

**PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**NEWS AND NOTES - APRIL 2017**

Friend -

With spring upon us, your local Democratic Party is hard at work planting the seeds of progress in Portage County. That can, and does, mean a lot of things - fundraising, identifying and supporting candidates for future races, and helping to connect our activists to opportunities to engage locally in the work of making our community stronger.

April saw a number of successful exercises in that effort. The Portage County Progressives continued to organize the passion that has arisen in our community in response to the President's attack on our shared values and the social safety net into productive action. Our candidates for Kent City Council At-Large made their presence known and put forth plans to continue that city's progress. At the state level, the Ohio Democratic Party's state dinner recognized the incredible service of fighter pilot, astronaut, and former Sen. John Glenn.

As we turn the page to May, that work goes on. What follows is a brief listing of some of things happening in the weeks ahead in our community. You'll also notice a new section, "From Our Officials," that highlights the work of our local elected Democrats you might have missed in other places. This section is part of an ongoing effort to make this newsletter as effective a tool for informing and activating our supporters as possible. If you have suggestions on how we might improve it, or events and activities you'd like us to share, please forward them via email to Brad Cromes at [cromesbl@gmail.com](mailto:cromesbl@gmail.com).

Thank you as always for your energy and enthusiasm, and I look forward to continuing to grow our Party and our movement with you this spring.

Onward,

Craig Stephens, Chairman  
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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**CALL TO ACTION**

1) This weekend, President Trump will mark his first 100 days in office. His record during that time leaves much to be desired, with attacks on immigrants and religious minorities, attempts to rollback the

Affordable Care Act, and the presentation of a [corporate giveaway](#) tax plan being just a few of the lowlights.

Democrats nationwide are marking the occasion by bringing attention to the President's failings in these and many other areas. You can get a pretty good summation of the work of Congressional Democrats to that effect [here](#).

Help amplify their voices: call your member of Congress at [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121) and tell them that the Trump Agenda is a nonstarter with our community.

*Thanks to Republican gerrymandering, our County is represented by three members of Congress. Not sure who your member of Congress is? Use this [tool](#) to find out.*

2) The campaign to re-elect Sen. Sherrod Brown, in response to a request from Ohio's Democratic Party county chairs, recently published a memo on how to get involved in and help shape the Senator's campaign. The memo, titled "How To Make Your Voice Heard & Help Reelect Sherrod Brown!," can be found [here](#).

*Looking for a way to stay up to date on the latest calls to action from the Ohio Democratic Party? Join the [ODP Truth Team](#) today!*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *SPAN Ohio Conference*

*April 29, 2017 - Quest Business and Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, OH 43240*  
Join local activist Deb Silverstein as she leads an annual conference on health care related issues and advocacy in Columbus.

### [People's Climate March](#)

*April 29, 2017 - Washington, D.C.*

Join protestors from around the country in a march to resist Trump's indefensible climate agenda. Buses leave Kent at 5am. For more information, check out the event Facebook page [here](#).

### *19th Annual Portage County Environmental Conservation Dinner and Awards*

*May 5, 2017 - Kent American Legion, 1945 Mogadore Rd., Kent, OH 44240*

Join local activists in celebrating efforts to preserve our natural resources. The event runs from 5:30pm - 9:00pm, and tickets are \$35. To register, visit the Portage Park District Foundation events page [here](#).

### [Blood on the Mountain - Akron Premiere](#)

*May 9, 2017 - Akron Civic Theatre, 182 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308*

Come see the exclusive Akron premiere of the nationally acclaimed new film by Akron native Mari-Lynn

Evans investigating economic and environmental injustices resulting from industrial control of West Virginia. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance using the link above.

*Federated Democratic Women Fundraiser*

*May 25, 2017 - Ravenna Elks Club, 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, OH 44266*

The largest annual event hosted by the Federated Democratic Women, this fundraiser supports the organization's advocacy for local candidates, and will feature food and beverage from local vendors. Look for more details soon on the Portage County Democratic Party's events [calendar](#).

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## **ELECTIONS UPDATE**

The May 2, 2017 Primary/Special Election is almost upon us! To see what's on your ballot, visit the Portage County Board of Elections website [here](#).

The filing deadline for local school board and township trustee is 4pm on August 9, 2017. Are you interested in running? Contact us on our [website](#). To learn more about how the Ohio Democratic Party can support your candidacy, check out the Main Street Initiative [here](#).

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## **FROM OUR OFFICIALS - State Rep. Kathleen Clyde**

*NEW THIS MONTH: This section highlights the work of our local elected Democrats.*

State Representative Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent), has served in the Ohio House since 2010. Kathleen grew up in Garrettsville, where she honed the love of running and reading she maintains today. An attorney, Kathleen is a strong advocate for voting rights, and has worked on those issues with the Election Law Center at Ohio State, the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, and the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University. Here's what she's working on:

*"Rep. Clyde Announces Over \$2 Million for Kent State Expansion Project" - April 24, 2017*

State Rep. Kathleen Clyde announced over \$2 million in state funds to Kent State University for renovations to Moulton Hall, which will house the expanding KSU College of Public Health. "These investments lay the groundwork for Kent State to remain a leader in public health in Northeast Ohio," said Rep. Clyde.

*"Clyde Statement Calling for House Hearing on TRUMP Act" - April 13, 2017*

State Rep. Kathleen Clyde called on the Ohio House to call up House Bill 93, the Tax Returns Uniformly Made Public ("TRUMP") Act, for initial hearings.

*"Reps. Clyde, Howse Announce Ohio Equal Pay Act" - April 6, 2017*

State Reps. Kathleen Clyde and Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) announced the introduction of the

Ohio Equal Pay Act, a bill that would help close the longstanding gender pay gap between men and women in the Buckeye State. "Too often, women with the same jobs as men and with the same education as men are paid less than men, see fewer opportunities for career advancement and are more likely to struggle to meet the basic needs of their families," said Rep. Clyde. "The Ohio Equal Pay Act works to address the systematic undervaluing of women in the workplace and aims to ensure women are treated as what they are - equal."

*"Clyde Introduces Automatic Voter Registration for Ohio" - February 9, 2017*

State Rep. Kathleen Clyde announced the introduction of House Bill 14, legislation that would enact Automatic Voter Registration in Ohio. This system will require that eligible Ohioans in state and school databases be automatically registered to vote and have their registrations automatically updated unless they choose to opt out. Automatic voter registration could potentially add over 1 million eligible voters to Ohio's voter rolls.

*For more on what State Representative Kathleen Clyde is working on, visit her website at [www.kathleenclcyde.com](http://www.kathleenclcyde.com) and her official office page at [www.ohiohouse.gov/kathleen-clyde](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/kathleen-clyde).*

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## **ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES**

Innovation Ohio (Columbus) - [Innovation Ohio Launches Ohio Resistance Guide](#) - April 5, 2017

Inspired by Indivisible, The Ohio Resistance Guide is brought to you by fellow resisters who have worked at the Ohio Statehouse in both the legislative and executive branches. They want to share what they know so that you can make your voice heard just as loudly in Columbus as it is being heard in D.C. Download the PDF guide from the site linked above.

Washington Post (Washington, D.C.) - [Republicans have a new plan for weakening this federal consumer watchdog](#) - April 14, 2017

Republicans and some in the financial industry have long tried to unseat CFPB Director Richard Cordray (Ohio) before his term ends in July 2018. Critics of the agency want to rein in its ability to make rules and take enforcement actions.

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [Ohio legislators must trim \\$800 million from proposed biennial budget](#) - April 14, 2017

Senate Majority Leader Joe Schiavoni said the announcement is proof GOP income tax cuts haven't spurred state revenue growth. "Gov. Kasich has been in office for over six years, yet he blames everyone by himself for the struggles that Ohioans face every day," Schiavoni, a Boardman Democrat, said.

Columbus Dispatch (Columbus) - [County leaders decry cuts proposed in governor's budget](#) - April 14, 2017

"We're getting hammered so bad," said Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady. He noted the

proposed Medicaid sales tax cuts will cost Franklin County \$21 million next year, or 7 percent of the county's overall sales tax revenue.

WKBN (Youngstown) - [Valley group calls on Ohio senator to step up fight against opioids](#) - April 14, 2017

A local group continued its push to get Senator Rob Portman to hold a town hall meeting in the area. Valley Voices United for Change met with representatives from Portman's office. They said the Senator is not in touch with the Mahoning Valley.

Record-Courier (Kent) - [New group focused on substance abuse](#) - April 15, 2017

Local community leaders have come together to form the Portage Substance Abuse Community Coalition to prevent and treat substance abuse disorders as well as advocating for funds and policies to address addiction.

Crain's Cleveland Business (Cleveland) - [U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown talks trade with Northeast Ohio unions](#) - April 18, 2017

Sen. Sherrod Brown held a roundtable discussion at the North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor to learn where to push back on trade policies and where to hold the President accountable on the promises he's made. Already, it looks as if Trump is deferring to the "corporate Republican agenda" instead of the agenda he laid out on the campaign trail, Brown said.

Canton Daily Ledger (Canton) - [New study re-affirms Right-To-Work is wrong for workers](#) - April 18, 2017

"Economic studies consistently show that RTW reduces worker earnings by 2 percent to 4 percent," the authors say. "By reducing unionization, RTW has helped to redistribute income from middle-class workers to the wealthy, boosting owner income by 2 percent with little 'trickle-down' to the largely non-unionized workforce."

Record-Courier (Kent) - [Portage detox, recovery center pitched](#) - April 20, 2017

The Portage County Sales and Use Tax Advisory Oversight Subcommittee heard a proposal for the county's first "Detoxification and Residential Treatment Center and Recovery Campus" to be housed at the former site of Altercare on New Milford Rd. in Ravenna.

Plunderbund (Columbus) - [Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper Talks 2018 Statewide Races, Politics](#) - April 24, 2017

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper fielded questions from reporters Saturday night before the 2017 Legacy Dinner in Columbus honoring the late Sen. John Glenn. Mr. Pepper...says that even though Ohio voters went for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton by nearly nine percentage points last year, the current and likely crop of Democrats today have opportunities to regain voter favor in the 2018 mid-term elections.

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**The Portage County Democratic Party**

<http://www.portagedemocrats.org/>

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