



## Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - October 2019

Dear %firstname%,

The past few weeks have been busy ones for your local Democratic Party. On September 30th, we were honored to welcome our Congressman and candidate for President Tim Ryan to Kent. Last Thursday, trailblazing Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody J. Stewart keynoted the first-ever Visions Of Truth & Equality - "VOTE" - Gala in Ravenna. And just this week, Ohio Democrats hosted all the leading contenders to be our next President at a debate in Westerville.

Perhaps more important than all of that, though, we now stand just a few short weeks away from November's General Election for mayors, council, school board and township leaders. Below, you'll find information on how to learn more about our candidates for these critical offices, and how to vote early.

I encourage you to make your voting plan now, and to get out in support of our candidates. If you have a school levy on the ballot in your community, I also encourage you to support our students and educators by voting for a better future for us all.

We have a lot of work to do in the days ahead - and I'm energized to do it with you! If there are any events or issues you think we should be aware of or you would like our help getting the word out on, please let us know by contacting our 2nd Vice Chair, Brad Cromes, via [email](#).

Thank you for all you do - and on to November!

Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean DePerro', written in a cursive style.

Dean DePerro, Chairman

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## Upcoming Events

*Young Dems Day of Action - 10/19/19 - 9:30a - 3:30p - 648 Woodside Dr. Kent The Portage Co.* Young Democrats are knocking on doors for endorsed candidates for office, including School Board candidate Christopher Clevenger-Morris, Municipal Court candidate Melissa Roubic, and Kent City Council candidates Jack Amrhein and Melissa Long. Light refreshments provided.

### [Streetsboro Mayor Debate - 10/23/19 - 6:30p - 9p - Streetsboro High School](#)

The candidates for Mayor of Streetsboro, including Democrat Jeff Allen, will face off in their only debate. Details available at the link above.

### *NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner - 10/26/19 - 5:30p - 7:30p - NEOMED NEW Center*

The NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Dinner will take place for the first time at the NEW Center at NEOMED. The dinner funds scholarships for minority students, and celebrates champions of diversity in our community. Tickets are \$30/person. Please contact [Frank Hairson](#) for additional information.

### *Ravenna Mayor Debate - 10/28/19 - 12p - 1p - Ravenna Elks Lodge*

Come for a debate, hosted by the Ravenna Rotary in partnership with the Ravenna Kiwanis Club, between incumbent Mayor Frank Seman and his challenger. Lunch is \$10, and catered by Guido's of Ravenna. RSVP by calling Rotary President Eric Schlaubach at 330-297-7431.

### [Election Day - 11/5/19 - 6:30a - 7:30p - Locations Around Portage County](#)

GO VOTE! Details available at the link above.

### [Patricia Smith for Judge Kick-Off - 11/14/19 - 4:30p - 7:30p - Windmill Lakes Golf Club](#)

Join candidate for Probate-Juvenile Court Judge Patricia J. Smith for her official campaign kick off rally! No charge to attend, but donations are accepted. Come for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and camaraderie!

### [Portage Co. Financial Wellness Fair - 11/16/19 - 10a - 2p - Ravenna High School](#)

The Portage County Financial Wellness Fair is a free opportunity to improve your financial skills - and have fun doing it! The Fair consists of free classes on a variety of financial topics, an expo area, and more. Free transportation via

PARTA, free child care, and refreshments available. More at the link above.

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## Elections Updates

***It's not too early...*** to request an absentee ballot for the November General Election, or to make a plan for voting. Visit the Board of Elections [website](#) for more information!

***Postal Union withdrawal.*** President Trump is threatening to pull the U.S. out of the Universal Postal Union agreement, effective in mid-October 2019. This may have a profound, negative effect on the return of ballots from overseas voters. Please contact your member of Congress ASAP at 202-224-3121 and tell them to push back against this negative change!

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## ICYMI - News and Notes

### [\*Vindy.com - Ryan vows to stay in race - 10/1/19\*](#)

"U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan won't be on the Democratic debate stage Oct. 15 and will almost certainly miss the November one, but he said he plans to stay in the race until at least the end of February."

### [\*Buzzfeed - This group seeks a path for Dems to win back Ohio: Suburban women - 10/2/19\*](#)

"A new grassroots advocacy group in Ohio...will target suburban women, a voting bloc that many believe will play a decisive role in the next presidential election."

### [\*Record-Courier - Portage Co. Commissioners to consider Sheriff's budget - 10/3/19\*](#)

"Portage County commissioners will hold a special meeting Wednesday after concerns arose about the sheriff's latest budget proposal...that request included 26 additional staff members and 15 cars, but no numbers were attached to the request."

[\*Cincinnati.com - Gov. DeWine wants to 'do something' about guns - but can he? - 10/4/19\*](#)

"But as DeWine tries to balance the interests of gun owners, domestic violence victims, mental health advocates, GOP lawmakers, judges and prosecutors, perhaps the better call would have been 'do anything.'"

[\*News-Herald.com - Rader announces candidacy for Ohio Senate - 10/7/19\*](#)

"...Democrat Betsy Rader has announced her candidacy for the Ohio Senate 18th District seat...The district encompasses the southern and eastern portions of Lake County, the western and southern portions of Geauga County, and Portage County."

[\*Cincinnati.com - Why the 2020 election will be decided in suburbs - 10/10/19\*](#)

"These suburban voters are less partisan, more moderate and historically Republican...The migration of minorities and millennials to the suburbs has helped those areas become more competitive."

[\*Record-Courier - VOTE gala features Ohio justice - 10/11/19\*](#)

"The Democratic Party hosted the Visions of Truth and Equality Gala in Ravenna. This event, formerly known as the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, highlights the work of local Democrats to put people first."

[\*Cleveland.com - Democrats hammer Ohio's status as a swing state - 10/13/19\*](#)

"Ohio is still a battleground state. That was the message repeated by DNC Chair Tom Perez and nearly a dozen other political candidates and party officials at a fundraiser dinner for the state party Sunday night attended by 1,200 people."

[\*Record-Courier - Candidates events set in Ravenna - 10/14/19\*](#)

"Ravenna community groups are offering two opportunities for city residents to get to know the candidates who will appear on their ballots...a mayoral debate also will take place at noon Oct. 28 at the Ravenna Elks Lodge, 776 N. Freedom Street in Ravenna."

[\*Toledo Blade - House Dems seek benefits for striking workers - 10/17/19\*](#)

"'Today UAW members on the picket line are taking a huge risk to stand for what is right,' Rep. Lisa Sobecki (D-Toledo) said. 'Earlier this year the nurses of Toledo stood on the streets to protect their patients. Tomorrow it could be a union member in your community fighting against injustice.'"

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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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