

NEWS AND NOTES - October 2018

Friend -

We are now only two weeks away from an Election Day that will make history - for Portage County, for Ohio, and for our nation. It's up to us to determine what kind of history that will be.

That may sound dramatic, but the stakes really are that high. We are fortunate this year to have fielded candidates up and down the ballot who are committed to putting people first in our communities. Whether it's fighting for health care, a fight our candidates for State Representative Randi Clites and John Kennedy have lived, or securing fair wages, which Commissioners Vicki Kline and Mike Kerrigan are committed to, or bringing trust to back to our government like Auditor candidate Lis Kenneth Regula has pledged to do, we have a chance in 14 days to put people in positions of power who will fight for us. Now it's time for us to fight for them.

The "blue wave" that we have all heard to much about is not some magical thing that will just happen. It is all of us, talking to our families, friends and neighbors about the issues that are important to us, the people who depend on us, and why it's so important that we elect Democrats this year. It's the phone calls made, and the doors knocked, and the ballots cast that will make the difference.

In more or less every race up and down the ballot, we are tied with the Republicans or within the margin of error. When elections are this close, every bit of our collective effort matters. We need that effort - we need your effort - to ensure that we have a government that's working for all of us.

Below, you will find a number of ways to get involved in the campaign's final days. Please, find a way to contribute. The worst thing we can do is look back the day after Election Day and think, "what if I'd done more?" Let's finish the job, let's win these races, and let's build the better future we all deserve in Portage County and beyond.

Forward,

Dean DePerro, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR CANDIDATES! We're in the home stretch of this year's election cycle, and every phone call we make and door we knock brings us closer to victory. Be a part of helping creating a "blue wave" in Portage County - volunteer! We have locally planned canvasses on Sunday, [10/28, 11am at Aurora Memorial Library](#) and Sunday, [11/4, 11am at Pinetree Lodgehouse, Wingfoot Park in Mogadore](#).

VOLUNTEER TO "GET OUT THE VOTE!" The most important four days of any election cycle are the last four. Please help us make a final push for all Democrats, up and down the ballot. Contact Campaign for Ohio Field Director Ali Gray [here](#) or by phone, 330-675-9940 to sign up for a shift.

STAGING LOCATION HELP NEEDED: We need a few people to serve as Staging Location Directors, Canvass Captains and Phonebank Captains during "get out the vote" efforts in the final days of the campaign. These are primarily office jobs, and require knowing how to use a computer for reporting purposes. They are import positions, and we need competent people in them. If you're interested, please contact Campaign for Ohio Field Director Ali Gray ASAP [here](#) or by phone, 330-675-9940.

ELECTION DAY OBSERVERS: We're on the lookout for a few good folks to serve as observers at key polling places in Portage County. Observers are tasked with ensuring that the election process is running smoothly by keeping an eye on what happens at the polls - and reporting things that look fishy to the Board of Elections and Ohio Democratic Party. If you're interested, please contact our 1st Vice Chair [Denise Smith](#) ASAP.

YARD SIGNS STILL AVAILABLE. If you are still interested in procuring a yard sign to show off your support for our Democratic candidates, they're still available. You can pick them up at Portage County Democratic Party HQ, 210 S. Meridian St. Ravenna, from 12p - 6p every day through Election Day. And while you're there, don't forget to make a few phone calls or knock on a few doors!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Committee Meeting - October 24, 2018 - 6p - 7p - Reed Memorial Library, Ravenna

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.

Election Day - November 6, 2018 - 6:30a - 7:30p - Locations Throughout Portage County

Get out there and #BeTheChange! Find your polling location [here](#).

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: We still need Democratic poll workers in Portage County - and even this late in the game, you can still help out. 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 ASAP at 330-297-3518.

EARLY VOTING HOURS AND DEADLINE: For us to be successful, we need to get out the vote. To date, more than 12,000 people have already cast their ballots in Portage County. Unfortunately, not enough of them are Democrats. Let's change that! Early voting is now open, and ends the day before Election Day at 2pm. For a full list of early voting hours, ID requirements and more, visit the Board of Elections [website](#).

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GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES - Gotta Elect 'Em All!

All year long, we've been using this space to profile our candidates for public office. With just two weeks left until Election Day, now's the perfect time to brush up on all of them at once!

Visit the "[Election 2018](#)" page on our website and click on the links for each candidates' website and social media streams. Pay extra attention to our judicial candidates, who won't have the handy "D" next to their names on the ballot. They are Melody J. Stewart and Michael P. Donnelly for Ohio Supreme Court, and Darya Klammer and Mary Jane Trapp for 11th District Court of Appeals.

Check 'em out, prepare to vote - and make sure your friends and family know who to vote for to put #PeopleFirst in Ohio and our community!

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

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Athens Post - [Is the "Blue Wave" coming to Ohio?](#) - September 25, 2018

"What no one should do is just sit around and hope and expect it to happen because that's how you lose,' David Pepper, the chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party, said. 'Our attitude is that we hope there is a 'Blue Wave' but that's not enough. We have to build it.'"

Advance Ohio - [Anthony Gonzalez, Susan Moran Palmer spar in editorial interview for 16th Congressional District](#) - September 26, 2018

"Palmer took her own turn at flipping the political script. She described herself as a 'free trade Democrat.' She called tariffs backed by Republican President Donald Trump "taxation on consumers." (Gonzalez said he broadly supports them, although he thinks the world trade system needs to be overhauled entirely.) 'It's not hard to grow up in Youngstown and know that our industry was gutted long before free trade came about,' she said.

Cincinnati Enquirer (Editorial) - [Make No Mistake: Health care is on the ballot in November](#) - September 26, 2018

"For many Ohioans, the outcome of November's fast-approaching election will mean the difference between having affordable health care coverage, and living in fear of losing everything to pay for unplanned medical attention."

Columbus Dispatch (Editorial) - [For Ohio Governor: Richard Cordray offers a path forward](#) - September 30, 2018

"Cordray offers a more forward-looking vision for clean energy, protecting Lake Erie, supporting the ability of local governments to provide services to their communities and working with JobsOhio to improve workforce development and help grow small and mid-sized businesses. He also is a voice for reasonable gun restrictions, including red-flag laws to restrict firearm possession for those with demonstrated mental health issues." Only the 2nd *Dispatch* endorsement of a Democrat for Governor since the 1962.

Columbus Dispatch - [Ohio House candidate runs across Ohio to fight rising drug costs](#) - October 1, 2018

"Democrat John Kennedy is running for the Ohio House. In more ways than one. The candidate set out from his northeastern Ohio hometown of Aurora on Friday for a two-day, 142-mile run to the Statehouse in Columbus.

Kennedy, a 52-year-old ultra-marathoner who has type 1 diabetes, said he's using the run — and 14 stops along the way — to bring attention to the rising costs of insulin and other prescription drugs."

Record-Courier - [Kathleen Clyde spotlights Garrettsville in new ad](#) - October 5, 2018

"State Rep. Kathleen Clyde is showing off her hometown to Ohio voters with a new video. Clyde is spotlighting Garrettsville in her new video advertisement as she bids for Secretary of State. The Democratic candidate grew up in the 2.5-square-mile village. "Garrettsville has one stoplight and a lot of heart," Clyde said."

Cleveland Plain Dealer - [Did Frank LaRose change his tune on high-profile voting issues?](#)- October 9, 2018

"Kathleen Clyde, LaRose's Democratic opponent (for Secretary of State), was quick to issue a release accusing LaRose of 'political opportunism' for 'switching positions on key issues.' LaRose's campaign manager denies that he's flip-flopped, though he yields that LaRose's statements on some issues in recent days are different from what he's said in the past."

Record-Courier - [Video: Interview with Vicki Kline and Ed Dean](#)- October 10, 2018

Commissioner Vicki Kline faces off with her Republican opponent in a Facebook Live video from the *Record-Courier*.

Record-Courier - [Portage commissioner candidates eye economic growth](#)- October 14, 2018

"Democrat Mike Kerrigan was appointed to the seat in January after the death of Commissioner Maureen Frederick...A native of Portage County, Kerrigan said he left the area after graduating from Waterloo High School because, 'I was one of those kids who thought there was not a lot of opportunity here.' He pointed out that Portage County is home to three institutions of higher learning, but young people like him often leave the state after they graduate. 'It's not for lack of jobs, it's because we haven't built communities people want to live in,' he said. 'You need equal parts of all age groups to make Portage County successful.'"

Columbus Dispatch - ['06 redux? Democrats try to ride GOP scandals to victory](#) - October 15, 2018

"Locked out of every office for eight straight years, Ohio Democrats again are telling voters that all-Republican rule has again created a 'culture of corruption' in Columbus. With polls showing tight races throughout the ticket, governor candidate Richard Cordray — who was elected state treasurer in 2006 — and the entire ticket are telling Ohioans it is time for a change in the wake of scandals that have put Republicans on the defensive."

Record-Courier - [Video: Interview with Ohio House 75th District Candidates](#) - October 17, 2018

Our candidate, Randi Clites, faces off with her Republican opponent in a Facebook Live video from the *Record-Courier*.

Cleveland.com - [Dave Joyce v. Betsy Rader: Ohio congressional races to watch](#) - October 18, 2018

"In a year when Democratic women are energized by distaste for Trump, he's being challenged by Russell Township attorney Betsy Rader, who says she's running as a reformer. Rader says the corporate political action committee money that Joyce and other politicians accept for their campaigns taints politics, and individuals with enormous amounts of money to throw into the political system are making people 'lose their faith in democracy and in our system.'"

Record-Courier - [Video: Interview with Janet Esposito and Lis Kenneth Regula](#) - October 19, 2018

Our candidate for Auditor, Lis Kenneth Regula, faces off with his Republican opponent in a Facebook Live video from the *Record-Courier*.

Akron Beacon-Journal - [Bob Dyer: Auditor's house bucks trend](#) - October 20, 2018

"You have to be pretty honked off to spend this much time researching something. Martin Bramlett was...He thought the huge hike was ridiculous and unfair. So he decided to look online at the difference between previous Portage County appraisals and the new ones. One of the properties he located was the home of Janet and Anthony Esposito. Janet is the Portage County auditor, whose office is in charge of setting the values. Well, well, well. The value of the home owned by the Espositos has decreased by \$2,100, or 2.4 percent."

Washington Post - [How the demise of an online charter school is roiling Ohio politics](#) - October 20, 2018

"A million-dollar ad campaign blames the failure on Attorney General Mike DeWine, the GOP nominee for governor. A website lets voters look up how much money was taken from their school districts and given to ECOT. On the stump, legislative candidates are tying the scandal to what they call a 'culture of corruption' in state government...Meantime, a court fight between ECOT and the state went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the matter was referred to the FBI for investigation, keeping the school in the news."

Advance Ohio (Editorial) - [Kathleen Clyde for Ohio secretary of state](#) - October 21, 2018

"Clyde, an election law expert, has been a steady supporter of Ohioans' voting rights and of making it easier for Ohioans to exercise those rights. Voters should elect Kathleen Clyde as Ohio's next secretary of state."

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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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