

## ***NEWS AND NOTES - January 2019***

Friend –

The new year brings with it new opportunities to serve - and our local Democratic Party is hard at work identifying candidates and causes through which we can continue putting people first in our community in 2019.

Chief among those opportunities are the many local offices that will appear on the ballot this year. All over the County, voters will be choosing new school board members, township trustees and fiscal officers, city council members and mayors, and a municipal court judge. These offices are incredibly important for our communities, and these races are where "the rubber hits the road" in terms of building our bench of strong local leaders who can serve in the years to come. The earliest filing deadlines are fast approaching - some are soon as February 6, 2019 - so if you are interested, I encourage you to reach out to me or other elected officials ASAP to see if running for office might be your path to service.

If it is, I'm happy to report that our County is again participating in the Ohio Democratic Party's "Main Street Initiative." Through the program, local candidates can get valuable training on how to run for office - including fundraising, communications, constituent outreach and more. You can learn more about the program by visiting the Ohio Democrats' [website](#).

Even if you are not interested in running for office, there are many opportunities to serve in the coming year we hope you'll take advantage of. Whether it's sitting at our booth at the Randolph Fair, walking in a parade for one of our candidates, or just talking to your friends and neighbors about what matters to them, we hope you'll commit with us to being active this year in the effort to move our community forward.

Lastly, I want to make you aware of a transition we're planning for later this month. We have chosen to move our website and email communications platforms over to a provider that has a mission and track record more consistent with our shared values. While we expect the transition to move smoothly, you may notice a few changes here and there. They're to be expected, and part of our on-going effort to serve you better.

Thank you, as always, for your hard work, and I look forward working with you to make 2019 a year remember.

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman  
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Central Committee Meeting - January 31, 2019 - 6p - 7p - Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Route 88, Ravenna](#)

At this meeting the Central Committee shall vote to designate the Board of Elections member who shall fill the position for the regular term commencing March 1, 2019 and lasting four (4) years. Denise Smith was appointed to the unexpired term in September of 2018. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Other regular meeting business will be transacted as usual.

[Federated Democratic Women Meeting - February 9, 2019 - 11a - 12p - English Pub, 320 E. Main St., Ravenna](#)

Join the Federated Democratic Women for their next meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at the English Pub & Bistro, 320 E Main St #108 Ravenna, OH 44266. We will be discussing membership and fundraising opportunities. Please R.S.V.P. to Terrie Nielsen at [ntandd@yahoo.com](mailto:ntandd@yahoo.com) or 330-442-5095 by February 6, 2019. Hope to see you there!

[New Democratic Leaders Meet-and-Greet - February 18, 2019 - 4p - 6p - W. Main St. Winery, 234 W. Main St., Ravenna](#)

You are invited to join us as we welcome a new crop of Democratic leaders in Portage County with a "meet-and-greet" event at the Main St. Winery in Ravenna, sponsored by the Federated Democratic Women of Portage County. Expected to attend are new Party Chair and Coroner Dr. Dean DePerro, new State Representative Randi Clites, new Commissioner Kathleen Clyde, and newly re-elected Commissioner Vicki Kline, among others. Help us celebrate them and the opportunity their leadership affords us to move our County forward! Suggested donation of \$25/person includes your first glass of wine. Please make checks payable to "Federated Democratic Women of Portage County." For more information, contact Frank Hairston by [email](#).

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## **ELECTIONS UPDATES**

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEADLINE:** For all candidates with open committees who did not file a post-general election report in 2018, campaign finance reports are due to the Board of Elections no later than January 31, 2019. For more information, please call Board of Elections at 330-297-3511 or visit the Secretary of State's [website](#).

**LOCAL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES:** Petitions and/or declarations of candidacy for local offices (including mayors, city council members, school board members, township trustees and township fiscal officers) are due as early as February 6, 2019. If you are interested in running for local office, please contact the Board of Elections as soon as possible for details pertaining to your specific race at 330-297-3511. For more general information, the [2019 Candidate Guide](#) is now available from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office.

**POLL WORKERS NEEDED:** It's never too early to sign up to be a poll worker and help make sure our elections run smoothly (and it's never more necessary than in odd-year elections). Being a poll worker is an easy, fun way to give back to your community...plus, you get paid to do it! If you're interested, please contact the Board of Elections at 330-297-3518 or [apply online](#).

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## **ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES**

*Columbus Dispatch (Editorial)* - [Year In Review: A sigh of relief](#) - December 30, 2018

"The Dispatch Editorial Board is no different from many other commentators in one respect: We found 2018 to be a pretty tough year. Vicious politics, chaotic presidential behavior, gridlock in Congress, unrelenting gun violence and a midterm-election slog filled with lies and foolishness make us not too sorry to see the last of it. Fortunately, there's plenty to give us hope for a better 2019 and beyond."

*Toledo Blade* - [Ohio's medical marijuana law: dazed and confusing](#) - January 3, 2019

"While Ohio slowly puts together its own medical marijuana industry, patients in desperate need of medicinal pot can argue before a judge if arrested that they legally qualify to possess medical marijuana, even if they obtained that marijuana outside Ohio."

*Ohio Public Radio* - [It just got tougher to put a constitutional amendment on](#)

[the ballot](#) - January 3, 2019

"The number of valid signatures needed to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the Ohio ballot has increased by about 40 percent. That number fluctuates because it is based on the last general election and, this past November, many more Ohioans showed up to vote in the state's gubernatorial race."

*Washington Post* - [Trump administration considers rollback of anti-discrimination rules](#) - January 3, 2019

"The Trump administration is considering a far-reaching rollback of civil rights law that would dilute federal rules against discrimination in education, housing and other aspects of American life, people familiar with the discussions said."

*Plunderbund* - [How Ohio's top watchdog covered up another scandal](#) - January 3, 2019

"Although tasked with policing Ohio's executive branch, Inspector General Randall Meyer failed to investigate Ohio chief executive John Kasich for wasting millions of dollars on IQ Innovations, a company owned by embattled ECOT founder and mega-GOP donor William Lager."

*Columbus Dispatch (Editorial)* - [A House divided should not unite around Householder](#) - January 6, 2019

"We're all for bipartisanship, but a deal with Householder would tarnish the integrity of any Democrat who bought it, just as another Householder speakership would tarnish the House itself. We hope Democrats will consider his unsavory legacy and resist the temptation for a short-term gain."

*Advance Ohio* - [Sherrod Brown, Tim Ryan say Trump needlessly hurting workers with shutdown](#) - January 8, 2019

"This is real hardship on a whole lot of families and it's all inflicted on them because the commander in chief wants to score political points on building a wall that the Mexicans – he promised that the Mexicans would pay for it,' Brown said during a media availability early Tuesday morning at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport before meeting with TSA workers...'I think when the president says it's going to go on months and months and months, it's disrespectful to these workers,' said Ryan, who visited the prison Tuesday to speak with workers.

*Advance Ohio (Editorial)* - [Outnumbered Ohio House Dems score coup by deciding Republican speakership](#) - January 9, 2019

"The fallout of this speakership battle could have interesting ramifications if some of the coalitions it created carry forward. In the vote Monday afternoon,

Republican lawmakers favored Smith by a 57 percent to 43 percent margin, while Democrats voted for Householder 68 percent to 32 percent. And when Householder was sworn in, Democratic Rep. David Leland of Columbus was holding the Bible. Householder was opposed by many mainstream Republicans, so it's possible he may continue to need Democrats to help carry his agenda forward. And Democrats said it was refreshing to be courted by Householder after not having had a voice with GOP leadership for many years."

*Record-Courier* - [Courthouse party proceeds benefit Center of Hope](#) - January 11, 2019

"The Portage County Courthouse has an annual holiday party. Local active and retired judges as well as attorneys donate raffle items for courthouse employees. Raffle proceeds are donated each year to a local charity and the Center of Hope was this year's recipient."

*Washington Post (Editorial)* - [Sherrod Brown as Trump slayer? Here's his big idea.](#) - January 11, 2019

"This will be one of the big ideas debated among the 2020 Democrats; at its core, it is a collection of proposals that would expand the earned-income tax credit and the child tax credit. Numerous Democrats have versions of this proposal. Brown's version includes one proposal to expand the EITC, a federal tax credit for poor and working Americans that is pegged to income, to the point where it would confer more than \$6,500 on families with household incomes of around \$10,000 and \$25,000 per year, reaching deeper into the middle class before phasing out on higher incomes. That would roughly double the number of families benefiting to 47 million, boosting their incomes by \$2,800 on average."

*Advance Ohio (Editorial)* - [Nan Whaley: To tackle opioids, DeWine must preserve Medicaid expansion.](#) - January 11, 2019

"Over the last several months, Gov.-elect DeWine has voiced his support for requiring many Medicaid recipients to report some sort of work activity in order to continue participating in the program. While such a requirement may seem reasonable on the surface, these restrictions would severely cripple our ability to help people facing addiction receive treatment."

*NPR* - [Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown moves closer to joining 2020 race](#) - January 16, 2019

"Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown took a step towards a 2020 presidential campaign, announcing a tour of states holding early presidential primaries next year. Seeking to counter President Trump's appeal to white,

working-class voters that helped him flip Ohio and other key midwestern states, Brown is launching a 'Dignity of Work' tour through Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina."

*Record-Courier* - [Officials still rooting for Camp Garfield anti-missile site](#) - January 17, 2019

"District 13 Rep. Tim Ryan, who represents both Portage and Trumbull counties, has been a consistent proponent of locating the site at Camp Garfield. 'I look forward to studying the full missile review in the coming days and weeks,' he said in a statement Thursday. 'While I am disappointed that the report did not choose an East Coast missile defense site at this time, I will continue to push for this facility to be located in Ravenna.'"

*Court House News* - [Stewart starts tenure as first African-American woman elected to Supreme Court](#) - January 17, 2019

"At 215 years old, the Ohio Supreme Court is full of history, but it's most recent milestone wasn't a decision. It was an addition. In November, Eighth District Court of Appeals Judge Melody Stewart became the first African-American woman elected to the state's premier bench."

*Record-Courier* - [Placemats to provide financial assistance](#) - January 17, 2019

"Seniors and veterans in Portage County can find financial guidance with a new initiative from the office of Treasurer Brad Cromes. Called the 'Pocketbook Placemats Program,' the effort seeks to help those in these commonly targeted groups avoid scammers and make sound financial choices by providing easy-to-digest tips printed on placemats."

*Washington Post* - [Trump two years in: the "dealmaker" who can't make a deal](#) - January 20, 2019

"Donald Trump was elected president partly by assuring the American people that 'I alone can fix it.' But precisely two years into his presidency, the government is not simply broken — it is in crisis, and Trump is grappling with the reality that he cannot fix it alone."

*Record-Courier* - [Heroin takes fall, replaced by meth and cocaine](#) - January 20, 2019

"Methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana were the most common drugs picked up by the Portage County Drug Task Force in 2018. 'Heroin dropped off the face of the earth,' said Portage County Sheriff's Office Major Larry Limbert, who oversees the task force."

*Columbus Dispatch* - [Emilia Sykes named House minority leader](#) - January 23, 2019

"Ohio House Democrats selected a new leader Wednesday in the wake of a House speaker vote that shook up both caucuses. In an informal, closed-door vote, Rep. Emilia Sykes, a 33-year-old Akron Democrat, was selected by the caucus as the next minority leader. The three-term lawmaker replaces Rep. Fred Strahorn of Dayton, who stepped aside after four years as leader following the House speaker vote earlier this month."

CNN - [DeWine says he will "absolutely" sign abortion bill Kasich vetoed](#) - January 23, 2019

"Newly minted Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said Wednesday that he will 'absolutely' sign a new version of the "heartbeat bill," which would ban abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected and had been vetoed by the previous governor, John Kasich."

The Hill - [Pepper: Midterms show Ohio remains in play for 2020](#) - January 26, 2019

"So for Republicans to proclaim Ohio as a 'red' state now - well, they've worked overtime to gerrymander the state and make it harder for traditionally Democratic voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box. I guess that's a victory of sorts ... a victory over democracy. Ohio Democrats aren't giving up on Ohio or democracy. This past election's results revealed we're still a toss-up state, trending blue in key ways versus all other elections this decade."

Record-Courier - [Commissioner Clyde in "listening mode"](#) - January 27, 2019

"A month into her tenure as a Portage County Commissioner, Kathleen Clyde says she's still in 'listening mode,' settling into her new role. Clyde, who spent eight years as a state representative, was barred from seeking re-election because of term limits. She was appointed to the seat in December after former Commissioner Mike Kerrigan resigned."

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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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### **The Portage County Democratic Party**

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