

NEWS AND NOTES - September 2018

Friend –

It's hard to believe, but in just over a month, Election Day will be upon us. Every election cycle is touted as "the most important one of our lifetimes," and to an extent that's true - each election is our nearest opportunity to shape the future, and so the most important.

As President Obama said in his recent visit to Cleveland, though, "this moment really is different." On November 6th, we have an opportunity to make a statement about who we are - as a community, a state, and a nation. We have the ability to not only tell our neighbors how we'll putting people first *if* we're elected, but to actually *do it when* we're elected. And we're prepared to deliver.

As we enter the homestretch of what has been a long and trying campaign, I urge each of you again to dig deep and find the time to help us win and give the residents of Portage County, Ohio, and our nation the leadership and vision they deserve and need. We have many opportunities for you to engage in that important work listed below. Please take advantage of them.

If you do nothing else, please do this - find 5 of your friends who might not otherwise engage this year, and make it your mission to get them to the polls and voting for Democrats. If we each do that, we cannot possibly fail.

Thank you for all you continue to do for Democratic candidates in our County and the causes that are so important to all of us. I look forward to working with you in the coming days to finish the job and make sure the blue wave carries Portage County to the better future we all deserve!

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR CANDIDATES! We are now in the heat of the election season, and our local candidates need your help to get the word out about their efforts to put people first in our community. We're canvassing in most every community in Portage County between now and Election Day, so there are plenty of opportunities for you to do that close to home! You can find a full list of our planned canvassing opportunities on our [Facebook Page](#).

YARD SIGNS ARE IN! Do you want to show your support for our Democratic candidates this year? Let us know by emailing 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes [here](#) and we'll add you to our list for yard sign distribution. Just make sure to tell us 1) which signs you want, 2) where you live, and 3) how to get ahold of you, and we'll get you signed up!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Clites for State Rep Ice Cream Social](#) - September 27, 2018 - 5p - 7p - Popped!, 175 E. Erie St., Kent

Join us for an ice cream social fundraiser for Randi Clites for State Representative. RSVP [here](#) or email Angie at angie@randiclites.com.

[GOTV Spaghetti Dinner/Debate Watch Party](#) - October 1, 2018 - 5p - 8p - Italian American Club, 644 S. Chestnut St., Ravenna

Join the Portage Co. Democratic Party for a "Get Out The Vote" Spaghetti Dinner. All of our local candidates will be present, and yard signs will be available for pickup and placement. Carryouts are also available. Tickets are \$10, payable in advance or at the door. Donations can be made online at www.portagedemocrats.org/donate, and checks should be made payable to "Portage County Democratic Party" and can be mailed to 210 S. Meridian St., Ravenna, OH 44266. Immediately following dinner, you are invited to stay for a debate watch party, where we will view our candidate for Gov. Richard Cordray present his vision for our state and explain why we can't afford four more years of Republican leadership.

[Kline for Commissioner Fall Fundraiser](#) - October 2, 2018 - 4:30p - 6:30p - Franklin Hotel Bar, 176 E. Erie St., Kent

Help keep Vicki Kline fighting for us as Portage Co. Commissioner. Tickets \$35 individual, \$60 couple. Event sponsorships available from \$100 - \$500. Please make all checks payable to "Friends of Vicki Kline."

[Reception for Commissioner Mike Kerrigan](#) - October 8, 2018 - 4:30p - 6:30p - W. Main St. Winery, 234 W. Main St., Ravenna

Mike Kerrigan has the kind of vision we need from our leaders in the Commissioners' Office. Let's keep him at it! Tickets are \$35 for individuals, \$60 for couples. Event sponsorships available from \$100 - \$500. Please make all checks payable to "Mike Kerrigan Committee." Donations are accepted online at www.mikekerrigan.us or by mail (3795 Heron Creek Dr., Rootstown, OH 44272) for those unable to attend.

[Cleveland Stonewall Democrats for Lis Regula](#) - October 9, 2018 - 6:30p - 8:30p - 16225 Brewster Rd., East Cleveland

Join the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats in a reception supporting Lis Regula, candidate for Portage County Auditor and Ohio's first openly trans candidate for countywide office.

[Jefferson-Jackson Dinner feat. Auditor of State Candidate Zack Space](#) - October 11, 2018 - 5:30p - 7:30p - Ravenna Elks Club, 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna

You're invited to attend the Federated Democratic Women of Portage County's annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner! This year, our special guest is Zack Space, candidate for Auditor of State. You can learn more about Zack at www.zackspaceforohio.com. Cocktails and networking begin at 5:30pm, and dinner will be at 6pm, with remarks by Mr. Space and awards presentations to follow. Tickets are \$45/person, and patron sponsorships are available for \$100. Please make checks payable to "FDW of Portage County," and mail to Suzanne Coia, 3960 Summit Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266.

[Central Committee Meeting](#) - October 24, 2018 - 6p - 7p - TBD

The Portage Co. Democratic Party will host a final meeting prior to the November 6, 2018 General Election for the purpose of managing appointments/resignations, distributing yard signs, and sharing plans for our "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV) effort. Stay tuned for further information about the event's location to come in the days ahead!

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: There is still a SEVERE shortage of Democratic poll workers in Portage County - so much so that we had no alternates available on Election Day this May. Don't let this happen again! Being a poll worker is an easy, fun way to give back to your community...plus, you get paid to do it! Learn more about the job and sign up [here](#).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The voter registration deadline is October 9, 2018 - and it'll be here before you know it! [Get registered](#), and make sure your friends and family do the same. Not sure if you're currently registered? [Check!](#)

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GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES - 2018 Judicial Candidates

From left to right above: Melody J. Stewart, candidate for Ohio Supreme Court; Michael P. Donnelly, candidate for Ohio Supreme Court; Mary Jane Trapp, candidate for 11th District Court of Appeals; and Darya Klammer, candidate for 11th District Court of Appeals.

Traditionally in this section, we focus on profiles of our local elected office holders and candidates. Given the importance of this year's judicial races - which will determine whether Republicans maintain a 7-0 advantage on the Ohio Supreme Court and so much more - we think it's worth spending some time re-acquainting ourselves with our candidates for those offices.

Meet Melody. A native Ohioan, Melody Stewart has lived the majority of her life in the city of Cleveland and in the greater Cleveland area. Her early education was in the Cleveland Public and Catholic schools while she simultaneously attended the Cleveland Music School Settlement studying music theory, classical piano, and classical guitar. Judge Stewart graduated from Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights and went on to major in music for her undergraduate degree. When asked about the somewhat untraditional path from music to law, Judge

Stewart recounts that she never thought about law school when preparing to go to college (even though her older sister is an attorney). She often says in jest, "But with the name Melody, what else was I supposed to study in college?"

A proponent of lifelong learning, Judge Stewart earned a bachelor's degree in music from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, and a Ph.D. from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University as a Mandel Leadership Fellow. Prior to being elected to the bench in 2006, Judge Stewart worked as an assistant dean at Cleveland Marshall College of Law. Judge Stewart has spent countless hours serving various organizations and the community through boards and committees of civic, educational, and professional entities such as the Board of Planning and Zoning for the city of Euclid, a County Community Juvenile Diversion Program, college visiting committees, and the Catholic Charities Service Corporation. Stewart is "Highly Recommended" by the Ohio State Bar Association.

Meet Michael. Judge Michael P. Donnelly has served on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court since 2005. He served as chair of the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism and is a current member of both the Ohio State Board of Bar Examiners and the Ohio Jury Instruction Committee. He was appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force in 2013. Judge Donnelly is a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University and received his Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Judge Donnelly is a proud recipient of the Honorable William K. Thomas Professionalism Award from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Judge Donnelly has also received the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) 2017 Public Service Award. Before serving on the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Donnelly was an assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor from 1992 until 1997. He then went on to practice civil litigation, where he represented plaintiffs and injured workers in asbestos litigation, personal injury lawsuits, and workers' compensation claims.

Judge Donnelly serves on the board of the Cleveland Baseball Federation, which helps inner-city boys and girls play baseball and softball in the summer at no charge. He has also been involved with the new Western Reserve Fire Museum, which educates children about fire safety. He is also "Highly Recommended" by the Ohio State Bar Association.

Meet Mary Jane. A former Judge of the 11th District Court of Appeals, Mary Jane Trapp is recognized for her distinguished legal knowledge and experience. Trapp has over 35 years in trial and appellate practice and is a leader at the state and national level on issues of administration of justice and legal reform. Trapp served for six years on the Ohio Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee and its appellate rules subcommittee. She is a past President of the Ohio State Bar Association.

While on the court of appeals from 2007 to 2013, Trapp authored more than 500 opinions and heard more than 1,150 appeals, most notably the opinion upholding the constitutionality of the new form of government in Cuyahoga County. During her tenure she served a two-year term as the court's presiding/administrative judge in 2009 and 2010, after having served as its administrative judge in 2008. She is a principal with Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan LPA in Cleveland and Chardon, Ohio and lives in Russell Township with her husband, Mike Apicella. Mary Jane has four step-children and three step-grandchildren.

Meet Darya. For over twenty years, Darya Klammer has represented families and children throughout Northeast Ohio. It would be an understatement to say that children are her passion. For over a decade now, she has worked as a guardian ad litem. Darya is truly proud to be a coordinator and an active volunteer with the Lake County Domestic Relations Court Pro Se Divorce Clinic.

Since 2008, Darya has actually heard and decided cases as a Magistrate and a former Acting Judge for the Mentor Municipal Court. Not only does she decide cases, but she helps parties resolve them on their own terms. Having tried numerous, civil, domestic, juvenile and criminal cases as well as argued before the Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court, Darya is a skilled advocate.

For more on our judicial candidates and their campaigns, visit our "[Election 2018](#)" page and click on the links for their websites and social media streams.

For past profiles, please see our Newsletter [Archive](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

PRIZM - [Victory Fund gets behind first transgender candidate](#) - August 21, 2018

"Ohio's first openly transgender political candidate was endorsed today by the LGBTQ Victory Fund, an organization that works to elect LGBTQ people to offices nationwide. Lis Kenneth Regula, a Democrat from Kent who's running for Portage County auditor, is challenging six-term incumbent Republican Janet Esposito for the

office that sets property values and keeps an eye on county government spending. He's currently a biology professor at the University of Akron."

Youngstown Vindicator - [Brown, Ryan write to Labor Secretary about aid for GM Lordstown workers](#) - August 22, 2018

"GM's announcement that it would lay off the second shift at the Lordstown plant comes just over a year after GM laid off the third shift, or 1,200 workers, at the same facility. GM is the primary employer in the region, and the elimination of nearly 3,000 jobs at the plant over the last two years will have significant economic consequences for the Northeast region of Ohio,' Brown and Ryan wrote in a letter to Acosta, according to a news release from their offices."

Ohio Democratic Party - [ECOT took more than \\$6M from Portage County schools over six years](#) - August 23, 2018

"The Ohio Democratic Party unveiled a website today where taxpayers can find out how much money the now-defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow ("ECOT") took from their local districts over a period of six years when that school was falsifying attendance data. In Portage County, the amount is just over \$6 million - enough to 13 teachers, 12,000 laptops or 38,000 books."

New Philadelphia Times-Reporter - [As Auditor, Space wants to restore confidence in political system](#) - August 27, 2018

"Space said he believes that state government has not focused enough on the challenges facing rural Ohioans in southeastern and southern Ohio. 'I see a lack of confidence in the process everywhere because of the influence of money on policy,' he said."

Associated Press - [FOP blasts DeWine over expired body armor for BCI agents](#) - August 28, 2018

"Records show Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation agents and supervisors raised concerns about expired body armor for more than a year before a union grievance was filed this May. Emails released by Republican Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Mike DeWine's office show behind-the-scenes anxiety surrounding more than 50 bulletproof vests that had passed their five-year expiration dates."

Record-Courier - [Ohio Sierra Club endorses Clyde for Secretary of State](#) - August 30, 2018

"The Ohio Sierra Club has endorsed state Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) in her campaign for Ohio Secretary of State. 'Kathleen Clyde is moving Ohio forward by promoting clean energy technology that will transform our economy and power our future, and we are proud to endorse her for Secretary of State,' said Ohio chapter political chair Vicky Mattson. 'We look forward to working with her as we strive to create a better world for the next generation of Ohioans to enjoy.'"

Ohio MBE - [Rob Richardson's visionary mission to transform Ohio Treasurer's Office](#) - September 2, 2018

"If we don't get out and vote this November to save our democracy from the enormous harm being done to it, it might be too late, Democratic Ohio Treasurer candidate Rob Richardson said in an interview last week. "Things are bad now, but if we don't have a balance brought back to our government in this election, things will absolutely get worse,' he warned. 'We will legitimize all the things that have happened and they will become acceptable.'"

Record-Courier - [Q&A: A deeper look at the Sheriff's budget](#) - September 2, 2018

A review of the Portage County Sheriff's budget situation, in light of recent discussions surrounding County expenditures and budgeting processes in the department.

Ohio Democratic Podcast - [Putting People First: Randi Clites](#) - September 17, 2018

The Ohio Democratic Party's weekly podcast comes to Portage County for an interview with Randi Clites, candidate for the 75th Ohio House District. Randi shares about how her family's experiences with the healthcare system led her to become an advocate and a candidate for office.

Politico - [Obamacare lawsuit boosts Dems in state AG races](#) - September 18, 2018

"Ohio's Democratic challenger Steve Dettelbach held a conference call with reporters on the day of the oral arguments, excoriating AG Mike DeWine, who is now running for governor, for 'not standing up for Ohioans' and defending the ACA."

WKSU - [Women Hope to Makes Voices Heard In Ohio Elections](#) - September 18, 2018

"Women are candidates in two Congressional districts in Northeast Ohio. The first is Democrat Susan Moran Palmer, who is running to fill the 16th District House seat that will be vacated by U.S. Senate candidate Jim Renacci. Palmer faces an uphill battle against her opponent Anthony Gonzalez in the Republican-skewed 16th District...In Ohio's 14th District, Democrat Betsy Rader is taking on Republican incumbent Dave Joyce. Sarver Coombs said Joyce is likely safe due to gerrymandering and an incumbent advantage. Democrat Betsy Rader is challenging Republican incumbent David Joyce for the 14th congressional district seat."

Cincinnati Enquirer - [Cordray drops "Titanic" zinger, delivers in Gov debate](#) - September 20, 2018

"In fact, longtime Ohio political watchers say it's the best they've ever seen Cordray in a debate...Frankly, Cordray

didn't let up for the nearly hourlong debate. Politics Extra doesn't recall Cordray looking at notes one time, and he confidently criticized DeWine without making anything personal."

Springfield News-Sun - [Marijuana interest raised \\$58k for Yost while he audited state's pot program](#) - September 21, 2018

"Ohioans trying to crack into the new medical marijuana industry raised \$57,870 for Republican Ohio Auditor Dave Yost's campaign for attorney general at the same time Yost was auditing the state's marijuana program, records show. 'It certainly raises questions about the appearance of: Is there a quid pro quo going on here? Are these contributors giving money in the hopes of an outcome of an audit that is favorable to their personal interests? And will the auditor be affected by those contributions in how the audit is conducted?' said Erin Chlopak, senior counsel for the Campaign Legal Center and a former official with the Federal Elections Commission."

Columbus Dispatch (Editorial) - [For U.S. Senate: Keep Sherrod Brown working for Ohioans](#) - September 24, 2018

"In Ohio's contentious race for U.S. Senate, we support the proven performance of Sherrod Brown, Ohio's Democratic senior senator, as worthy of a third six-year term."

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

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