



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - November 2019

Dear %firstname%,

I hope this message finds you well! As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I want to tell you again how very thankful I am for the energy that you bring to our local Democratic Party. Without each of you working together, we would be unable to deliver the strong leadership Portage County residents have come to expect from us. You are the change we are making, and I am deeply grateful. For none is this more true than those who answered the call to serve by running for office this fall. We were tremendously successful, returning Democratic incumbents to positions throughout the County and, in the case of Ravenna City Council, picking up new seats at the leadership table. Thanks and congratulations to all who ran.

This season of reflection is also one of preparation, as we get ready for what will be the most important election of any of our lives. The very identity of our community and our nation is at stake in 2020 - and I know we are equal to the task of proving to our neighbors and the world who we are and can be.

Below, you will find additional reminders about upcoming events, and some information to catch you up on what's happened locally, in Ohio, and around the nation in the past month. I want to draw special attention to our Party's upcoming holiday party on December 12th, to which you and your friends and family are invited and welcomed. Doors will open at the Italian-American Club in Ravenna at 6pm, and we will have a brief business meeting followed by food and fellowship.

Use this information to catch up and get ready, because there is a lot for each of us to do in the months ahead. My sincere thanks again, and I look forward to continuing with you in the effort to makes ours a place we can be proud to call home.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action

Ohioans for Gun Safety Petitions. More than 90% of all Americans support universal background checks...yet our legislature continues to fail to pass legislation making background checks law in Ohio.

Ohioans are taking action in 2020 to put this important reform on the ballot, and petitions are circulating now. To sign, or help gather signatures, please contact Russ Buckbee with Ohioans for Gun Safety via [email](#) as soon as possible.

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Upcoming Events

Federated Democratic Women Meeting - 12/7/19 - 9:30a - 11a - Little City Grill, Kent

The Federated Democratic Women are holding their monthly meeting at Little City Grill in Kent. The guest speaker will be Betsy Rader, candidate for Ohio Senate. RSVP to Terrie Nielsen via [email](#).

Portage Dems Holiday Party - 12/12/19 - 6p - 8:30p - Italian-American Society, Ravenna

The Party's annual holiday party will begin at 6pm with a meeting of the Central Committee, followed by dinner and soft drinks. Families and friends are welcome. The Party will also conduct a toy drive. Pleaes bring an unwrapped new toy to participate.

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Elections Updates

Candidate filing deadline approaching. Those wishing to run for local office in Portage County in 2020 and to appear on the ballot at the March 17, 2020 Primary Election must submit petitions no later than 4pm on December 18th. For

additional information, please visit the Secretary of State's [website](#) or call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

Campaign finance filings due. Campaign finance filings are due for candidates who appeared on the General Election ballot in November 2019 no later than December 13, 2019 to disclose activity through December 6th.

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[*Record-Courier - Portage County judge Doherty starts disciplinary hearing in Columbus - 10/22/19*](#)

"A disciplinary hearing in Columbus in front of the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct concerning Portage County Common Pleas Judge Becky Doherty started on Tuesday...In May, the board alleged Doherty's conduct in connection with a February OVI case violated two provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct."

[*Business Journal - Money leads Ryan to drop presidential bid - 10/25/19*](#)

"Money, or rather the lack thereof, led U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan to drop his longshot bid for the Democratic nomination for President, the congressman acknowledged Thursday afternoon."

[*Ashtabula Star-Beacon \(Editorial\) - Ohioans should remember the lies - 10/28/19*](#)

"Three years ago yesterday Donald Trump came to Ashtabula County, and he made a promise to the people of Ohio. After giving a speech in Geneva, Trump told a reporter 'there will be consequences' for companies that ship jobs to Mexico...Three years later the General Motors plant in Lordstown is closed, and thousands of good-paying jobs have been lost from northeastern Ohio."

[*Axios - The GOP's nightmare scenario - 10/29/19*](#)

"A growing number of Republicans are privately warning of increasing fears of a total wipeout in 2020: House, Senate, and White House. What it matters: All of this is unfolding while the economy still looks strong, and before public impeachment proceedings have officially begun."

[*Cleveland.com - House approves impeachment procedures over objections from Ohio Republicans - 10/31/19*](#)

"The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday approved guidelines it will use

for the rest of its impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump's actions in a largely party line 232-196 vote, with assent from all Ohio's Democrats and opposition from the state's Republicans."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Suburbs will be Ohio's battleground in 2020 - 11/3/19*](#)

"I do think that in order to win the state, Democrats will now have to win this disparate group of communities. But it's more complicated than that," said Kyle Kondik, an Ohio native and director of communication for the University of Virginia's Center on Politics."

[*Warren Tribune-Chronicle - How did Ohio voter purge error occur? - 11/3/19*](#)

"The purge was only supposed to remove inactive voters, duplicate names and those who have moved. But clearly, that isn't what happened - active voters found themselves on the list. But we don't know how these mistakes were made."

[*Record-Courier - Portage County election results - 11/5/19*](#)

A summary of election results for the General Election.

[*Record-Courier - Seman re-elected as Ravenna Mayor; 3 changes on Council - 11/5/19*](#)

"Ravenna voters kept Mayor Frank Seman in office by a healthy margin, but made changes in three of four city council seats on the ballot Tuesday...Councilman Andrew Kluge was elected council president with 1,030 votes."

[*Warren Tribune-Chronicle - Lordstown plant going electric - 11/8/19*](#)

"General Motors has sold its assembly plant in Lordstown to electice pickup truck startup Lordstown Motors Corp., officially ending 53 years of GM vehicle production in the Mahoning Valley."

[*WSYX - Lawmakers yet to 'do something' 100 days after Dayton tragedy - 11/13/19*](#)

"Democrats have pushed for more sweeping reforms like universal background checks, banning high-capacity magazine clips and red flag legislation to take guns away from people who might become violent."

[*Record-Courier - Two more enter race for Sheriff - 11/13/19*](#)

"About a month before the deadline to file, the race for Portage County sheriff is getting more crowded, and at least one person who lost a race last year is looking to throw his hat into the ring...P. Ken Howe, a former Portage County

sheriff, became the second Democrat to file petitions seeking the Democratic nod...He joins Gregory Johnson, a retired detective, who is also running as a Democrat...Patricia J. Smith, an attorney from Hiram, has filed petitions seeking the probate/juvenile court judgeship. Jill Fankhauser, the incumbent clerk of courts, also has filed petitions for the Democratic primary in a bid to stay in office."

[*Record-Courier - Treasurer Brad Cromes files for re-election - 11/20/19*](#)

"Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes has filed petitions with the Board of Elections to seek a second full term...Since taking office, Cromes has worked with his staff, county officials, and other local leaders to modernize the office."

[*Columbus Dispatch \(Editorial\) - For Statehouse GOP, no far-right bill too extreme - 11/22/19*](#)

"One would think, based on the number of pro-gun, anti-abortion and pro-religion measures pushed by Ohio Republicans in 2019, that they would be confident they have adequately demonstrated their social-conservative bona fides and perhaps could turn their attention to less partisan matters. But apparently they are not."

[*CNN - Federal judge says White House staff must testify, "Presidents are not kings." - 11/25/19*](#)

"A federal judge decided Monday that President Donald Trump's former White House counsel Don McGahn must testify to the House of Representatives in its impeachment probe, marking the first major ruling about House witness testimony during the Trump administration."

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