



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

Dear %firstname%,

I don't need to remind you that something is different this election cycle. And we must adapt.

Our candidates throughout our county are facing an unprecedented challenge in getting their voices heard and getting their message out. Personal engagements are all but gone, knocking on doors might be denied, and fundraising is harder than ever. Mounting a successful campaign in Portage County can approach six figures. Yard signs, billboards, multiple postal mailings, social media ads - the list goes on. None of it is free, and largely through your support do our candidates have their best chance to win.

Running for office is no small undertaking. It requires dedication and commitment beyond everyday obligations. It requires long days (and longer nights)! It requires sometimes putting one's own interests second, and that of your government first. Serving in government office begins there, and then demands even more. If our Democratic candidates are willing to put themselves out there for us, is it not the least we can do for them to contribute when they ask?

So I encourage each of you to not only reach into your wallets and checkbooks, but also to reach out to your family and friends, and ask them to contribute to our candidates to help them win their battle to serve our county as proud Democratic public servants.

Money alone will not win these elections, but it is an indispensable run on the ladder to success. Please consider giving to our candidates (or our [Party](#))...and

then, maybe, consider giving a little more.

Thank you for your attention. Be safe.

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? Randolph!**

For the past month, 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 6th, 10am - Noon at the Randolph Community Center. You can help by spreading the word through your networks, and planning to participate in the next pantry with a donation (we are asking donors to provide food for a family of four for a week).

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

*Pop-Up Food Pantry - June 6th - 10am - 12pm - Randolph Community Center*  
Elected Democrats, Democratic candidates and allies are rallying to support our community during the COVID-19 outbreak. We'll be at the Randolph Community Center. Details above.

*Betsy Rader Virtual Anniversary Party - June 8th - Facebook Live*  
Betsy Rader's campaign for State Senate is throwing her an anniversary party in honor of her 35th year of marriage to her husband, Dave. The event will feature local musician Alex Bevan, games, and prizes. More details will be available soon on Betsy's [Facebook Page](#).

[\*Poor People's Campaign Digital Moral March on Washington - June 20th - Online\*](#)  
The Poor People's Campaign - an extension of the work Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was doing at the time of his death in Memphis in 1968 - is marshalling the collective voices of the poor, dispossessed, and disenfranchised to call for meaningful change. Details available at the link above.

*Due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, all in-person political events have been*

*postponed indefinitely. We will be scheduling a Central Committee meeting soon for the purpose of endorsing candidates, and we invite you to follow our local Party on [Facebook](#) for updates as we have them.*

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## **ICYMI - News and Notes**

### [Spectrum News - Getting black communities COVID-19 help - 4/22/20](#)

"(Congresswoman Marcia) Fudge, and fellow Ohio Democrats Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Senator Sherrod Brown have all signed onto legislation that would require the Department of Health and Human Services to collect and report racial data on the coronavirus."

### [CNBC - Massive layoffs, pay cuts are likely coming to state/local governments - 4/22/20](#)

"The \$2.2 trillion emergency legislation known as the CARES Act...included \$150 billion in direct help for state and local governments grappling with the impact of the deadly outbreak. Democrats pushed to include another \$150 billion in the next tranche of aid, but Republicans sought to keep the bill narrowly focused on support for small business."

### [Columbus Dispatch - Biden wins big, but voting difficulties are big story - 4/28/20](#)

"Ohio Republicans...so far are resisting any change to a longstanding setup that culminates with an in-person vote on Election Day, Nov. 3 this year."

### [Record-Courier - Johnson, Kennedy prepare for November - 4/29/20](#)

"Two Portage County Democrats are apparent winners in a delayed primary election, which ended Tuesday. Unofficial election results, tallied by 11:30pm Tuesday, showed that Democrat John Kennedy got his party's nomination for Commissioner. Greg Johnson will be the Party's nominee for Sheriff."

### [Columbus Dispatch - Democrats surge in Primary, but does it mean anything for General? - 5/3/20](#)

"While Ohio Democratic Chairman David Pepper touted the turnout, he also tempered the takeaway: 'We are now in the mix as a swing state in a way that we weren't.'"

### [Record-Courier - Portage Dems team up to fight COVID hardships - 5/4/20](#)

"Portage County Democratic elected officials, candidates, and allies - led by Common Pleas Judge Laurie Pittman - are teaming up to fight the economic hardships created by the outbreak of COVID-19 in our local community."

[Cleveland.com - Sykes: We can revive the economy, but we cannot revive our fellow Ohioans from the dead - 5/5/20](#)

"These Republicans believe they have a claim to the moral high ground, but their prioritization of the almighty dollar over the people of this state reveals they certainly don't deserve it."

[Toledo Blade - Ohio House moves to limit health director's authority - 5/6/20](#)

"House Democratic leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) credited Dr. Acton with potentially saving thousands of lives. 'We should not attack a woman just because she is exerting the power the legislature gave her,' she said."

[Ohio Public Radio - Some question whether Ohio is reopening too quickly - 5/8/20](#)

"A group of doctors joined Ohio Democratic Party leader David Pepper to say they are concerned about reopening businesses without enough testing and safety measures to protect employees and customers."

[Daily Beast - Sherrod Brown explains how Joe Biden can win Ohio - 5/11/20](#)

"He doesn't write off the red districts. He talks lunch-pail economics with people. He tells them look, you're going to disagree with me on guns, or gay marriage, and if you want to vote against me on that basis, so be it. But I'm here for you on economics."

[Cleveland.com - Ohio Democrats call for streamlined ballot requests, expanded registration for November election - 5/11/20](#)

"A group of elected Ohio Democrats (including Portage County's Commissioner Kathleen Clyde and Treasurer Brad Cromes) are calling for expanded voter registration and streamlined ballot requests, among other policy changes, to help prepare the state for a November election that could be upended by coronavirus."

[Record-Courier - No in-person payments for Portage property taxes - 5/22/20](#)

"The Portage County Treasurer's Office will not be accepting in-person payments for the summer property tax collection. 'Health experts tell us that social distancing remains the best way to slow the progress of the disease,' Treasurer

Brad Cromes said. "

[Daily Beast - A surprising sign of a Democratic revival in Ohio - 5/22/20](#)

"Some numbers from this year's primary suggest - I don't want to go too hard here; suggest - that something very interesting might be happening in the Buckeye State, and it's not good news for Team Orange."

[The Portager - Grendell says the prescription was worse than the disease - 5/22/20](#)

An extended interview with Republican State Rep. Diane Grendell, who represents northern Portage County in Columbus. In it, she uses an outdated slur for a child with Down Syndrome, floats falsehoods about COVID-19, and more.

[Akron Beacon-Journal - Officials condemn threats made against Sykes family - 5/26/20](#)

"Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes received a call over the weekend threatening harm against her father, state Sen. Vernon Sykes, Akron police said Tuesday evening."

[WDTN - Sherrod Brown blasts Trump over lack of COVID-19 testing, PPE as deaths hit 100k - 5/29/20](#)

"U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown said he wished President Trump would stop fighting with social media company Twitter and show more focus on the COVID-19 outbreak, especially as the United States had its 100,000th death from the virus this week."

[The Portager - Nearly 300 protestors peacefully demand justice - 5/30/20](#)

"A crowd of nearly 300 turned out Saturday afternoon at the gazebo in downtown Kent for a peaceful protest in a show of solidarity demanding justice for the death of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man who was suffocated while being taken into custody by four police officers."

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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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