

## NEWS AND NOTES - December 2017

Friend -

Traditionally, the period between Christmas and New Year's Day is a sleepy one, as we take stock of the year that was and look to the year to come. We're certainly doing those things - but we're anything but sleepy.

As you know, this week we are choosing a replacement for Commissioner Maureen Frederick, who passed away November 28th after serving our County with honor for many, many years. We are sincerely grateful for all Maureen did for Portage County residents, and the example of service she set for all of us to emulate. She will be missed, and her successor will have big shoes to fill.

The new year will also bring opportunities to show our County what our vision for the future is. We will need to hold the Commissioner seat currently occupied by Vicki A. Kline and retain Maureen's position, and we have an opportunity for a pickup in the Auditor's Office. At the state level, a number of new faces are emerging to lead our Party forward (including our own [Kathleen Clyde](#), candidate for Secretary of State, and local State Representative candidate [Randi Clites](#)). And, as voters begin to see the tragic effects of a government controlled by Donald Trump and the GOP, the need to keep [Sherrod Brown](#) in the U.S. Senate and elect more Democrats like [Tim Ryan](#) to Congress becomes all the more apparent. In each case, we can show our friends and neighbors why ours is the vision for a community that cares, and one that can lead us to shared prosperity. It's a challenge we embrace and look forward to.

Below are some events for you to be aware of as we move ahead. As always, if there's anything else you think we should be including here, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting County Treasurer Brad Cromes via [email](#).

Have a safe, happy and healthy New Year's celebration, and I look forward to working with you all to continue our progress in 2018.

Onward,

Craig Stephens, Chairman  
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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### CALLS TO ACTION - PETITIONS

County Treasurer Brad Cromes is circulating nominating petitions to help make sure Ohio's working-class champion, Sen. Sherrod Brown, can continue in his very important work in Washington. If you are interested in signing, please contact Brad [here](#).

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*NOTE: The following is an update from Bob Howard, member of the Central Committee from Brady Lake, [Portage County Progressives](#) leading organizer, and the point person for the redistricting ballot initiative effort in Portage County.*

The petition drive to put the "Fair Districts" reapportionment issue on the ballot continues. We are going slowly now...but we have submitted nearly 1200 signatures, as has the League of Women Voters. We have collected about 115% of the minimum needed to cover 5% of the total voters from the 2014 Gubernatorial race (critical to getting this issue on the ballot). Several petitions have never been returned, and Bob Howard will begin tracking them down. We hope to account for all or nearly all outstanding petitions before Thanksgiving, and to see where things stand with the R's in the legislature at that time.

Here's what we need:

1. Petitions are still being circulated, and we still need to continue gathering signatures.
2. While our joint effort has submitted about 2400 signatures which the Coalition believes are likely valid, our goal is to do as close to 6000 total for the County as possible. As things stand now, we have until July 2018 to complete the job. There is much more to do, but we are well on the way.

If you can volunteer to help collect signatures, want an additional petition, or have petitions to turn in at other times, please contact Bob Howard at 330-931-1186 or via [email](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Central Committee Meeting](#) - December 28, 2017 - 6pm - 7pm - Italian American Club, 644 S. Chestnut St., Ravenna, OH 44266

The purpose of this meeting is to select a Commissioner of Portage County who will be the successor for the term of Maureen Frederick who passed away on November 28, 2017.

[Sherrod Brown Fundraiser feat. Jason Kander](#) - January 24, 2018 - 2:30pm - 4pm - Popped!, [175 E. Erie St., Kent, OH 44240](#)

Please join special guest Jason Kander, The Portage County Democratic Party and The Kent State College Democrats at Popped! in Kent for an ice cream social in support of Ohio's champion for workers, Senator Sherrod Brown! Kander is President of Let America Vote PAC, and host of the Majority54 podcast (one of the fastest growing progressive pods in the nation). He is a former Missouri Secretary of State, candidate for U.S. Senate, and intelligence officer in the U.S. National Guard. He will share with us why it's so important to give Sherrod the support he needs to keep fighting for us in Washington. Suggested contribution levels range from \$25 to \$250 dollars. More information at the link above.

[NAACP MLK Breakfast](#) - January 13, 2018 - 9am - 12pm - United Church of Christ, [1400 E. Main St., Kent, OH 44240](#)

Join the Portage County NAACP for their annual celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tickets are \$10/each, with students 18 years old and younger free. Call Frank Hairston for tickets at [330-296-3556](tel:330-296-3556).

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## ELECTIONS UPDATE

REMINDER: Candidates wishing to seek local offices in 2018 (including Central Committee positions) should begin thinking through that process as soon as possible. The filing deadline for petitions and declarations of candidacy is 4pm, February 7, 2018.

The Board of Elections is also always looking for poll workers! Find out more about the job (and fill out an application) [here](#).

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## FROM OUR OFFICIALS - "What Do Commissioners and the Auditor do, anyway?"

*This section highlights the work of our local elected Democrats.*

We mentioned above that two County Commissioner seats and the County Auditor will be on the ballot in 2018. Do you know what they do?

For a primer on the duties of Commissioners, check out these resources from [County Commissioners Association of Ohio](#) and the [County Auditors Association of Ohio](#).

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## ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Sandusky Register - [Cordray Takes On Trump](#) - November 28, 2017

"(Cordray is) the only Democrat in the pack who's taking on President Trump, directly, as two acting directors battled for control of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, using emails, tweets and doughnuts on Monday."

New York Times - [Four Big Tax Deceptions](#) - November 28, 2017

"The plan is a windfall for the wealthy, but it's quite mixed for the middle class and poor. Some provisions raise taxes on the middle class and poor. Others cut taxes. Long term, most families would probably be worse off, as I've explained before."

Slate - [Vote Suppressors Unleashed](#) - November 28, 2017

"The Trump era has caused voting rights activists to be extra vigilant against efforts to suppress the vote, from Trump's faux "election integrity" commission to the Department of Justice's reversal of an Obama-era position against a particular form of voter purging in Ohio."

Record-Courier - [Maureen Frederick Remembered for Devotion to Local Politics](#) - November 28, 2017

Plunderbund - [DeWine, Husted Team Up for "Same Old Thing" Ticket](#) - November 30, 2017

"Ohio's schools have fallen from fifth in the country to 22nd amid a for-profit charter school scandal, our job growth has trailed the national average for 59 straight months and we lead the nation in overdose deaths – all under DeWine and Husted's watch," Pepper said. "It's not a surprise to see them team up; they are part of the status quo Columbus insiders who have left behind so many communities and families across our state in the decades they've been in office."

Youngstown Vindicator - [Brown Urges Congress to Extend Funding for Children's Health Insurance](#) - December 1, 2017

"Known as Healthy Start in Ohio, the program is set to run out of funding by year's end. The state is making contingency

plans if Congress doesn't act...Nationwide, CHIP provides access to comprehensive, affordable coverage to more than 9 million children, and Healthy Start helps cover more than 213,000 Ohioans."

Huffington Post - [Democrats Appalled by GOP's Long, Last-Minute Tax Bill with Handwritten Notes](#) - December 1, 2017

"Nobody knows what's in it," Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) told CNN on Friday. "They should be ashamed of themselves that they are willing to pass a bill that is this big with nobody really knowing what's in it."

Dayton Daily News - [Democratic Governor Candidates Debate Jobs, Taxes, Education Issues](#) - December 4, 2017

"(Former State Rep. Connie) Pillich, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, state Sen. Joe Schiavoni of Boardman and former U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton of Akron focused most of their criticism on Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and his running mate John Husted and other Republicans who have held a firm grip on state government for decades. They found fault with GOP-approved tax breaks and funding cuts for local governments and schools."

WCMH (Cleveland) - [Cordray Joins Governor Race](#) - December 5, 2017

Ashtabula Star Beacon - [Time For O'Neill to Go](#) - December 7, 2017

"It's time for Bill O'Neill to go away — for good. The sitting Ohio Supreme Court Justice, of course, should have resigned his court position immediately after declaring he was seeking the Ohio governor seat. That is the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct: a sitting justice cannot seek another office without resigning...All of this behavior is unbecoming a sitting state Supreme Court Justice."

WKBN (Cleveland) - [Net Neutrality: What It Is and How It Could Effect Your Internet Speed](#) - December 8, 2017

"I don't like this new net neutrality policy at all," Sen. Sherrod Brown said. "I think it undermines access to the Internet, low-cost access to the Internet. I just think in this country now, the rich are getting richer and the middle class is shrinking."

WFMJ (Youngstown) - [Tim Ryan Calls for Additional Funding to Fight Opioid Crisis](#) - December 11, 2017

Record-Courier - [Voters Could See Sales Tax On Ballot in 2019](#) - December 11, 2017

"Voters in Portage County could see a quarter percent sales tax increase on the ballot in 2019...in order to sustain increased road patrol, corrections and probation officers at the Portage County Sheriff's Office."

Columbus Dispatch - [Lawmakers Want Congressional Redistricting Plan Ready In January](#) - December 13, 2017

"Sen. Vernon Sykes, D-Akron, said he is glad Obhof is pushing for a January timetable and is cautiously optimistic that a bipartisan plan can be completed. 'We've had some preliminary meetings and discussions that have been cordial and positive,' he said."

Columbus Dispatch - [Ohio's Tim Ryan Coy About Possible Run for President in 2020](#) - December 17, 2017

"What is the Ohio congressman from Niles doing these days? He's traveling to Iowa and New Hampshire, the traditional sites of the first two presidential contests. But he points out that he's also going to Florida and Kentucky, West Virginia and Alabama — hardly early presidential-race states."

Akron Beacon-Journal (Editorial) - [An Intrusion Paired With a Denial of Abortion Rights](#) - December 18, 2017

"The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio got it right in framing the bill as 'turning doctors into investigators and women into suspects.' In that way, the legislation works against a better understanding of the genetic disorder and what is involved for parents. Which helps explain why some families with a Down syndrome child have been critical of such measures."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [Tax Bill Savings, Economic Development Might Not Be As Big As Advertised](#) - December 20, 2017

"This tax bill should have been an opportunity to work together to put money in the pockets of working people,' Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat who will vote against the bill, said. 'But instead of cutting taxes for the middle class, Washington chose to cut taxes for millionaires and corporations and pay for it by cutting Medicare and kicking people off their health insurance.'"

Record-Courier - [Who Will Be The Next Portage County Commissioner?](#) - December 25, 2017

"The Portage County Democratic Party will appoint a new county commissioner this week and will choose between a former Randolph Township trustee, a Portage attorney and a former county commissioner candidate Thursday night."

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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**

<http://www.portagedemocrats.org/>

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This email was sent to [cromesbl@gmail.com](mailto:cromesbl@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

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