

NEWS AND NOTES - October 2017

Friend -

This month has been a busy one for your Democratic Party. [Ohio Democratic Party](#) Chairman David Pepper visited Kent State to speak to the College Democrats, an event we co-sponsored. Two statewide candidates - [Steve Dettelbach for Attorney General](#) and [Kathleen Clyde for Secretary of State](#) - hosted fundraisers in Portage County. Another, Treasurer of State candidate [Rob Richardson](#), was the headliner at the Federated Democratic Women's annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. For the first time in a long time, the [Portage County NAACP](#) attended that dinner, and we returned the favor at their annual scholarship fund dinner.

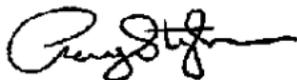
As the calendar turns to November and another Election Day, our thoughts are now on the local offices and races that mean so much to our day-to-day lives. Picking school board members, trustees, and council members who support progressive principles is fundamental to building our bench, but it's more than that. It's critical to building a County we're proud to call home.

Find what's on your ballot on the Board of Elections [website](#).

Below are some additional events/activities for you to be aware of going forward. If there's anything else you think we should be including here, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting Treasurer Brad Cromes via [email](#).

Thank you for all that each of you do, and I look forward to seeing you at a Democratic Party event soon.

Onward,



Craig Stephens, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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CALL TO ACTION - REDISTRICTING PETITION UPDATE

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](#)

November 1, 2017 - 5:15pm - 6:15pm - Italian American Society, 644 S. Chestnut St., Ravenna, OH 44266

You are invited to the Portage County Democratic Party's annual year-end "winter picnic." A short business meeting will be conducted, with a catered meal to follow. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to plan for

the year to come!

[Nan Whaley Meet & Greet](#)

November 9, 2017 - 5pm - 7pm - Duck Club, Canal Park, 300 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

Join Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan and County Council Person [Elizabeth Walters](#) on November 9 to meet [Mayor Nan Whaley](#), candidate for Governor! This free event is a friend-raiser and an opportunity to hear from Nan about her vision for Ohio. Please RSVP to Matt Calderon via [email](#) or by phone at 937-815-0860.

[Joe Schiavoni at Kent State](#)

November 28, 2017 - 7pm - 8pm - 1075 Risman Dr., Kent, OH 44240

This joint event between the Portage County Democratic Party and Kent State College Democrats will feature candidate for Governor and Ohio Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni. Admission is free. More information at the link.

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ELECTIONS UPDATE

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2017 - right around the corner! For a full account of candidates in this fall's election, see [this list](#). You can also find a list describing state and local issues [here](#), courtesy of the League of Women Voters of Kent.

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.

Last (but not least), the Board is always looking for poll workers! Find out more about the job (and fill out an application) [here](#).

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FROM OUR OFFICIALS - Trivia Time

This section highlights the work of our local elected Democrats.

We are fortunate to hold the vast majority of offices in Portage County. Can you name all of our office holders?

For a full list, check out our [website](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [*The prize for winning down-ballot races? A seat at the redistricting table*](#) - September 27, 2017

It may not be important to run of the mill voters, but for those who follow politics closely, and donate to candidates, the issue is significant. The commission will help determine how Ohio will look politically, for up to a decade. "It really matters," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said. "These seats take on extra importance when there is redistricting coming up."

Mic - [*Why Ohio's upcoming voting rights case could decide 2018 midterms, 2020 presidential election*](#) - September 27, 2017

In their brief, the plaintiffs claim an estimated 400,000 Ohio voters have been deregistered to vote. A total of 4 million have received letters in the mail informing them they'd be deregistered if they didn't take steps to reapply. The lawsuit was originally filed against current Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted by the state ACLU, which was working on behalf of Portage County, Ohio, native Larry Harmon in 2016. Harmon, a military veteran, attempted to vote in a special election the previous year and was informed he was no longer registered thanks to one of the inactive voter purges enacted by Husted, according to Mike Brickner, senior policy director for the Ohio ACLU.

Ohio Public Radio - [*Cincinnati Attorney launches bid for Ohio Treasurer*](#) - September 29, 2017

Democrats have candidates in each of the five executive statewide offices next year with a Cincinnati attorney's kickoff of his campaign for treasurer. Rob Richardson Jr. said he'll work on restructuring student loans, and wants to create a statewide business start-up fund and a task force on drug companies and the state's deadly opioid crisis – not typical actions by a

treasurer. But Richardson said term limited Republican Josh Mandel hasn't used his office to its full potential. "It's been used as totally a political tool. The current treasurer has been focused on his next political move instead of what's best for long-term interests of the state of Ohio," Richardson said.

Bloomberg - [Richard Cordray's consumer watchdog publishes rules for payday lenders](#) - October 5, 2017

The payday regulations are the second major rulemaking effort CFPB Director Richard Cordray has finished since June, bucking the Trump administration's often-stated goal of loosening businesses constraints. "The CFPB's new rule puts a stop to the payday debt traps that have plagued communities across the country," Cordray said in a Thursday statement. "Too often, borrowers who need quick cash end up trapped in loans they can't afford. The rule's common sense ability-to-repay protections prevent lenders from succeeding by setting up borrowers to fail."

Enquirer (Cincinnati) - [What is Ohio Issue 2?](#) - October 9, 2017

The proposed law would require Ohio's state-managed health care programs, such as Medicaid, to pay no more for medicine than the discounted price paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. Sounds great, right? No one likes high drug prices. Many cheered when "Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli was convicted of federal charges for scamming investors. Here's the problem: Both Medicaid and the VA negotiate for lower drug prices on some medicines. You can't compare the two final prices, because both Ohio law and federal law consider the extra discounts confidential to protect the contract negotiations.

Rep. Tim Ryan (The Hill) - [Along with fairer corporate rates, tax reform must include middle class](#) - October 11, 2017

At a time when half of all Americans are living paycheck-to-paycheck, profits at America's largest corporations have skyrocketed. But instead of investing in our economy and the American family, these large corporations pay armies of accountants to exploit every loophole in the book. When that is not enough, they send lobbyists to Washington to create even more exemptions and special interest tax breaks.

Record-Courier - [Little has happened in 2 months since Trump declared drug 'emergency'](#) - October 15, 2017

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said the designation was overdue. A slew of

lawmakers — Sen. Rob Portman, R–Ohio, Steve Stivers, R–Upper Arlington, Bill Johnson, R–Marietta and Marcy Kaptur, D–Toledo — also praised the decision. That was two months ago. Since then, the White House has conducted a national listening tour with Kellyanne Conway in 10 states. It's met with key stakeholders. This week, First Lady Melania Trump visited an opioid treatment center in West Virginia. But it has not signed the paperwork to make the crisis a national emergency.

The Blade (Toledo) - [Call the opioid crisis what it is: a national emergency](#) - October 19, 2017

It is time for our government to call a national emergency by its name and begin to act, on many fronts. Two big steps: Repeal Ensuring Patient Access and pass STOP.

Record-Courier - [Ravenna resident kicks off campaign for state representative](#) - October 20, 2017

After successfully advocating state lawmakers to keep a program that helps children with medical handicaps in the budget, Ravenna resident Randi Clites decided she'd join them. Clites officially kicked off her campaign to represent Ohio's 75th Congressional District on Wednesday as a Democrat. The seat is held by Democrat Kathleen Clyde, who is running for Ohio 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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The Portage County Democratic Party

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

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