



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - September 2019

EDITOR'S NOTE: The message from the Chair, which normally leads this publication, was not requested in time for its inclusion in this month's newsletter. Nonetheless, given the many events taking place locally in the coming days, we are sharing it now to keep you informed. The Chair's message will resume in October. Until then, please read on!

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Call to Action

Rainbow Squirrel Fest Volunteers Needed!

This Thursday, Kent State University will host Portage County's first-ever LGBTQ pride event. Dubbed "Rainbow Squirrel Fest," the event will celebrate the long history of LGTBQ activism at Kent State (which is home to one of the oldest continually active gay student chapters in the nation).

Rainbow Squirrel Fest kicks off at 2pm on Risman Plaza, and our Party will be on hand to share information about our candidates, register voters, and participate in the festivities. To sign up, please contact 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes via [email](#) ASAP...and thank you very much for helping us celebrate the diversity that makes our community great!

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Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet with Ravenna Mayor Frank Seman - 10/1/19 - 4pm - 6pm - West Main St. Winery

Ravenna Mayor Frank Seman is running for a second term, and you are invited to this *free* opportunity to meet with him one-on-one and ask him your questions! Stop by, say hello, and learn about what's happen in the City and what the Mayor plans for the next four years.

Rainbow Squirrel Fest - 10/3/19 - 2pm - 8:30pm - Risman Plaza, Kent State University

The first-ever gay pride event in Portage County is coming to Kent - and you're invited! Details on how to get involved are listed in the "Call to Action" section above.

Federated Democratic Women Meeting - 10/5/19 - 9:30am - 11:30am - Portage Dems HQ

Join the Federated Democratic Women as they finalize plans for their first-ever VOTE Gala (see below) and discuss how to best support Democratic candidates and causes in 2019 and beyond.

Free Community Breakfast - 10/5/19 - 10am - 12pm - Winfield Church of God in Christ

Frank Hairston and Brian Boykin will be the presenters at the McElrath community's annual free breakfast. Their topic will be "Keeping the Dream Alive." All are invited to attend.

Special Announcement: Betsy Rader - 10/6/19 - 2:30pm - 4pm - 2465 Kinsman Rd. NW N. Bloomfield

Betsy Rader, former candidate for Congress in the 14th District, will make a special announcement regarding her plans for 2020. All are invited to attend.

[Visions of Truth and Equality \("VOTE"\) Gala - 10/10/19 - 5pm - 8pm - Ravenna Elks Lodge](#)

Come celebrate Democrats' history of working for truth and equality at the Federated Democratic Women's First Annual Visions of Truth and Equality ("VOTE") Gala (formerly known as the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner). This event features trailblazing Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody J. Stewart, who in 2018 became the first African American Democrat elected statewide. More information is available at the link above.

Liddell Scholarship Breakfast - 10/12/19 - 8am - 11am - Skeels-Mathews Community Center

The Skeels-Mathews Community Center invites you to their annual Liddell Scholarship Breakfast, which supports minority students. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under.

[Ohio Dems State Dinner - 10/13/19 - Time TBA - Greater Columbus Convention Center](#)

This year's Ohio Democratic Party State Dinner will feature DNC Chair Tom Perez, along with presidential candidates in Ohio for the debate to be held at Otterbein College on October 15th. Committed participants include Tim Ryan, Amy Klobuchar, Julian Castro and Tom Steyer. Tickets available at the link above, or by contacting Portage Dems Chair Dean DePerro.

Presidential Debate Watch Party - 10/15/19 - 8pm - 11pm - To Be Announced

Join the Democratic Party and allied organizations as we gather to view the first presidential debate staged in Ohio! Watch our [Facebook Page](#) for more information to come.

NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner - 10/26/19 - 5:30pm - 7:30pm - 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 Hairston](#) for additional information.

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Elections Updates

Fear the purge? The Ohio Secretary of State's Office is requiring local boards of elections to purge inactive voters using the so-called "supplemental" process. Make sure you're not on the list at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/registrationreset/>.

Voter Registration Deadline Fast Approaching! The deadline to register to vote for this November's General Election is Monday, October 7, 2019. Check your status and update your registration at www.myohiovote.com.

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!

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

[*HuffPost - Ohio set to remove more than 200,000 people from its voter rolls - 9/5/19*](#)

"Ohio is set to cancel hundreds of thousands of voter registrations on Friday, even though the list of voters it is using was found to have mistakes."

[*Record-Courier - Portage County weighs spending its surplus - 9/6/19*](#)

"Portage County commissioners, faced with a cash balance that is larger than usual, are considering some renovations to the county administration building."

[*Beacon-Journal \(Opinion\) - The equity problem with school funding - 9/7/19*](#)

"That gap represents the failure to offer in many poor districts anything close to the same educational opportunities."

[*ABC News - Democrats target suburban voters ahead of 2020 - 9/10/19*](#)

"Democrats say they are mounting a major push across battleground states to court suburban voters - a key voting demographic that was once the bedrock of the GOP but has been shifting away from the party in the era of President Donald Trump."

[*Sandusky Register - Pepper says Ohio could end Trump presidency - 9/11/19*](#)

"If we are blue next November, the Trump presidency is over," Pepper said."

[*Cleveland.com - Ohio senators to take first look at gun control legislation - 9/16/19*](#)

"Ohio senators are set to take their first look at three gun-reform bills Tuesday that would require background checks, impose stricter rules on selling guns to minors, and create a 'red-flag' law allowing authorities to confiscate firearms from those deemed a threat."

[*Advance Ohio - Another possible error springs up in Ohio voter purge process - 9/18/19*](#)

"That led to a Tuesday conversation between her and LaRose, during which LaRose acknowledged the 1,000 voters' registrations that may have been incorrectly marked for cancellation."

[*Record-Courier - County faces cost v. speed decision in updating computers - 9/22/19*](#)

"Portage County commissioners are weighing which would be better - spend half a million dollars replacing hundreds of computers throughout county government, or spend less up front while opening the county up to more risk of viruses and emergency replacements."

[*Record-Courier - O'Rourke empowers youth in Kent State speech - 9/25/19*](#)

"Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke called for a federal AK-47 buyback program, marijuana legalization, the end of systemic racism and forgiving student loan debt - but said that none of it could be done without young people - in a Wednesday night speech on Kent State University's Risman Plaza."

[*Columbus Dispatch - 61,000 Ohio households would lose food stamps under Trump's proposal - 9/26/19*](#)

"Democrats are ramping up their criticism of a proposed crackdown on food stamp eligibility that would take benefits away from 61,000 Ohio households. It also would remove thousands of children from the federal school lunch program. Democrats say the plan will increase hunger and hurt the neediest and most vulnerable."

[*Record-Courier - Sheriff to seek 26 new staff members - 9/26/19*](#)

"The Portage County Sheriff is requesting 26 additional staff members in the 2020 budget. The request, which is in addition to 15 more patrol cars and 16 more people to staff the jail, was made at the sheriff's recent budget meeting with the Portage County Commissioners."

[*Cleveland.com \(Opinion\) - As poverty worsens, state Supreme Court burns a*](#)

[bridget to equity - 9/29/19](#)

"The Republican-controlled General Assembly has become particularly adept at championing the notion of home rule out of one side of its mouth, while cherry picking issues (such as guns) on which it hamstring cities."

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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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