



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - June 2020

Dear %firstname%,

As we officially welcome summer to Portage County, I write to update you once more on our local Party's activities to prepare for success in this fall's elections.

First and foremost, I want you to know that we're planning a meeting of our Party's Central Committee via Zoom this Thursday, 6/25, at 6pm. The Central Committee is the heart of all that we do, and at this meeting I anticipate that we will endorse the candidates who won our Party Primary Elections for their November races and take care of a number of other important items on the Party's agenda.

If you're a member of the Committee, you will receive Zoom participation instructions later this week...and if not, please feel free to follow along on our [Facebook Page](#).

I also want you to know that we are already moving forward on our coordinated campaign efforts, which will help ensure Democrats stand the best chance of winning up and down the ballot in Portage County this fall. Our group has met and had productive discussions about voter outreach and best practices in this new era, and will continue to do so throughout the year. Stay tuned for some important and ground-breaking announcements on how we'll do that...in the meantime, if you're interested in helping you can [sign up on our website](#).

Lastly, I encourage you all to continue following the science and staying safe. COVID-19 is still with us, and it will be months before we return to anything resembling normal. Limit activities where possible, wear masks when you must venture out to protect others, and practice good personal hygiene (especially

washing your hands).

We'll get through this together...and when we do, I look forward to celebrating the victories of our candidates and the renewed opportunity for progress with each of you!

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Elections Updates

Request your General Election vote-by-mail ballot today! It's not too early to begin planning for the November General Election. One great way to do that is to get your absentee ballot request form in now so that you're in line to receive a ballot this fall. Visit the Board's [website](#) and print off an absentee ballot request form, complete it, and return it ASAP.

For more information, please call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

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COVID-19 Pop-Up Pantry - Next Stop? Southeast High School!

For the past few months, Judge Laurie Pittman has led a group of local Democratic elected officials, candidates, and activists in putting on bi-weekly pop-up food pantries in communities with concentrated need throughout the County.

The next pop-up food pantry will be [Saturday, June 17th, 9am - 11am at Southeast High School](#). It's first-come, first-served...so if you or someone else in your network is in need, please let them know (and if you're able to donate feel free to drop off a week's worth of food for family of four yourself)!

You can also help by spreading the word through your networks. Use the

hashtags #PortageCARES and #DemocratsServingOurCommunity to see posts about these events, and to stay connected going forward.

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COVID-19 - Community Resources

Portage County Health District. The Health District is continuously updating its [Facebook Page](#) during the outbreak with tips on staying healthy, what to do if you or someone you love becomes sick, and more.

Job & Family Services. Portage County Job & Family Services has developed a comprehensive listing of community services and service adjustments in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It can be accessed [here](#).

United Way of Portage County. The United Way of Portage County is working to develop a [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) to help those in our community who need it most survive the financial crunch created by this crisis. They also continue their [2-1-1](#) service, connecting those in need to a variety of community services.

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Upcoming Events

Portage Dems Central Committee Meeting - June 25th - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom/Facebook Live

The Portage Co. Democratic Party Central Committee will meet via Zoom on Thursday, 6/25 to consider endorsements for the General Election and conduct other regular business of the Party. The event will be simulcast via Facebook Live on the Party's [Facebook Page](#).

[*Service Into Action Fundraiser for Hillary O'Connor Mueri - June 25th - 8pm - 9pm - Virtual*](#)

Join former Secretary of the Navy and Gov. of Mississippi Ray Mabus and Under Secretary of the Army and Congressman Patrick Murphy for a virtual fundraiser in support of Hillary O'Connor Mueri, candidate for Congress in Ohio's 14th Congressional District (northern Portage County). Details at the link above.

Pop-Up Food Pantry - June 27th - 9am - 11am - Southeast High School

Elected Democrats, Democratic candidates and allies are rallying to support our community during the COVID-19 outbreak. We'll be at Southeast High School. Details above.

Betsy Rader Virtual Events - On-Going - Various

Betsy Rader's campaign for State Senate is ramping up volunteer efforts. If you're interested in helping by making phone calls, writing postcards, hosting a virtual event or getting some swag (yard signs/gear), contact them via [email](#). More details will be available soon on Betsy's [Facebook Page](#).

Kathleen Clyde Virtual Fundraiser - June 30th - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom

Kathleen Clyde's campaign for Portage Co. Commissioner is hosting a virtual fundraiser via Zoom on Tuesday, 6/30. All are welcome to attend. RSVP via email [here](#).

Due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, all in-person political events have been postponed indefinitely. We invite you to follow our local Party on [Facebook](#) for updates as we have them.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*The Atlantic - The Congresswoman pepper sprayed by police - 5/31/20*](#)

"In videos of the protest now circulating on Twitter, (Central Ohio Congresswoman Joyce) Beatty, with her gray hair, red mask, and hot-pink sweatshirt tied around her small waist, is easy to spot...Then, suddenly, an officer throws a protestor to the ground, and any semblance of order is lost."

[*Columbus Dispatch \(Opinion\) - Hardin: Ending racism through systemic change must begin now - 6/2/20*](#)

Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin, a young black elected official, writes "I will never forget the burning blindness of indiscriminate pepper spray as I stood with U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty and Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce trying to keep the crowd on the sidewalks. I'm not a natural protestor...But I felt I needed to show up as a black man because George Floyd should be alive. Breonna Taylor should be alive. Ahmaud Arbery should be alive. Tyre King should be alive."

[Cleveland.com - Ohio House passes bill restricting future changes to elections - 6/4/20](#)

"HB 680 also shortens the deadline to request a mail-in ballot by four days...and bars Secretary of State Frank LaRose from providing voters with postage-paid envelopes along with their ballot applications and blank ballots."

[Record-Courier - Portage County considers budget cuts - 6/4/20](#)

"Portage County department heads and elected officials will be asked to cut their budgets in anticipation of a \$3 million to \$6 million drop in sales and income taxes."

[Cleveland.com - Ohio housing advocates warn of pending COVID-19 eviction crisis - 6/5/20](#)

"The housing advocates are urging passage of legislation authored by Sen. Sherrod Brown that would authorize \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance during the pandemic."

[Mahoning Matters - Ohio Democrats declare racism a public health crisis - 6/7/20](#)

"The Ohio Democratic Party executive committee on Saturday voted unanimously to declare racism as a public health crisis and to support voting rights and call for a safe, fair and accessible election this November."

[Beacon-Journal - Akron mayor, council move to outlaw chokeholds, criminalize police who do not intervene - 6/8/20](#)

"Along with outlawing 'any' choke, strangle or neck holds, the legislation adds a section of city law that requires officers to step in if they see another officer 'using or threatening to use unlawful force.'"

[New York Times - LeBron James and other stars form a voting rights group - 6/10/20](#)

"NBA superstar LeBron James and a group of other prominent black athletes and entertainers are starting a new group aimed at protecting African-Americans' voting rights, seizing on the widespread fury against racial injustice that has fueled worldwide protests to amplify their voices in this fall's presidential election."

[WKYC - Ohio Democrats say Dr. Amy Acton's 'decision to step down is Ohio's loss' - 6/11/20](#)

"The statement reads: 'We are all grateful for the leadership shown by Dr. Amy Acton during the coronavirus crisis and her unmatched strength and determination in protecting the health and well-being of Ohioans. Dr. Acton rose above the petty partisan politics that so often dominates Columbus, and she did it with uncommon grace, humility and professionalism.'"

[*Record-Courier - Protests lead to conversations and action plans in Portage County - 6/13/20*](#)

"As Black Lives Matter protests continue throughout the country, several Portage County institutions are transitioning into the next phase of the movement by declaring racism a public health crisis, hosting town halls to discuss personal experiences and creating action plans to address individual and systemic racism."

[*The Portager \(Opinion\) - Kennedy: Time to Stand Up to Stand Your Ground - 6/15/20*](#)

John Kennedy, Democratic candidate for Portage Co. Commissioner, writes "Instead of laying more cornerstones into the rancid foundation of systemic racism - and stand your ground is certainly part of that bedrock - we have the chance to build something new: a new legacy of respect, dignity and equal treatment under the law for all, but especially for our fellow black citizens who have endured centuries of baked-in racism."

[*Toledo Blade - Trump team begins door-knocking in Ohio, a step too far for Democrats - 6/16/20*](#)

"As Ohio enters the next phase of the coronavirus pandemic...the Trump campaign said it has resumed in-person contact with voters through door-knocking and meetups even with many in the state still concerned about the lingering threat to public health."

[*Cleveland.com - U.S. Supreme Court ruling protecting LGBTQ workers from discrimination will affect 500,000 Ohioans: Equality Ohio - 6/15/20*](#)

"The Court decided LGBTQ people have standing, or a right to sue, on the basis of sex if they're discriminated against at work, said Sen. Nickie Antonio, a Lakewood Democrat who is the state's only openly gay lawmaker."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Sen. Sherrod Brown touts Dem plan to overhaul police practices - 6/17/20*](#)

"Sen. Sherro Brown says a GOP policing reform bill released Wednesday does

not go far enough by discourage but not banning practices including chokeholds and no-knock warrants."

[Ohio Public Radio - Democrats say DeWine's police proposals don't address racism - 6/18/20](#)

"House Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron) argues that racism must be recognized as the root problem of policing."

[Record-Courier - Clites gives update on coronavirus bills - 6/19/20](#)

"State Rep. Randi Clites offered Portage County residents an update on the flurry of coronavirus-related bills that have gone through the state legislature."

[Record-Courier - Census responses low in some Portage County towns - 6/19/20](#)

"Residents in Portage County are filling out their census forms at a rate higher than the state and national averages, but some towns still have low response rates, particularly those with a college or university within their borders."

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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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