



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - February 2020

Dear %firstname%,

We have often said - without hyperbole - that the 2020 Election is the most important one of our lifetimes.

We now sit less than 30 days from the first results of that contest - and early voting has already begun. We have a number of races on the ballot for this year's Democratic Primary, and I am pleased to say that we have a slate of candidates we can all be proud of. Whatever the outcomes of next month's Primary, our local Party stands ready to move forward and carry the banner for a better community.

Below, you will find a number of updates, including opportunities to engage with our candidates, paths for volunteering for our Party, and information about the voting process. Please take a moment to review, and share with anyone and everyone in your personal network. If there's anything missing, or something you feel we should highlight in a future newsletter, please contact our 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes via [email](#).

Building a better Portage County will take all of us, working together to be the change we wish to see. I am grateful for your commitment to that project, and excited by the opportunity to work with you on it.

Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean DePerro'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Dean' being particularly prominent.

Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Election Day Volunteers Needed!

The way we win in Portage County in 2020 - no matter what's happening nationally - is to build a strong base of active, local volunteers. On March 17th, Betsy Rader's campaign for State Senate is taking the lead in helping us identify the people who will help us win this November.

In 2-hour shifts, her campaign will post volunteers at critical polling places in Portage County to do this important work. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Betsy's Deputy Campaign Manager Ethan Gruber [here](#).

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Get To Know Your Candidates

The Portage County Young Democrats recently surveyed all candidates on the Democratic Primary ballot about a wide range of issues, and have created a centralized resource with their answers and how to contact their campaigns. You can find this valuable information at <http://portageyd.org/candidates>.

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Call to Action - Office Staff

We are looking to begin staffing the office regularly beginning no later than June 1st. 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

Tim Ryan Reception - 2/20/20 - 5p - 7p - Doubletree Youngstown Downtown
Join supporters of our Congressman, Tim Ryan, as he seeks reelection to his seat in Congress. Suggested donations start at \$250/person.

Tacos & Texts for Warren - 2/25/20 - 6p - 8p - Fresco Mexican Grill, Kent
Elizabeth Warren's campaign for President is on the ground in Portage County -

and interested in training a few new recruits on the latest tools in voter outreach! Come with your laptop to this event and get signed up to be a text warrior big, structural change. More information is available [here](#).

Betsy Rader Meet & Greet - 3/3/20 - 7p - 8:30p - 237 Highland Ave., Kent

Local Kent residents are hosting a meet & greet opportunity in their home for State Senate candidate Betsy Rader. Additional information is available [here](#).

Brunner for Supreme Court Meet & Greet - 3/5/20 - 5:30p - 7:30p - 428 Dandel St., Kent

Come meet former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, now a Franklin County Judge and candidate for Ohio Supreme Court. This event will take place in a private home. Additional information is available [here](#).

McElrath Candidate Breakfast - 3/7/20 - 10a - 12p - Winfield Church of God In Christ, Ravenna

The McElrath Community is hosting a free breakfast, featuring all candidates who are scheduled to appear on the Primary Election ballot in March. All are welcome.

Federated Women Meeting - 3/10/20 - 4:45p - 5:45p - 210 S. Meridian St., Ravenna

Join the Federated Democratic Women of Portage County for their monthly meeting at Portage Co. Democratic Party HQ.

[*Ohio Dems Legacy Dinner feat. Rep. Joe Kennedy III - 3/15/20 - 6p - 9p - Columbus*](#)

Join the Ohio Democratic Party for their annual Legacy Dinner, coming just two days before Ohio's critical Primary Election. Special guest is Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III, with additional speakers to be announced (all 2020 presidential candidates have been invited). Contact Megan Reenock with questions, 614-221-6563.

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Elections Updates

Early voting has begun! Early voting for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election has officially begun! Voters can vote early in person at the Board of Elections in

Ravenna during extended business hours now through the day before Election Day. More information is available on the Board's [website](#).

Campaign finance filings due. Pre-Primary campaign finance filings are due for all candidates who are set to appear on the March 17, 2020 Primary Election ballot no later than 4pm on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Election Day is March 17th. The Board of Elections lists comprehensive information about the election - including a list of candidates and issues, identification requirements, polling locations and more - on its website. Additional information is available [here](#).

Poll workers needed! The 2020 elections will be some of the busiest in our history...and the Board of Elections needs help in making sure they are adequately staffed! Learn more about being a poll worker and complete an online application [here](#).

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*Cleveland Jewish News - Right-wing memes in Weinstein's mailbox won't scare him - 1/21/20*](#)

"I feel that this is where Ohioans are at on gun reform: wanting change, wanting progress and wanting safeguards in place,' (Weinstein) said. 'We're not talking restrictions, we're talking safeguards, and I very much feel that the momentum has turned on the side of reform.'"

[*Advance Ohio - Automatic voter registration could appear on November ballot - 1/22/20*](#)

"Ohioans would automatically be registered to vote upon applying for or renewing a driver's license or other state-issued ID, under a proposed constitutional amendment submitted to the state on Wednesday."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Despite earlier request, Portman opposes subpoena on Ukraine - 1/22/20*](#)

"Five months ago, Sen. Rob Portman wanted to hear what a top Trump administration official knew about the holdup of congressionally approved aid for Ukraine...But when the opportunity arose late Tuesday night for Portman to get

that information and more, he voted with all other Republican senators against issuing a subpoena for documents and testimony..."

[*Toledo Blade - Minimum wage hike closer to Ohio ballot - 1/27/20*](#)

"There are just two states that are currently at or above \$13 - California and Washington. But a number of states, including Illinois in the Midwest, are in the process of gradually raising their rates over several years to \$15 an hour."

[*Record-Courier - Rader announces 'record-breaking' donations - 1/30/20*](#)

"Betsy Rader, a candidate for Ohio Senate in District 18, said she has raised a record-breaking amount of \$121,000, with more than 800 individual donations."

[*Record-Courier - Portage Dems talk health care - 1/31/20*](#)

"John Kennedy, a Type 1 diabetic for 27 years, held up a vial of insulin, which he said is like oxygen for diabetics...'If the Affordable Care Act goes away, there are going to be caravans going to Windsor (Canada),' he said. 'They'll have to widen the roads.' Kennedy, who is running for Portage County Commissioner, made his comments in a Friday morning event sponsored by the Ohio Democratic Party to discuss health care."

[*Dayton Daily News - 6 months after shooting, lawmakers still at odds over gun bills - 2/4/20*](#)

"Six months after the mass shooting in Dayton's Oregon District, legislative leaders remain deeply divided over the best way to address gun violence across the state."

[*New York Times \(Opinion\) - Sherrod Brown: In private, Republicans admit they acquitted Trump out of fear - 2/5/20*](#)

"In private, many of my colleagues agree that the president is reckless and unfit. They admit his lies. And they acknowledge what he did was wrong. They know this president has done things Richard Nixon never did. And they know that more damning evidence is likely to come out."

[*Cleveland.com - Tim Ryan walks out of Trump's State of the Union, calling it fake like professional wrestling - 2/5/20*](#)

"Niles area Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan was among several U.S. House of Representatives members who walked out of President Donald Trump's Tuesday State of the Union speech, posting a message on Twitter that called it 'like watching professional wrestling. It's all fake.'"

[*The Portager - Portage needs better drug addiction treatment, sheriff candidates say - 2/9/20*](#)

"With Portage County still devastated by the opioid epidemic and a rise in methamphetamine and cocaine use, the four Democratic candidates for sheriff focused on addressing addiction in their talks with voters Saturday at a forum organized by the League of Women Voters."

[*Record-Courier - Portage Young Dems make endorsements - 2/10/20*](#)

"The Portage County Young Democrats have made an endorsement in the March 17 primary race for Portage County sheriff, as well as endorsements in several unopposed primaries on the March 17 primary ballot."

[*Ohio Capital Journal - Ohio is flat, rural, red and boring. Except that it's not. - 2/10/20*](#)

"So why would Ohio be perceived as so deeply red? Well, gerrymandering."

[*Record-Courier - State Rep. Randi Clites to be honored - 2/12/20*](#)

"State Rep. Randi Clites of Ravenna was announced as an honoree of the National Organization of Rare Disorders' 2020 Rare Impact Award."

[*AP - With impeachment over, critics see Trump 'retribution tour' - 2/12/20*](#)

"Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, accused Trump of being on a 'retribution tour' and suggested that Senate Republicans - with the exception of Utah's Mitt Romney...-encouraged the president by turning a blind eye toward his conduct."

[*Record-Courier - Clyde blasts opioid settlement proposal - 2/13/20*](#)

"...one Portage County commissioner blasted state officials for keeping more than the local governments facing costs related to addiction."

[*WEWS - The unique role Ohio's 'pivot' counties will play in the 2020 presidential election - 2/17/20*](#)

"...there are a handful this year that will be receiving extra attention because they are 'pivot counties' - counties that voted twice for President Obama in 2008 and 2012 but voted for President Trump in 2016...Those eight counties are split to the east and west of Cleveland with Stark, Portage, Trumbull and Ashtabula to the east...'We have to win those votes again and so does Trump,' said Ohio Democratic Chair David Pepper."

[Columbus Dispatch - A month out, Ohio's Democratic primary looks muddled - 2/18/20](#)

"Several of the candidates have already set up shop in Ohio, although no one is coming close to the presence of Bloomberg's operation. President Donald Trump is unopposed for the GOP primary nod."

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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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