



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - July 2020

Dear %firstname%,

As we enter the dog days of summer, I write to let you know that your local Democratic Party and the candidates we support are beginning to turn up the heat despite the unprecedented challenges the COVID-19 outbreak has brought us.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now officially endorsed the Democrats running up and down the ballot who won their primary elections this spring. The Party's endorsement brings with it not just good will from our voters, but also access to resources our candidates need to be successful this fall. Below, you will find information for each endorsed candidate's web and social media presences. Please follow them, and help where you can, as often as you can.

In addition to our endorsement process, we are beginning our voter outreach efforts as a Party in earnest. You can now pick up yard signs and literature from Party HQ in Ravenna Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm and 9am - 1pm on Saturdays. If you'd like to help staff the office, please contact First Vice Chair Denise Smith [via email](#). We are planning a series of virtual "meet the candidates" nights, phone and text banks, and other opportunities...so please watch our [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#) for additional information.

According to best medical practice and public health advice, for the time being our outreach must remain largely virtual. That does not mean we are not working, nor does it mean that voter contact has stopped. Phone calls, emails, postcards, and texts remain excellent ways to get our message out...but we need your help to do it. I hope you'll join us in these efforts.

In closing, I want to note the passing of Congressman John Lewis, and share some of his words of wisdom with you. Congressman Lewis spent his life in the cause of public service - most especially expanding the right to vote. He said "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something."

There is much that is not right in our world as it is - and much we can do between now and November to speak up, say something, and do something about it. I look forward to engaging in that important work with you, now and always.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman

* * *

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.

Poll workers needed ASAP! The coronavirus outbreak may severely limit the number of poll workers available this fall...which could lead to other unintended consequences. Don't let it happen! If you or someone you know might be a good poll worker, have them complete an application [online](#) ASAP.

For more information, please call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

* * *

Election 2020 - Portage Co. Endorsed Candidates

We are pleased to share that the candidates below have been endorsed by the

Portage County Democratic Party for the 2020 General Election! Please follow the links for additional information on how to support each of them, including by following them on the web and social media.

* = *Incumbent*

+ = *Unopposed (listed last for the sake of emphasizing contested races.)*

For President

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Congress - 13th Congressional District

Tim Ryan*

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Congress - 14th Congressional District

Hillary O'Connor Mueri

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Congress - 16th Congressional District

Aaron Paul Godfrey

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For State Senate - 18th District

Betsy Rader

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For State Representative - 75th District

Randi Clites*

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For State Representative - 76th District

Garrett Westhoven

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For County Commissioner - Full Term 01/02/21

Kathleen Clyde*

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For County Commissioner - Full Term 01/03/21

John Kennedy

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Sheriff

Greg Johnson

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#)

For Recorder

Leighann Fink

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#)

For Justice of the Supreme Court - Full Term 01/01/21

John P. O'Donnell

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Justice of the Supreme Court - Full Term 01/02/21

Jennifer Brunner

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Court of Appeals - 11th District - Full Term 02/09/21

Timothy P. Cannon*

[Website](#) - [Facebook](#)

For Court of Appeals - 11th District - Full Term 02/10/21

Cynthia Westcott Rice*

[Facebook](#)

For Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile/Probate Division

Patricia J. Smith+

For Prosecuting Attorney

Victor V. Vigluicci+*

For Clerk of Courts

Jill Fankhauser+*

For Treasurer

Brad Cromes+*

For Engineer

Michael A. Marozzi+*

For Coroner

Dean J. DePerro+*

* * *

Upcoming Events

NOTE: The list below is not all the events going on - only the ones we have room to include here! For a full list, visit our website's [Events](#) page, and check our [Facebook Page](#) regularly.

[Supreme Court Review Town Hall w/ Kathleen Clyde - July 22nd - 5:30pm - 7pm - Facebook Live](#)

Commissioner Kathleen Clyde hosts a town hall on recent Supreme Court decisions impacting Portage County. She will be joined by Case Western Reserve University Law Professor Jessie Hill, whose areas of expertise include the First Amendment, civil rights and reproductive rights. Registration at the link, and the event will stream live on Facebook.

[Federated Democratic Women Meeting - July 25th - 11am - 12pm - Zoom](#)

Join the Federated Democratic Women for their monthly meeting via Zoom. Registration information at the link.

[Betsy Rader Congressional Reunion Fundraiser - July 27th - 7pm - 8pm - Zoom/Facebook](#)

Gerrymandering has had a far-reaching impact in Ohio. Join Betsy and her fellow 2018 congressional candidate colleagues Theresa Gasper, Ken Harbaugh, Rick Neal and Jill Schiller for a discussion of what we need to do to change course in 2020 and beyond.

[Ohio Young Dems Battleground Mixer - July 29th - 5pm - 7pm - Zoom](#)

A lively conversation about Ohio's status as a battleground state, featuring Sen. Sherrod Brown, House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, and Judges Jennifer Brunner and John O'Donnell. Free for Young Dems (under 40 years old), \$20/person for the young-at-heart.

[Fink's Got Cookies! Fundraiser - August 9th - 3pm - 5pm - 11 River St. Kent](#)

Join us for a drive-by cookie fundraiser to benefit the #ThinkFink campaign! Leighann will be there to distribute individually packaged cookies, as well as

official Think Fink t-shirts and yard signs.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, in-person political events have been postponed indefinitely. We invite you to follow our local Party on [Facebook](#) for updates as we have them.

* * *

ICYMI - News and Notes

[*McClatchy - Dems' dilemma: expand the battleground map or play it safe? - 6/23/20*](#)

"But in-state Democrats are more bullish about broadening the battleground map. Even in a place like Ohio, which Trump carried by eight points in 2016, party officials are confident that Biden's campaign is gradually preparing to treat the state as a target."

[*AP - Democrats warn against overconfidence in fight against Trump - 6/26/20*](#)

"Ohio Democratic Chair David Pepper, whose state went for Trump by a surprisingly wide margin in 2016, said Democrats are better organized this year."

[*Columbus Dispatch - Ohio Senate to vote on bill limiting drug possession felonies - 6/30/20*](#)

"If you ask Ohio's state senators whether people struggling with drug addiction belong in treatment or jail, most - if not all - will tell you treatment. But a bill that promises to push people into treatment has been stuck in committee for more than a year."

[*Akron Beacon-Journal - Sykes wins national award for dedication to women, families - 7/2/20*](#)

"Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, D-Akron, is the winner of the national EMILY's List 2020 Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award...The award honors a woman serving in state or local office who demonstrates the sort of commitment to community, dedication to women and families, and determination and civility that have been the highlights of Giffords' career."

[*The Portager \(Editorial\) - Kennedy: Poverty in Plain Sight - 7/6/20*](#)

"But all of that community support may not be enough to meet the needs of this moment, especially as local revenues and budgets dry up. As demand rises,

more collaboration between our community organizations and local government agencies will be required, and they will still need volunteers and financial contributions to maintain high levels of service."

[*Advance Ohio - Coronavirus could prompt poll worker shortage, long lines this year - 7/9/20*](#)

"The coronavirus pandemic could lead to some polling places being closed and create longer lines for ones that remain open, making it harder for Ohioans to cast their votes this November, according to advocates and elections officials."

[*Business Journal Daily - Dems roll out labor support for Biden's jobs plan - 7/11/20*](#)

"U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown lauded Biden's plan while taking shots at President Donald Trump's policies. Brown accused Trump of employing a 'phony populism' to gain the favor of voters in the Mahoning Valley, 'and then he betrayed them.'"

[*Record-Courier - Portage Land Bank flips, sells 3 homes - 7/12/20*](#)

"Those efforts have also resulted in nearly \$200,000 in tax payments that, but for the Land Bank's activities, never would have happened,' said Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes, who is also chairman of the Land Bank."

[*Advance Ohio - Democrats turn on Gov. DeWine for not imposing stricter mask rules - 7/15/20*](#)

"As Ohioans tuned in tonight seeking assurance during these chaotic and frightening times, many of us hoped to see the governor take decisive action to slow the spread of COVID-19,' said Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes in a statement following DeWine's speech. 'Instead, what we witnessed as a governor who refuses to lead in times of crisis for fear of standing up to the political pressure within his own party."

[*Record-Courier - Portage eyes rising COVID-19 cases - 7/16/20*](#)

"Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde noted that counties cannot require residents to wear masks, and that only state and city governments can do so. Kent is the only municipality in Portage County that has approved a mask law."

[*AP - Trump's trouble in suburbs key to suddenly competitive Ohio - 7/18/20*](#)

"But less than four months until this November's election, Trump is facing an unexpectedly competitive landscape in Ohio because he has lost ground in

metropolitan and suburban areas, threatening the overwhelming advantages he has in rural areas, state data show."

[CNN - Ohio House speaker arrested in connection with \\$60 million bribery scheme - 7/21/20](#)

"The Republican speaker of Ohio's House of Representatives was arrested by federal officials Tuesday on charges connected to a \$60 million bribery scheme. Larry Householder and four other political operatives were charged with racketeering in what US Attorney David DeVillers described as 'likely the largest bribery money laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people of the state of Ohio.'"

[AP - House Speaker's arrest muddies 2020 election in Ohio - 7/22/20](#)

"The scope of the accusations threatens to unfurl the GOP's tight hold on Ohio's governing body, which is set to draw new congressional maps in 2021 in one of the country's most gerrymandered states. The chance to control Ohio's representation in Washington for the next decade has put flipping at least some legislative seats on Democrats' national radar."

* * *

For more news and notes on the activities of Democrats from around Ohio, sign up for the Ohio Democratic Party Daily Update [here](#).

Check us out on Facebook!



[Please share this email with your friends and family](#)

Paid For by Portage County Democratic Party

If you would prefer to not receive future emails, you can [unsubscribe here](#). If you received this message from a friend and would like to join our email list, you can [sign up here](#). We will not sell your personal information. You can check out our [Privacy Policy here](#).

Powered by

