



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - December 2019

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the interest of keeping this update brief and allowing maximum time for holiday celebrations, the Chairman's letter that normally appears in this space has been omitted. It will return in January 2020.

In the meantime, check below for updates and news - and please forward along to others who can join us in this work in the year ahead!

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Call to Action - Office Staff

As we gear up for what will be the most important election of our lives, we are also aware that it's up to us to make sure Democrats have the support they need to succeed in Portage County. One way we can ensure that success is by staffing our office in Ravenna, starting just after the conclusion of the Primary Election on March 17th.

If you are interested in helping a few hours a week - or know someone who is - please contact 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes via [email](#) ASAP.

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Upcoming Events

13th District Presidential Caucus - 1/7/20 - 6p - 8p - Ravenna High School
This event will be for the selection of delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention on behalf of candidates for President. In order to be a delegate, candidates must submit statements of interest no later than 12/31/19. More details on that process are available [here](#). Caucuses will also take place on this date and time for candidates in the 14th Congressional District (northern Portage

County, caucus to be held at Lakeland Community College Breakers Dining Hall) and 16th Congressional District (southern Portage County, caucus to be held at Brunswick High School Performings Arts Center). Additional information on those events can be found [here](#).

Democratic Message Training - 1/11/20 - 10a - 4p - Boston Heights

The Democratic Leadership Institute is offering a free training for Democratic candidates and activists on how to best communicate the Democratic message and win in 2020. Space is limited, and RSVPs are required. Please contact Troy with the Summit County Democrats for more information via [email](#).

[MLK Prayer Breakfast - 1/18/20 - 9a - 12p - Kent United Church of Christ](#)

The Portage Co. Branch of the NAACP invites you to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at their annual prayer breakfast. Tickets are \$10/person, free for those 18 years old and younger. For more information, please contact Frank Hairston at 330-296-3556.

Ohio Young Democrats Winter Meeting - 1/18/20 - 10:30a - 3:30p - Ohio Dems HQ

The Ohio Young Democrats invite you to attend their winter meeting at ODP HQ, 340 E. Fulton St. in Columbus. The agenda will include a recap of 2019, campaign planning for 2020, awards, speakers, and more. For additional information, please contact Ohio Young Dems via [email](#).

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Elections Updates

Campaign finance filings due. Campaign finance filings are due for candidates who did not appear on the General Election ballot in November 2019 no later than January 31, 2020 to disclose activity through December 31, 2019.

Voter registration deadline approaching. The voter registration deadline for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election is February 18, 2020. Voters can check their status and register online [here](#).

Be a poll worker. Working at the polls on Election Day is a great way to ensure that our democracy works smoothly and fairly for everyone...and you get paid to do it! For more information on the job, including an application, visit the Board of

Elections' website [here](#).

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Cleveland.com - New poll to take a rare look at black Ohioans' opinions - 12/3/19](#)

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation and the University of Akron's Bliss Institute announced Tuesday they are launching a statewide poll of 1,500 adult black residents. The poll will ask both voters and non-voters about a wide range of Ohio-centric issues...Final results are expected to be made public next February..."

[WSYX - Ohio could switch to automated voter registration system - 12/3/19](#)

"Registering to vote could become much easier if a bipartisan bill in the Ohio Statehouse becomes law. Senate Bill 186 would automate voter registration so when they go to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for a driver's license or state ID, that information could be used to automatically register them to vote."

[Record-Courier - Portman verdict in before Trump impeachment trial begins: not guilty - 12/6/19](#)

"However, barring the emergence of startling new evidence against Donald Trump, the Republican from Ohio has already reached his verdict - and it's firm: Not guilty."

[Ohio Capital Journal - Inside the fight to get GM to reinvest in Lordstown - 12/9/19](#)

"The economic landscape of the Valley is rapidly changing, said State Sen. Sean O'Brien, D-Bazetta, whose district includes Lordstown. 'We're no longer known as the rust belt,' O'Brien told the Capital Journal. 'We're now the future belt.'"

[Roll Call - Democrats plan campaign health care push - 12/10/19](#)

"Democrats in battleground states are using an expected vote this week on a prescription drug bill to shift the focus on the campaign trail to health care, an issue they believe helped them win the House in 2018 and will help them defeat President Donald Trump in 2020."

[Cleveland.com - Candidates declare for two 2020 Ohio Supreme Court races - 12/13/19](#)

"The two races for Ohio Supreme Court in 2020 are all but set: Democrats Jennifer Brunner and John P. O'Donnell will face Republican incumbents...Right now, Republicans hold a 5-2 majority on the state's highest court. But that could flip to a 4-3 Democratic majority with victories..."

[*Record-Courier - Vigluicci seeks 8th term as Portage prosecutor - 12/16/19*](#)

"Portage County Prosecutor Victor Vigluicci has filed petitions with the Portage County Board of Elections seeking an eighth term as prosecuting attorney. Vigluicci is the longest serving prosecutor in the county's history."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Brown: McConnell comments on impeachment trial 'irresponsible and reprehensible' - 12/18/19*](#)

"Sen. Sherrod Brown called Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's comments that the Kentucky senator will not be an impartial juror in a Senate trial 'irresponsible and reprehensible.'"

[*Record-Courier - Crowded race may be coming for Sheriff - 12/18/19*](#)

"Five people want to be Portage County's next sheriff, and four of them are expected to be in the Democratic Primary on March 17. Democrat Jon Barber became the fifth person to file petitions seeking a place on the primary ballot. Other Democrats who have filed include Joe Kammer of Brimfield...P. Ken Howe, a former Portage County sheriff; and Greg Johnson, a retired detective from Portage County Sheriff David Doak's office." Article summarizes races for all local offices.

[*Record-Courier - Attorney files for Portage juvenile judge seat - 12/23/19*](#)

"Attorney Patricia J. Smith has filed as a candidate for Portage County Common Pleas Judge Juvenile/Probate Division...She is seeking the seat now held by Judge Robert Berger, who is retiring at the end of his term next year."

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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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