

## NEWS AND NOTES - August 2018

{{ recipient.first\_name\_or\_friend }} -

We sit now less than 80 days from Election Day. Only a few short weeks remain between now and one of the most important elections in our lifetime - one where we can not only push back against the disastrous impacts of regressive policies from Washington and Columbus, but also chart a new path forward that will ensure a brighter future for all of us.

Throughout the summer, our candidates have been working hard to take a positive vision that puts people first to the residents of our County, state, and nation. That means ensuring access to quality, affordable health care. It means fighting for fair wages and safe working conditions. It means advocating for equality. And it means doing those things for all of us.

Below are some of the ways we're looking to do that in the month ahead. I urge you to find some time to get involved however you can. This year is too important to sit out.

As always, if there is anything else you think we should include in this space in the future, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting 2nd Vice Chair [Brad Cromes](#).

Thank you for all you 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 this fall to help 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

**STAFFER NEEDED:** We're still on the lookout for a dedicated person to serve as the Campaign for Ohio Field Organizer in Portage County. Pay and benefits are competitive, and there's no better way to get a sense of what working in politics looks like than actually doing it! We're less than 80 days out for Election Day, so those interested should contact Regional Field Director [Danny Thomas](#) ASAP!

**BALLOON-A-FAIR VOLUNTEERS:** The Party is currently looking for additional volunteers to help staff our booth at the Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair in September. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference by getting the word out for our candidates! If you're interested, contact 1st Vice Chair Denise Smith [here](#).

**STATE REP CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS:** The Randi Clites and John Kennedy campaigns for state representative both have a number of opportunities to talk with voters one-on-one, on the doors or on the phone. Contact Randi's campaign [here](#) or John's [here](#) for more information.

**AUDITOR CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS:** Lis Regula's campaign for Portage Co. Auditor is heating up, with a new slate of interns and a recent endorsement from a national fundraising entity. He is looking for volunteers to help spread the word about his campaign. Volunteers can sign up via email [here](#), or by visiting <https://regulaforportageauditor.com/contact/>.

**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!

**SUMMER/FALL FESTIVAL SUPPORT:** Is there a festival in your neighborhood this summer/fall you think we should have a presence at? Let us know! We'll gladly let our candidates know about your events, provide a tent/materials, and even pay for booth space when that's required. The only catch is that you commit to helping us staff it. For more, contact 1st Vice Chair Denise Smith [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Richardson for Ohio Treasurer Fundraiser](#) - September 5, 2018 - 5p - 7p - Bar 130, 130 E. Main St., Ravenna

Please join our host committee - including all African American elected officials in Portage County - in welcoming Rob Richardson, candidate for Treasurer of State, to Ravenna. A card-carrying union member, Rob has been a tireless champion for working people, dedicating his career to ensuring regular people have the tools they need to be successful. Donations of all types are accepted. Come meet Rob and learn more about his vision for our state!

[Regula for Auditor Fundraiser](#) - September 6, 2018 - 6p - 8p - 5700 Horning Rd., Kent

Please join our host committee - including all African American elected officials in Portage County - in welcoming Rob Richardson, candidate for Treasurer of State, to Ravenna. A card-carrying union member, Rob has been a tireless champion for working people, dedicating his career to ensuring regular people have the tools they need to be successful. Donations of all types are accepted. Come meet Rob and learn more about his vision for our state!

Federated Democratic Women Meeting - September 11, 2018 - 4:30p - 5:30p - Delciello's, 161 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna

You are invited to join our affiliated Democratic women's group at their monthly meeting, where they will discuss recent fundraising events and make plans for this fall's campaign!

Young Democrats Meeting - September 12, 2018 - 6p - 8p - Kent Free Library, 312 W. Main St., Kent  
Join our local chapter of the Young Democrats as they discuss their plans for engaging in this fall's important campaign work.

Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair - September 15, 2018 - All Day - Corner of Main St. and Park Way, Ravenna  
This year marks the 40th Annual Balloon-A-Fair in Ravenna! Celebrate by joining our candidates for the grand parade beginning at 7am on East Main Street, then stop by our booth on the corner of Main St. and Park Way (in front of the Courthouse) to talk with attendees about why electing Democrats is so important this year. Please contact First Vice Chair Denise Smith [here](#) if you're interested in volunteering.

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## ELECTIONS UPDATES

**POLL WORKERS NEEDED:** There is presently 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:** It's never too soon to make your plan for voting this fall. The registration deadline is October 9, 2018. [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 - Rob Richardson for Treasurer and Kathleen Clyde for Secretary of State



Traditionally in this section, we focus on profiles of our local elected office holders and candidates. Given the importance of this year's statewide races - which will determine control of drawing district lines in 2021 and so much more - we think it's worth spending some time re-acquainting ourselves with our candidates for those statewide races. This month, we're profiling our candidates for Ohio Treasurer and Secretary of State, Rob Richardson and Kathleen Clyde.

**Meet Rob.** Rob Richardson has long been an active leader in his community while safeguarding citizens' money and investments. In 2008, Rob was asked by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland to serve on the Board of Trustees at the University of Cincinnati, his alma mater. A former engineering and law student, Rob had made a mark at the university when he founded the first collegiate chapter of the NAACP in Southwest Ohio.

Over the next nine years Rob helped UC grow to the second largest university in Ohio, where he eventually became Chair of the Board. Along the way he established the UC Scholars Academy for students in the Cincinnati Public School District, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for student scholarships, led the search for president Dr. Neville Pinto, and founded the 1819 Innovation Hub where students, faculty, and staff collaborate with entrepreneurs, startups, and others in the private sector.

Rob led the university in a fiscally responsible way while also making strategic investments that led to unprecedented growth. The university maintained cash reserves of over \$200 million as it grew throughout Rob's tenure. In 2013 it was ranked as the top educational investment in the nation by PolicyMic.

Currently, Rob is a marketing construction representative while also serving "Of counsel" with the law firm Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, where he specializes in securities litigation. Rob holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and a JD, both from the University of Cincinnati.

**Meet Kathleen.** Kathleen Clyde is one of our own, growing up in Garrettsville, OH. As our State Representative, Kathleen has been a dedicated defender of voters and voting rights. Kathleen fought to restore the busiest days of early voting and extend early voting days and hours. She introduced legislation for automatic voting registration that will ensure Ohioans are added to the rolls when they do everyday things like get a driver's license, seek disability services, or simply turn eighteen.

She has also been a champion for Ohio's working families and women. Kathleen organized opposition to the anti-worker bill, SB 5, and stood up for steelworkers and low wage AFSCME workers. Kathleen has also secured changes to the law and resources to help small businesses and economic development in her district. Because Kathleen knows that Ohio's businesses are critical to our success.

Kathleen is the lead sponsor of the Ohio's Equal Pay Act. And in 2013, she held hearings across the state on the unprecedented attacks on women's reproductive healthcare in Ohio's budget bills.

Before her time in the Statehouse, Kathleen worked in the Ohio Senate and as Deputy Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the Ohio House. She also served as an election official directing the Franklin County

Early Vote Center during the 2008 presidential election.

An attorney and avid Buckeye fan, Kathleen earned her law degree from Ohio State, where she was an editor of the law review. While a law student, she worked on voting rights issues with the Election Law center at Ohio State, the Ohio Secretary of State's office, and the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU.

Kathleen lives in Kent and loves spending time with her family, reading, and distance running in her spare time.

For more on the Richardson and Clyde 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

Huffington Post - [Ohio Democrats become first state party to recognize campaign workers' union](#) - July 27, 2018

"The Ohio Democratic Party believes in living our Democratic values not just in whom we elect, but in how we operate," Ohio Democratic Party chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We support all Ohio workers in their right to come together and make their voices heard in the workplace through the unionization and collective bargaining process."

The Guardian - [Ohio Democrat Rich Cordray puts Republican governorship in jeopardy](#) - July 28, 2018

"Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for governor, possesses a unique anti-charisma. Before his political career, the earnest and lanky candidate used his Jeopardy winnings to pay his taxes and buy a used car. A former statewide elected official, he spent seven years in Washington as head of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) before launching his gubernatorial bid."

Record-Courier - [Portage Co., courts disagree on who should pay for CourtView program](#) - July 31, 2018

"After years of paying for the county's court record system, the Portage County courts are looking to push a large chunk of its expense onto the county's general fund and the Board of Commissioners. For years, payments for the computer program Courtview have been made through the county's information technology department using money contributed by various departments that use the program."

Record-Courier (Editorial) - [Share state savings with local government](#) - July 31, 2018

"A healthy rainy-day fund is essential for Ohio's state government to cushion against budget shocks when the economy turns sour. But as the state piggy bank surpasses 8 percent of general-fund spending — nearing the 8.5 percent limit set by law — it's fair for local governments to cry foul."

Associated Press - [Trump commission did not find widespread voter fraud](#) - August 4, 2018

"The now-disbanded voting integrity commission launched by the Trump administration to investigate the 2016 presidential election uncovered no evidence to support the president's claims of widespread voter fraud, according to an analysis of administration documents released."

Lima News - [Sutton rolls out plan "putting workers first"](#) - August 7, 2018

"That idea — refocusing economic development efforts on workforce instead of business needs — is the foundation of a set of policy proposals rolled out by Betty Sutton, running mate of Democrat gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray during her Monday night visit to UA Local 776 Plumbers and Pipefitters Hall. Dubbed the "Better Skills, Better Jobs" workforce development plan by Cordray's campaign, the recently released set of goals aims to fill the estimated 2 million job openings Ohio is set to have by 2025."

Dayton Daily News - [Ohio Supreme Court rules against ECOT in funding case](#) - August 8, 2018

"The now closed Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow suffered a legal blow Wednesday when the Ohio Supreme Court ruled 4-2 that the state can determine funding for online schools based on how much time students are logged on for learning. The decision bolsters the state's effort to recover millions of dollars given to ECOT."

Associated Press - [ANALYSIS: On enthusiasm, Dems have the edge](#) - August 10, 2018

"Democratic voters were more enthusiastic than Republicans in nearly a dozen federal special elections since President Donald Trump took office, an Associated Press analysis found, giving party leaders hope that even a series of narrow losses in GOP territory bodes well for them in November."

Columbus Dispatch - [DeWine using Democratic arguments to seek money from ECOT](#) - August 10, 2018

"Utilizing an argument similar to what Democrats have said for years regarding charter schools' impact on traditional public schools, Attorney General Mike DeWine is trying to recover millions from a handful of former ECOT employees."

Advance Ohio - [For the first time in years, healthcare may be a winning issue for Democrats](#) - August 14, 2018

"After years of struggling with their messaging, Democrats may finally have found their groove on health care as voters find the issue to be of more importance in the midterms. Democrats are optimistic that the health care divide will break in their favor for the November election; polling, Google Analytics data and special election results point to an electorate more concerned about the issue."

Martin's Ferry Times-Leader (Opinion) - [Space: Rural Ohioans deserve political reform](#) - August 19, 2018

Democratic Auditor of State candidate Zack Space: "For too long, rural Ohioans have been treated as second-class citizens by a rigged political process built by and for powerful special interests, the wealthy donor class, and career politicians. We deserve more than relegation as an afterthought in the halls of state government. Where the outside world sees drug abuse, poverty, and generational despair, we yearn to prove that there's more to this historic region and its laborious people than offered in the news. Until we attack the corrupting influence of money in politics at its very core, Ohioans — and especially rural Ohioans — will continue to be left behind by our broken democratic process."

Cincinnati Enquirer (Opinion) - [Brown: Tax cuts should go to workers, companies that create US jobs](#) - August 20, 2018

Sen. Sherrod Brown: "We were promised that the corporate tax cuts would end up in workers' pockets in the form of higher wages. Instead, corporations have used their tax cut to buy back more than \$700 billion of their own stock since the law passed. Stock buybacks don't support workers — they are a financial sleight of hand to boost shareholder profits and CEO bonuses at the expense of investing in workers, equipment, or research and development."

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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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