

## NEWS AND NOTES - June 2018

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I am delighted to write to you today in one of my first official communications as our Party's new Chairman. Earlier this month, I was fortunate to be selected by the Central Committee to serve in this important role, and will have the good fortune of serving with a very qualified and impressive team of leaders, including newly appointed 1st Vice Chair Denise Smith and 2nd Vice Chair Brad Cromes and incumbents Secretary Cindy Greene, Treasurer Hank Gibson, and Parliamentarian Glenda Enders.

This new leadership team brings an exciting mix of energy and experience that I think will help our Party build on its strong past performance and thrive going forward. We are in the process of planning for our future, and already have a number of promising ideas for how we can achieve those important goals. In the months ahead, more will be forthcoming, but suffice to say there is much to look forward to.

I would be remiss if I did not take this moment to offer thanks once again to outgoing Chairman Craig Stephens and his wife, Ruth. For more than a decade, Craig and Ruth have given their heart and soul to this Party, and we are forever grateful to them for all they have done. They leave us in a strong position, and I look forward to relying on their counsel.

For all our appreciation of the past and planning for the future, however, there is an election happening now that demands our full attention. What we do in Portage County will speak volumes not only for the future of our local community, but also for that of our state and nation. We must stand up as Democrats in this important moment and proudly tell our friends and neighbors why our vision is the right one, and I am eager to engage with you in that cause.

As always, below you will find opportunities to do that, and information you can use to stay on top of the latest developments. 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 your commitment to the Democratic Party, and to making a better future for us all. Let's get to work.

Forward,



Dean DePerro, Chairman  
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT**

**RANDOLPH FAIR, BALLOON-A-FAIR VOLUNTEERS:** The Party is currently looking for additional volunteers to help staff our booths at the Randolph Fair in August and 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](#).

**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

Portage Young Dems Annual Meeting - June 29, 2018 - 7p - 8:30p - Kent Free Library, 312 W. Main St., Kent, OH 44240

The Portage County Young Democrats will host their Annual Meeting on Friday, June 29 at the Kent Free Library. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, and will include the election of PCYD President and Secretary. Individuals wishing to vote during the election must be a paid member of the Portage County Young Democrats, with dues payment having been submitted after Tuesday, May 8. To join the Portage County Young Democrats as a voting member visit the following address: <https://portageyd.org/join/>.

Kent Heritage Festival - June 30, 2018 - All Day - Kent

With July 4th falling in the middle of the week on a Wednesday this year, please note that the 23rd Annual Kent Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, June 30th. The all-day celebration held in downtown Kent runs from 9:00 am - 11:00 pm. Fireworks will be set off from Kramer Ball Fields at 10:00 pm. The Party will again be hosting a booth, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Ohio Democratic Party Day of Action - June 30, 2018 - All Day - Various

The Ohio Democratic Party Campaign for Ohio is launching its first statewide Day of Action Saturday, June 30! We need your help to get at least four volunteers talking to voters about our candidates. Find events near Portage County at <https://events.mobilizeamerica.io/ohdems/>, and keep an eye out for events closer to home in the near future!

Regula for Auditor Fundraiser - July 1, 2018 - 2p - 4p - Village Bookstore, 8140 Main St., Garrettsville, OH 44231

You're invited to join Lis Kenneth Regula for a fundraising reception in support of his campaign for Portage County Auditor.

Suggested contribution levels \$25-200. Please make checks payable to Regula Campaign Committee. You can also contribute online at [regulaforportageauditor.com/donate](http://regulaforportageauditor.com/donate). All contributions are greatly appreciated. RSVP to Ellen Eckhouse at 330-357-1498 or [popellen@villagebooksandbears.com](mailto:popellen@villagebooksandbears.com).

Federated Women Beer & Dinner Pairing - July 17, 2018 - 5:30p - 8p - Little City Grill, 802 N. Mantua St., Kent, OH 44240

The Federated Democratic Women of Portage County will be hosting a beer and dinner pairing fundraiser July 17 at Little City Grill in Kent. The event features carefully matched craft beers and small plates. Proceeds to benefit the Party and our local candidates. Tickets are \$45 per person, and are limited. Please make checks payable to FDW, and mail to: Suzanne Coia, 3960 Summit Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266. Questions? Contact FDW President Pat Nelson [here](#).

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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 - Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton for Governor/Lt. Governor



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. First up are our candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor - Rich Cordray and Betty Sutton.

**Meet Rich.** Richard Cordray has dedicated his life to standing up to corporate wrongdoers on behalf of working families. That's why he is running for Governor to change the system so that it works for Ohioans and their families.

Over the last five years, Cordray served as the first-ever director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a position he was appointed to by President Obama, where he led an agency dedicated to defending families against Wall Street and corporate abuse. Under Cordray's leadership, the CFPB brought actions against some of the nation's largest financial institutions, forcing them to pay nearly \$12 billion to over 30 million Americans who were cheated or mistreated. Cordray also launched new programs to help Americans and their families reach their own financial goals and plan for retirement.

Before serving our country at the Consumer Bureau, Cordray defended Ohioans as Attorney General. He worked to hold Wall Street accountable by recovering more than \$2 billion for Ohio's public teachers and retirees who were victims of fraud and financial predators. Cordray also previously served as the Ohio Treasurer, where he protected taxpayer funds, expanded job growth by supporting small businesses with reduced-interest loans, and spearheaded financial literacy programs to empower Ohioans. Cordray was Ohio's first ever Solicitor General, as well, where he represented the State of Ohio before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Ohio Supreme Court. He fought to protect Ohio's hate crime laws and against the Ku Klux Klan's efforts to expand in southern and central Ohio.

After graduating from the University of Chicago Law School, where he served as Editor of the Law Review, Cordray clerked for two U.S. Supreme Court Justices: Byron White and Anthony Kennedy. He received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and was awarded a Master's degree from Oxford University on a Marshall Scholarship from the British government.

Cordray lives in Grove City, Ohio with his wife, Peggy, and their two children.

**Meet Betty.** The youngest of six children, Betty Sutton was raised in Barberton. Her dad worked at the local boiler factory and her mom at the public library. She worked her way through college at Kent State and - while still in law school - won the first race she entered: Barberton City Council. She then went on to serve as Vice President of the Summit County Council and in the Ohio House of Representatives.

In 2006, Betty successfully won election representing Portage and Summit counties to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served until 2012. Her election to Congress made Betty the first Democratic woman in Ohio to serve as a legislator at the local, county, state and federal levels.

In Congress, Betty fought for Ohio's working families and against unfair trade policies that hurt Ohio workers. She fought alongside Ohio businesses and workers at the International Trade Commission, helping to restore the jobs of Ohioans who were being put out of work due to the illegal "dumping" of steel pipe and tires.

In 2009, Betty sponsored the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save (CARS) Act, which created the "Cash for Clunkers" program. According to the US Department of Transportation, Cash for Clunkers saved or created more than 60,000 jobs during the second half of 2009. Betty also worked to provide veterans with the benefits they earned. When soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were assigned extra tours of duty under the "stop loss" policy, Betty led a bipartisan effort to make sure they were paid appropriately, making retroactive compensation available to 185,000 service members.

In her last term, Betty introduced the 'American Jobs First' Initiative, a package of four bills that would help revive American manufacturing and put Americans back to work without requiring any major new spending. Her goal was to strengthen existing Made in America laws and level the playing field for American manufacturers.

In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Betty to be the Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, where she served through the end of President Obama's term in office.

Betty lives in Copley, Ohio, where she happily resides with her husband Doug and her two rescue dogs, Oscar and Cleo.

For more on the Cordray-Sutton campaign, visit our "[Election 2018](#)" page and click on the links for their website and social media streams.

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

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## **ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES**

Record-Courier - [Portage Courts Get \\$21,000 In Tech Grants](#) - May 28, 2018

"Two Portage County courts have been awarded more than \$21,000 in technology grants by the Ohio Supreme Court. Portage County Common Pleas Judge Laurie Pittman applied to and was awarded the grants, totaling \$21,146, to upgrade the Common Pleas Court case management system and the Probate Court clerk's case management equipment."

Cleveland.com - [DeWine leave the door open for 'right-to-work'](#) - May 30, 2018

"Mike DeWine, the Republican nominee for governor, side-stepped questions on Wednesday about whether he would support so-called right-to-work legislation. DeWine's demurral came while he was accepting the endorsement of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 18, which represents workers in 85 Ohio counties. Asked several times about right-to-work, DeWine dodged giving a direct answer, leaving the possibility open that he would sign the legislation in the future."

Akron Beacon-Journal (Editorial) - [Mike DeWine and the Medicaid expansion](#) - June 1, 2018

"The Medicaid expansion belongs at the center of the governor's race. Richard Cordray, the Democratic candidate, pledges to continue what John Kasich has launched, extending health coverage to Ohio households up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Mike DeWine won't go there, a position that has resulted in the governor saying he isn't ready to endorse his fellow Republican."

Columbus Dispatch - [Liberal group says ECOT diverted \\$591M from public schools in 6 years](#) - June 6, 2018

"With the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, formerly the state's largest charter school, being auctioned off in pieces, some schools and longtime ECOT critics are taking stock of how much state money was diverted to the online charter. Stephen Dyer, education policy fellow with the liberal think

tank Innovation Ohio, said \$591 million was transferred from Ohio public schools to ECOT over the past six years."

WKSU - [Brown says tax cuts are costing middle America, blasts immigration raids as immoral](#) - June 7, 2018

"Brown is a long-time critic of the Republican tax cuts, saying they disproportionately benefit the rich and hurt programs crucial to the middle class. That includes the expansion of veterans' health benefits this week. Though the bill was bipartisan and signed by President Trump, the Trump administration is pushing for other spending cuts to come up with the \$50 billion to pay for it."

Record-Courier - [Portage Dems pick new officers](#) - June 7, 2018

"The Portage County Democratic Party has a new chairman after 12 years. Outgoing chair Craig Stephens said it has been his duty to serve in the role, but gladly took a seat as Portage County Coroner Dean DePerro was selected as the next party chair...DePerro was unanimously voted in as chair, with Assistant Portage County Prosecutor Denise Smith picked as first vice chair, Portage County Treasurer Brad Cromes picked as second vice chair, Hank Gibson selected as party treasurer, Cindy Greene as party secretary and Glenda Enders as party parliamentarian."

Politifact.com - [Cordray says Ohio payday lending laws worst in the nation \(TRUE\)](#) - June 8, 2018

"Pew Charitable Trusts found in 2014 that over five months a \$300 payday loan would cost an Ohio borrower \$680 in interest and fees, which equals an average annual percentage rate of 591 percent. While the report didn't call out Ohio as the 'worst in the nation,' no other state had a rate that was higher, according to the report. The difference between the 591 percent cited in the report and the 594 percent tweeted by Cordray is negligible. We rate this statement True."

Record-Courier - [Portage eyes wireless internet for County buildings](#) - June 8, 2018

"Visitors, including attorneys and contractors, could soon access the internet wirelessly at the Kent and Ravenna courthouses, as well as the Portage County Administration Building and the jail...Portage County Commissioner Mike Kerrigan said the county would likely be able to fund the entire project in the coming year."

Record-Courier - [Clyde critical of Supreme Court ruling on voter rolls](#) - June 11, 2018

"State Rep. Kathleen Clyde says she's disappointed in today's 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on Ohio's method of removing voters from the rolls. The court upheld an Ohio election law that permits state officials to remove voters from the polls if they have not either voted for two consecutive elections or responded to notices from election officials. The ruling 'goes against the entire purpose of the National Voter Registration Act, which is to increase registration of eligible voters and to keep eligible voters on the rolls,' the Kent Democrat said."

NBC News - [Are Democratic prospects looking up in Ohio?](#) - June 13, 2018

"Another day, another encouraging Ohio poll for Democrats. A day after a Cincinnati Enquirer/Suffolk poll showed Democrats ahead in Ohio's Senate and gubernatorial contests, a new Quinnipiac poll released today finds the same result, although the gubernatorial contest is within the margin of error. According to the Quinnipiac survey, Democrat Richard Cordray gets support from 42 percent of registered voters in the gubernatorial race, versus 40 percent for Republican Mike DeWine. (The Enquirer/Suffolk poll had it Cordray 43 percent, DeWine 36 percent among likely voters.) And in Quinnipiac's test of the Senate race, it's Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, at 51 percent among registered voters and Republican challenger Jim Renacci at 34 percent. (The Enquirer/Suffolk poll had it Brown 53 percent, Renacci 37 percent)."

Clermont Sun (Opinion) - [ECOT: An old story of 'pay to play'](#) - June 18, 2018

"We know for sure that ECOT stole 79 million from the Ohio Department of Education in 2016 and 2017. We have no idea how much was stolen before from both the state and the federal government. It has just been recently reported that ECOT also stole almost 14 million in federal funds from the Department of Education...Seven years ago Auditor Yost and Republican legislators were aware of evidence that ECOT was defrauding Ohio taxpayers yet the scandal has only been addressed recently. Perhaps ECOT's \$14,595 in campaign contributions to Mr. Yost convinced him to turn a blind eye. According to the Akron Beacon Journal 'Bill Lager, founder of ECOT, and his associates have given

generously to Republicans, the total exceeding \$2 million.' This is the perfect definition of 'pay to play' corruption."

Columbus Dispatch - [Democrats attract 105,000 more 'party switchers' than Republicans at Primary](#) - June 21, 2018

"Democrats counting on voter discontent with President Donald Trump and Congress to help bolster their 2018 election chances have a small sign to stoke their optimism. Attracting 61,974 voters previously affiliated with the Republican Party and 211,184 independents, the Democrats gained a net 165,432 voters in the May 8 primary — about 105,000 more than the GOP...And despite Ohio's gerrymandered, Republican-drawn congressional districts that favor the GOP, those seats also appear more competitive than typical."

Record-Courier (Op-Ed) - [Cromes: Nothing 'hysterical' about fighting for voter rights](#) - June 24, 2018

"The record in our state reveals an unfortunate truth. Ohio Republicans, in a quixotic effort to identify a tiny number of rule breakers, have systematically cost hundreds of thousands of otherwise eligible voters their right to participate in our democracy. There is nothing hysterical about pushing back against that, as our local State Rep. and Democratic Secretary of State nominee Kathleen Clyde has consistently done and pledged to continue doing."

Cleveland.com - [Can Ohio Auditor Dave Yost take credit for 165 public official convictions?](#) - June 25, 2018

"The statistic is frequently touted on Twitter by the auditor's office, by the two-term Republican himself at speaking events and in campaign materials and by GOP allies trying to elect him to the attorney general's seat in November. Yost has some reason to boast, a cleveland.com analysis found, but his role may be slightly overstated...Notably, 11 convictions were prosecuted under Steve Dettelbach, Yost's Democratic challenger in November's election, a former U.S. attorney."

Youngstown Business Journal - [Ryan, Brown criticize GM decision to build new model in Mexico](#) - June 26, 2018

"All this comes on the heels of the windfall GM got from the tax bill Congress passed last year,' said Brown, D-Ohio, on the Senate floor yesterday. 'GM can now bring nearly \$7 billion in overseas cash back to the U.S. at a dramatically lower tax rate, and they can immediately deduct the cost of any new investments in plants and equipment. They could be using that extra cash to invest in Lordstown and build more cars in America. But what are they doing? They're laying off 1,500 Ohio workers.' Ryan, D-13 Ohio, penned an open letter to GM CEO Mary Barra, calling the decision to build the SUV in Ramos Arizpe, Mexico 'outrageous.'"

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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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