



Portage County Democratic Party

News and Notes - July 2019

Dear %firstname%,

This past month, our Party has been very active in setting the table for the elections to come later this year - and beyond. You may notice at the top of this email that we're featuring a new logo. It's symbolic of our intention to turn Ohio blue with our hard work in the weeks and months to come - with a special emphasis on the star in the Northeast corner symbolizing Portage County.

The past few weeks, we put that intention to work by hosting watch parties for the first debates of the 2020 presidential election. One party was even [picked up by WKYC](#) in Cleveland! We've also worked hard to grow our presence on [social media](#), add new contacts to our [newsletter](#) list, and be present in the community at events like Kent's Heritage Festival.

As we move ahead, we have no intention of slowing down. Below, you'll find several ways to get involved in the month to come. Whether that's volunteering at Streetsboro's Family Days or the Fair, attending a fundraiser for a local candidate like Randi Clites, or taking advantage of local trainings, we hope you'll find your path and help us #BeTheChange we wish to see in Portage County.

If there are additional opportunities to engage you would like for us to share, please [contact us](#) and let us know.

Thanks for all you do, and we look forward to a productive close to the summer and strong start to this fall's campaigns!

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Upcoming Events

[Streetsboro Family Days - 7/25/19 - 7/28/19 - City Park, Kirby Lane, Streetsboro](#)

Family Days has become a tradition in Streetsboro - one we're proud to be a part of in support of candidates like Jeff Allen (who is running for Mayor) and many others! Please contact First Vice Chair Denise Smith via [email](#) if you'd like to help us spread the word about what we do in Portage County's fastest-growing community.

[Day of Action: Voter Registration Canvass - 7/27/19 - Kent Free Library](#)

Join us in knocking on doors to register new voters and talk to registered Democrats who don't typically vote in non-presidential election cycles. This will help us expand the Democratic electorate ahead of the 2019 and 2020 elections! Reach out to Maddie Newingham by [email](#) for more information.

[Randi Clites for State Rep. Fundraiser - 7/29/19 - 4:30p - 6p - Big Dog Saloon, Ravenna](#)

Join us in supporting our State Representative Randi Clites as she seeks to keep fighting for Portage County families in Columbus. Tickets range in price from \$25 for students to \$250 for co-hosts. Those wishing to be co-hosts or on the host committee must [contact](#) Randi's campaign by July 5th.

[Presidential Debate Watch Party Night One - 7/30/19 - 7:30p - 10:30p - Little City Grill, Kent](#)

The first of back-to-back debate watch parties to kick off the 2020 Presidential Primary Election will take place Tuesday, July 30, 2019 starting at 7:30pm at Little City Grill in Kent. A cash bar is available, and the kitchen is open until 9pm. It will be a great opportunity to network and learn more about our candidates, so we hope to see you there!

[Presidential Debate Watch Party Night Two - 7/31/19 - 7:30p - 10:30p - Little City Grill, Kent](#)

The second of back-to-back debate watch parties to kick off the 2020

Presidential Primary Election will take place Wednesday, July 31, 2019 starting at 7:30pm at Little City Grill in Kent. A cash bar is available, and the kitchen is open until 9pm. It will be a great opportunity to network and learn more about our candidates, so we hope to see you there!

[Tannert for Council Fundraiser - 7/31/19 - 5:30p - 7:30p - Tavern 1888](#)

Join us for a fundraising event for Deena Tannert, candidate for Ravenna City Council Ward 4. Light appetizers and a cash bar are available. Suggested donation is \$25/person. More information is available at the link above.

[LEAD Ohio Training - 8/3/19 - 9:30a - 4:30p - Kent Free Library](#)

LEAD Ohio will be holding a day-long, all-encompassing candidate training in Kent! Numerous topics will be covered, with an impressive list of guest instructors, including Commissioner Kathleen Clyde, Sherrod Brown's Finance Director Kimberly Padilla, Treasurer Brad Cromes, and strategist Dennis Willard. Attendees must register by [emailing](#) LEAD Ohio's Executive Director Denny Wojtanowski.

[Kluge for Ravenna Council President Fundraiser - 8/14/19 - 6p -8p - West Main St. Winery](#)

Come support Ravenna City Councilman Andrew Kluge in his bid to become Ravenna's next Council President! Follow the link above for more information.

Portage County Randolph Fair - 8/20/19 - 8/25/19 - Randolph Fairgrounds

The Portage County Randolph Fair is a tradition unlike any other - one we're proud to be a part of! Please contact First Vice Chair Denise Smith via [email](#) if you'd like to help us spread the word about what we do at Portage County's largest summer social event.

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Elections Updates

Campaign Finance Deadline. Attention candidates: semi-annual campaign finance reports are due on July 31st for campaign activities through June 30th. If you haven't started working on them, you'd better do so soon!

Filing Deadline - Nonpartisan Offices. The filing deadline for nonpartisan offices, including Township Trustee and Fiscal Officer and local School Board, is

August 7, 2019 at 4pm. Know someone who would be a good candidate for one of these races? [Let us know!](#) The Ohio Democratic Party has lots of great resources available to help.

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!

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[Buzzfeed - This Senator is the rare Democrat not running for President - 6/25/19](#)

"When Sherrod Brown settles in the for the first Democratic presidential debates this week, the Ohio senator - and those who subscribe to his campaign's email list - will have at the ready a Bingo card with a square reserved for his signature phrase: 'dignity of work.'"

[Record-Courier - Jail runs out of mattresses; sheriff worried about overcrowding again - 6/25/19](#)

"The Portage County jail has been so crowded in the last few weeks that the Sheriff's Office didn't just run out of cells. They ran out of mattresses in the general population unit."

[The Detroit News - Democrats bash Trump on GM plant shutdowns - 6/26/19](#)

"U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, who represents Ohio in Congress, recalled at the Miami debate that Trump had told the residents of Youngstown not to sell their homes. 'And in his administration, just in the last two years, we lost 4,000 jobs at a General Motors facility that rippled throughout our community,' Ryan said."

[Record-Courier - Portage Democrats gather for presidential debate - 6/26/19](#)

"Portage County Democrats kicked off the presidential election campaign

Wednesday, gathering to watch 10 Democrats make their case to be the nation's next president...Brad Cromes, second vice chairman of the Portage County Democratic Party, welcomed the crowd to the 'start of the process of replacing Donald Trump in 2020.'

[*Ideastream - SCOTUS ruling means Ohio's gerrymandered map likely remains for 2020 - 6/27/19*](#)

"Voting rights groups challenged Ohio's congressional maps, arguing state GOP lawmakers crafted a set of boundaries that would ensure Republicans controlled the majority of seats....A district court sided with the challengers...the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay halting that action while it considered the cases out of North Carolina and Maryland."

[*FOX8 - Ohio lawmakers fail to meet deadline for passing state budget - 6/30/19*](#)

"Republicans hold the majority in both the House and the Senate, and House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes said that passing a budget 'should be easy' in a state with 'one-party rule.' 'Failing to pass a long-term budget is a dereliction of our constitutional duty and a broken promise to Ohio taxpayers,' said the Akron Democrat."

[*Advance Ohio - Federal judge blocks Ohio's 'heartbeat' law from going into effect - 7/3/19*](#)

"A federal judge blocked the state of Ohio's so-called 'heartbeat' law from going into effect, at least delaying what would be the most restrictive abortion measure state lawmakers have ever passed from being enforced."

[*Ohio Public Radio - Democrats question time spent on abortion bills instead of budget - 7/5/19*](#)

"Democratic State Representative Richard Brown says Republicans have control over the legislature and executive branch. So, he thinks it's ridiculous the budget wasn't passed on time. 'This is a deadline that we knew was coming and we were unable to meet it which is frustrating and then we look at how much time was spent on various issues such as the so-called 'heartbeat bill.'"

[*Advance Ohio - Some Ohio universities' tuition bills delayed due to state budget - 7/12/19*](#)

"State rep. Randi Clites...said she learned of the tuition delay from a constituent. Republican state leaders have minimized the significance of the budget impasse, since government offices remain open and funded, but Clites said the tuition

delay issue shows it's causing difficulties for everyday Ohioans."

[Vindicator - Don't underestimate Ohio's role in the 2020 presidential election - 7/12/19](#)

"...But Democrats would be foolish to write off the state and Republicans would make a mistake to take Ohio for granted. And it doesn't seem like either is going to happen."

[Record-Courier - Ravenna Twp.'s McElrath neighborhood aims for a comeback - 7/21/19](#)

"Ravenna Township Trustee Hank Gibson, who grew up in McElrath, said he appreciates the new construction, as well as efforts to keep the community clean....In 1970, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development declared McElrath the third worst poverty area in the nation. Brad Cromes, president of the Portage County Land Bank, said the organization is seeking to acquire vacant and undeveloped properties in McElrath. The current focus, he said, is on consolidating parcels so homes can be built."

[Columbus Dispatch - Here's how Ohio's new state budget affects you - 7/21/19](#)

A breakdown of changes to the state of Ohio's spending priorities in the 2020-2021 biennial budget.

[Record-Courier - Portage Commissioners seek rules for fund requests - 7/23/19](#)

"After years of being asked for funding from various groups in the county, Portage County Commissioners are seeking a process to consider grant requests."

[Vindicator - Democrats say Trump broke his promise to the Valley - 7/25/19](#)

"On the two-year anniversary of Donald Trump's rally at the Covelli Centre, in which he urged people 'don't sell your house,' Democrats criticized the president for breaking his promises to the area. Braylin Rushton of Campbell, a laid-off Lordstown General Motors worker, said when Trump gave tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations he 'made it easy' for GM to idle the local plant."

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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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