



## **Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - January 2020**

Dear %firstname%,

I hope this message finds you well! With the passing of the holiday season and reflections on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fresh on our hearts and minds, we find ourselves now fully in the midst of this year's campaign season. The first votes for the Democratic nominee for President are already being cast elsewhere in our nation, and our own local candidates are firing up their phones to get friends and supporters lined up for Ohio's Primary Election (now just 56 days away).

The weeks ahead present a tremendous opportunity for you to get to know our candidates and decide who you'll be supporting as we enter the most important election year of our lives. We'll do our best to keep you informed about opportunities to get involved, and I sincerely hope you'll take advantage of those opportunities. Together, we must be the change we wish to see (locally and around the country).

Below, you will find reminders about upcoming events, and some information to catch you up on what's happened locally, in Ohio, and around the nation. Read it, share it, and commit to helping us put people first in Portage County.

There is much to do, but I am confident in our ability to rise to the challenges ahead. My sincere thanks , and I look forward to continuing with you in the days ahead as we work to make ours a place we can be proud to call home.

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman

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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.

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

### [Johnson for Sheriff Kick-Off Event - 1/23/20 - 4p - 6p - Ravenna Elks Club](#)

Join friends of Greg Johnson as he kicks off his campaign for Portage Co. Sheriff. Donations are appreciated, but not required. Additional information is available at the link above.

### *Randi Clites for State Rep. Potluck Fundraiser - 1/23/20 - 6p - 8:00p - Fred Fuller Park Kent*

You are invited to join friends in support of Randi Clites' campaign for re-election to the State House. Bring a dish to pass and your donation, \$100/person, \$150/couple.

### [Betsy Rader for State Senate Fundraiser - 1/25/20 - 2p - 4p - Sharon James Cellars](#)

Betsy Rader is kicking off her campaign to represent Portage County in the Ohio Senate, and you're invited to meet her and hear her vision for our state. This event takes place in Newbury Township in Geauga County. Additional details above.

### *League of Women Voters Face2Face Forum - 2/8/20 - 9a - 12p - Kent United Church of Christ*

The Kent League of Women Voters is again hosting their popular Face2Face Forum prior to March's Primary Election. This event will allow you to interact one-on-one with candidates for offices up and down the ballot. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend!

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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.

***Ethics Commission financial disclosure filings due.*** Candidates who are running in 2020 and who will appear on the March 17, 2020 Primary Election ballot must submit a financial disclosure to the Ohio Ethics Commission no later than February 18, 2020. Additional information is available [here](#).

***Voter registration deadline fast approaching.*** Voters wishing to participate in the March 17, 2020 Primary Election must be registered to vote no later than February 18, 2020. To check your registration status, update your address, or register, visit the Secretary of State's website [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**

### [\*Ohio Public Radio - Ohio Dems Plan for Victory in 2020 - 1/6/20\*](#)

"As the 2020 presidential campaigns ramp up, Democrats are fine-tuning their message to voters as they try to take back the state."

### [\*Buzzfeed - Sherrod Brown is still having an impact on 2020 election - 1/9/20\*](#)

"A proposed trade deal involving the US, Mexico and Canada - known as USMCA - had just passed the House, after Brown helped negotiated new language that would make it friendlier to organized labor."

### [\*Advance Ohio - Trump hails Ohio "best year ever," even as state loses jobs - 1/10/20\*](#)

"Republican President Donald Trump told a crowd of thousands Thursday in Toledo that Ohio had its best year ever economically, even as the state lost jobs in 2019...The state also lost jobs from January to November last year, the first time that has happened since 2009."

[\*Toledo Blade - Education leaders battle over school voucher growth - 1/12/20\*](#)

"Local school officials are pushing back against the expansion of a school voucher program they say will funnel millions of dollars in much-needed funding from public schools to private schools."

[\*Beacon-Journal \(Editorial\) - Is Portman a hypocrite? We're about to find out - 1/13/20\*](#)

"Portman sits exposed. If the senator was willing to oust Clinton for perjury involving a personal failing, how does he look away when Trump's misbehavior rates much closer to what worried the framers?"

[\*Cleveland.com - Cleveland poised to effectively end prosecution of low-level marijuana - 1/15/20\*](#)

"Cleveland is poised to effectively eliminate prosecution of low-level marijuana possession in an move the legislation's sponsor says is needed to address social ills and is good government."

[\*The Hill - Cincinnati passes landmark "renter's choice" bill - 1/15/20\*](#)

"The new law...would make it easier for people to rent affordable housing by lowering the cost of putting together a security deposit, which can be the sum of two months rent."

[\*Ohio Capital Journal \(Editorial\) - Ohio in desperate need of election modernization - 1/17/20\*](#)

"The reality is Ohio has consistently had one of the worst election participation rates in the Midwest, lagging up to 14% behind some other states in the region, and Ohio's young adult turnout is among the worst in the nation. In 2018, only 22% of voters age 18 to 24 cast a ballot, compared to 47% in Wisconsin and 33% in Michigan."

[\*Columbus Dispatch - State Rep. finds threatening meme in his mailbox - 1/17/20\*](#)

"A state representative returned to his home in Hudson after a few days away to find several memes, some threatening, left in his mailbox in what he thinks is a response to his support of gun reform. Democrat Casey Weinstein...said the stack contained printed out memes, mostly anti-Democrat, and some threatening."

[\*Record-Courier - Vouchers, guns, sentencing reform top lawmakers agenda - 1/19/20\*](#)

"State lawmakers want to do the following in the next six months: take certain schools off the voucher list, allocate about \$2.6 billion for construction projects, downgrade certain drug possession charges and change Ohio's gun laws."

[WKSU - Minority Leader Emilia Sykes reflects on MLK, Where Civil Rights Stand - 1/20/20](#)

"Between now and Martin Luther King Day next year, she has high hopes for what will happen in the Statehouse and with this fall's election, and how they could change or - in her opinion - advance civil rights. 'I hope we have more people in power and positions of leadership who look like Dr. King and like me. Who can share our experiences from a place of vulnerability and realness and authenticity. Because often, if you haven't walked in somebody's shoes, you can't quite articulate them in the same kind of way.'"

[Record-Courier - Ravenna Council appoints Cheryl Wood to fill vacancy - 1/21/20](#)

"Cheryl Wood has been appointed to Ravenna City Council's vacant at-large seat. Wood will replace Andrew Kluge, a former councilman at-large, who recently was elected president of council. The term ends in 2021, and Wood will serve until the end of that term."

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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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