A "year in review" article from Portage County's locally-owned news source. Highlights include the on-going COVID pandemic, the death of local historian Roger Di Paolo, homelessness in Kent, WKSU merger, medical marijuana and more.

[*Record-Courier - Many capital projects might be done in 2022, county officials say - 12/28/21*](#)

"A long list of capital projects - ranging from the roof and windows of Riddle Block 1, the takeover of the county airport, and improvements to the county administration building - are still pending as county officials head into 2022."

[*WCPO - Challenges to Ohio's new congressional maps reach state's high court - 12/28/21*](#)

"Oral arguments in two lawsuits challenging the new 4-year map showing boundaires for 15 U.S. House districts were pushed online by a new COVID-19 surge."

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