



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - August 2019

Dear %firstname%,

On this Labor Day weekend, I hope you will join me in taking a moment to remember the men and women of the labor movement whose efforts have secured safer working conditions, better wages, and a decent standard of living for generations. In this moment, it's particularly important that we stand with our brothers and sisters in labor to defend the dignity of work, and I am proud to pledge our Party's support to that effort now and for years to come.

We leave August having successfully completed another Portage County Randolph Fair. We shared our positive vision for a better Portage County with many, and were a visible presence for progress. Thank you to all who helped us do that - and we hope you all will consider helping at a future event!

August also saw the filing deadline for local races, and set the ballot for November's elections for mayor, city council, school board, township trustee, and other important offices. We have reached out to all our local candidates to offer support and resources, and look forward to helping elect Democrats to these offices and building a pipeline of leaders for our future.

Below, you will find information about events to come. In particular, I want to draw your attention to our Central Committee meeting on September 19th (where we'll consider endorsements) and our Chair's Circle event September 30th (where we'll be joined by presidential candidate Tim Ryan to support all of our local Party's important work). We hope you can join us for one of those events!

If you have any information you would like us to share in a future newsletter, please let us know by contacting our 2nd Vice Chair, Brad Cromes, via [email](#).

Thank you for all you do, enjoy the holiday weekend, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the weeks ahead.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action

Balloon-A-Fair Booth and Parade Sign Ups.

Our Party is on the lookout for volunteers to staff our booth at the Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair on Saturday, September 21, 2019. If you're available, or know someone who might be, please contact First Vice Chair [Denise Smith](#) ASAP! We're also looking for folks who want to join Commissioner Vicki Kline, State Representative Randi Clites, Treasurer Brad Cromes and others in our parade group starting at 7:30am. Please contact Brad Cromes via [email](#) to RSVP.

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Upcoming Events

McElrath Breakfast feat. Mental Health Board - 9/7/19 - 10am - 12pm - Winfield Church

The Winfield Church of God in Christ is hosting its monthly free community breakfast, featuring Jhn Garrity of the Mental Health & Recovery Board. The event is open to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

Federated Democratic Women Founders Day - 9/10/19 - 4:45pm - 6pm - Big Dog Saloon

Come celebrate the history of the Federated Democratic Women in Portage County and help them plan for the future at their annual celebration of the organization's founding.

Presidential Debate Watch Party - 9/12/19 - 8pm - 11pm - To Be Announced

Join the Democratic Party and allied organizations as we gather to view the first presidential debate featuring only those candidates with the most measured support in public polling. Watch our [Facebook Page](#) for more information to come.

Central Committee Meeting - 9/19/19 - 6pm - 8pm - Maplewood Career Center
The Central Committee of the Portage County Democratic Party will meet on Thursday, 9/19/19 at 6pm for the purpose of reviewing endorsement recommendations for local races and conducting other regular business of the Party.

Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair - 9/21/19 - Downtown Ravenna

We will have an active presence at the Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair this year - with a group entry in the grand parade and a booth on the corner of Park Way and Main! Sign up information is listed above. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ohio Dems' 2020 Campaign Jump Start - 9/28/19 - Columbus

Are you running for office in 2020, or considering a run? The Ohio Democratic Party will be hosting a one-day boot camp training on the nuts and bolts of campaign management on September 28th in Columbus. Get the tools you'll need to be successful! For details, contact Main Street Coordinator Sam Melendez via [email](#).

Chair's Circle Fundraiser feat. Tim Ryan - 9/30/19 - 5p - 7p - KSU Hotel & Conference Center

Our Chair's Circle fundraiser is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and helps fund our operations on behalf of local Democrats year-round. This year's featured guest is our Congressman and candidate for President of the United States Tim Ryan. For event details, please contact Chairman [Dean DePerro](#) directly.

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Elections Updates

Fear the purge? The Ohio Secretary of State's Office is requiring local boards of elections to purge inactive voters using the so-called "supplemental" proces. Make sure you're not on the list at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/registrationreset/>.

No August Special Election. No issues were filed by the deadline, so the next election in Portage County will be the General Election this November.

Poll Workers Needed! The Board of Elections still needs folks to work the polls

the rest of this year and into 2020. It's a great way to serve the community - and you get paid to do it! To learn more, visit the Board of Elections [website](#).

It's not too early... to request an absentee ballot for the November General Election, or to update your name/address if you have had a change. Visit the Board of Elections [website](#) for more information!

Postal Union withdrawal. President Trump is threatening to pull the U.S. out of the Universal Postal Union agreement, effective in mid-October 2019. This may have a profound, negative effect on the return of ballots from overseas voters. Please contact your member of Congress ASAP at 202-224-3121 and tell them to push back against this negative change!

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*Columbus Dispatch - FirstEnergy handed out \\$1 million in campaign cash before nuclear bailout vote - 7/28/19*](#)

"The Akron-based utility and its employees gave nearly \$1 million to legislators, other officeholders, candidates and political parties prior to winning narrow passage of the bill granting FirstEnergy Solutions around \$1 billion over seven years to underwrite the pair of Lake Erie nuclear power plants it threatened to close."

[*Cincinnati Enquirer \(Editorial\) - Ohio workers paying the price for Trump's broken promises - 7/30/19*](#)

"Since Trump took office, 4,500 jobs have been lost at GM Lordstown, and it's even more when you consider spin-off jobs lost at suppliers like Magna, Source Providers and Leadec. GM is laying off workers in southwest Ohio, too."

[*Record-Courier - Young Democrats attend convention - 7/31/19*](#)

"Four members of the Portage County Young Democrats recently traveled from Kent to Indianapolis for the Young Democrats of America 2019 Convention."

[*Record-Courier - Portage jail pod nears completion - 8/5/19*](#)

"The new pod is nearly complete at the Portage County jail. But before inmates can occupy the newly built area, it will require additional staff, something Portage County commissioners learned at a recent tour."

[*Columbus Dispatch - DeWine calls for some gun restrictions but still backs relaxing others - 8/7/19*](#)

"But the first-year Republican, in response to a question, said he still favors a measure that would allow Ohioans to carry concealed weapons without the background check, firearms training and permit required under current law. DeWine has also supported a Stand Your Ground Law, ending the duty of citizens to retreat from a gun threat if possible."

[*Record-Courier - Rep. Randi Clites grilled on gun control at Ravenna town hall - 8/8/19*](#)

"Clites, who took office in January, hosted a town hall meeting at Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna about the Ohio Promise. The 'promise,' which is being promoted by Democrats in local forums across the state, outlines five goals that Clites said are aimed at strengthening local communities, bringing wins to working people and investing in the state's future."

[*Cincinnati Enquirer - She's sown compassion and stood up to Trump. Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has been a rock star. What's it mean for her future? - 8/8/19*](#)

"You probably had never heard of Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley before last weekend's mass shooting in her city. The Democrat was briefly in the 2018 Ohio governor's race before dropping out ahead of the primary. Whaley's lack of statewide name ID doomed her campaign, but party insiders have continued to view her as a rock star and believe her time will come for a bigger office."

[*Youngstown Vindicator \(Editorial\) - FirstEnergy gets bailout, then socks it to workers - 8/16/19*](#)

"FirstEnergy Solutions got its \$150 million-a-year bailout from the state of Ohio and then proceeded to declare war on the unions that represent workers in two of its nuclear power plants. The company's attempt to cancel its contracts with the unions at Perry and Beaver Valley nuclear generating stations smack of opportunism and bad faith."

[*Advance Ohio - With control of Ohio Supreme Court up for grabs in 2020, Democrat Jennifer Brunner announces run - 8/20/19*](#)

"Ohio's biggest state-level political fight of the 2020 election is starting to come into focus. Former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner announced over the weekend that she's running for the Ohio Supreme Court. Brunner...joins Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge John P. O'Donnell in the Democratic

field...Were Democrats to win both seats, they would seize control of Ohio's top court for the first time in a generation."

[*Record-Courier - Scammer allegedly targeting foreclosures - 8/22/19*](#)

"Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes said so far, two people have reported that someone told the landlord or tenant of a property on the foreclosure list that he would be buying the home at the sheriff's sale. The person told the tenants that they had 10 days to vacate the premises...'That's not how sheriff's sales work,' Cromes said."

[*Washington Post - Whaley: We owe it to mass shooting victims to take action on gun control - 8/23/19*](#)

"The common thread among these catastrophic shootings is the easy access to high-powered weapons. Universal background checks, extreme-risk protection orders, an limits on assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines are all overwhelmingly popular policy ideas and would surely save lives."

[*Record-Courier - County offices let folk charge it - 8/23/19*](#)

"Portage County commissioners recently approved an agreement with Point & Pay LLC to accept payments for the county's bills and services. Brad Cromes, Portage County treasurer, said the vendor is the same one he already uses to accept payments in his office, and fees will be dropping with more offices potentially using the service."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Vendor error leads to hundreds of voters being targeted for purge - 8/25/19*](#)

"A vendor who works with county boards of elections mistakenly flagged more than 1,600 people for purging from the rolls of eligible voters, marking the second time in three weeks that problems have surfaced with the list of registrations that could be canceled next week."

[*Record-Courier - Legislators hear requests from Davey Tree, Kent Schools etc. - 8/28/19*](#)

"The ask here is to continue to fund vo-ed programs, continue to fund these partnership pacts and continue to provide a pathway for kids who aren't ready for college or haven't found their calling,' said Greg Ina, executive vice president of the Davey Institute and Employee Development, to the legislators, including local Rep. Randi Clites (D-Ravenna)."

[Daily Beast - Dems sound alarm: Trump is 'carpet bombing' us in key battlegrounds - 8/28/19](#)

"Donald Trump is in general election mode while we're still in primary mode. We see it in Ohio,' David Pepper, who chairs the state's Democratic Party said. 'He's absolutely carpet-bombing Ohio online. We're doing our best to respond.'"

[Beacon-Journal - Horrigan, Shapiro blast Yost's bid to take over local opioid lawsuits - 8/28/19](#)

"I want Attorney General Yost to look my paramedics in the eye - men and women who have poured their blood, sweat, and tears into saving their neighbors, as they struggled and died by the hundreds to opiates - and tell them why we don't deserve our day in court,' Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan said Wednesday in a statement."

[Record-Courier - Prosecutor cites big pricetag for "E-Discovery" - 8/30/19](#)

"It could cost taxpayers an 'astronomical' fee to provide documents to defense attorneys, Portage County Prosecutor Victor Vigluicci told commissioners Thursday. Vigluicci came before commissioners this week for the first phase of budget hearings with commissioners. Commissioners also held budget hearings with the county treasurer and the board of elections, with the elections board citing potentially pricey solutions to cybersecurity concerns."

[Advance Ohio - Ohio Dems sue Frank LaRose seeking to stop voter purge - 8/30/19](#)

"The Ohio Democratic Party is filing a complaint in federal court, seeking to halt Secretary of State Frank LaRose's so-called voter purge next week, it announced Friday."

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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](#).

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