

NEWS AND NOTES - September 2017

Friend -

Fall is officially here - and while there are no statewide or national candidates on the ballot, the increased activity in our calendar reflects the fact that there is no such thing as an "off year." Resisting the bad decision making in Washington and Columbus requires all of us to pay attention, especially when they don't think we're looking.

Earlier this week, the latest attempt at reviving "Trumpcare," the Graham-Cassidy Bill, failed to reach the floor of the Senate after thousands of calls from activists begging to keep the Affordable Care Act in place. This is a big win for all of us...but it won't be the last time Republicans try to take us backward. Secretary of State Jon Husted is doing that right now before the U.S. Supreme Court, trying to salvage a right to purge thousands of Ohioans from the voter rolls. I was honored to join others in a brief against that effort, and am confident we will prevail.

The fight goes on, and if we stick together and remind the people who it is that truly has their backs, we will win.

I want to extend a personal thanks to all of those who worked locally at our booth at the Balloon-A-Fair (and especially to Leota Reale for organizing volunteers). Special thanks, too, to those who used that occasion to gather additional signatures for the [redistricting reform effort](#). We are now much closer to our goal for that very important work - thanks to all of you!

Below are listed a number of events for you to be aware of that are going on in the weeks ahead, as well as a profile of our Clerk of Courts, Jill Fankhauser, and news and notes from around the state.

If there are items beyond those listed you feel it would benefit our members to know about, please send them to Brad Cromes at cromesbl@gmail.com for inclusion in a future newsletter.

Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to continuing the fight with you to Election Day and beyond.

Onward,

Craig Stephens, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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CALL TO ACTION

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 have submitted nearly 300 signatures to ODP in our first bunch, and will continue to collect more, with a final goal of working with your partners to gather the more than 6,000 needed from Portage County.

If you can volunteer to help collect signatures, want an additional petition, or have petitions to turn in at other times, please contact Bob at 330-931-1186 or at murnhoward@gmail.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

*Portage County Bar Association Awards Lunch
September 28, 2017 - 11:30am - 1:00pm - Elks Club, 775 N. Freedom St.,
Ravenna, OH 44266*

You are invited to join the Portage County Bar Association in honoring Craig Stephens with the Norm Sandvoss Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes members of the Bar who not only demonstrate exceptional dedication to the standards of the legal profession, but also exemplify integrity and commitment to helping others in our community. Tickets are available from Bar Secretary Mary Alice Cowan.

[Clyde for Secretary of State Fundraiser](#)

October 2, 2017 - 6pm - 7:30pm - 1055 Cottage Gate Dr., Kent, OH 44240
Please join hosts Valerie Kelly, Dave Robins, Connie Collier, Judy Oslin and Averil McClelland for an event in support of State Representative Kathleen Clyde, candidate for Ohio Secretary of State. Suggested contribution levels are \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500. Please make checks payable to "Kathleen Clyde Committee." Contributions can be made at the event, or in advance [here](#).

Winfield Church Community Breakfast

October 7, 2017 - Winfield Church of God in Christ - 6595 Winfield St., Ravenna, OH 44266

Join the McElrath community for their regular community breakfast. This month's talk features Brian Boykin, Kent City School Board Member and Assistant Director of Portage County Job & Family Services. All are welcome!

[Steve Dettelbach for Attorney General Fundraiser](#)

October 13, 2017 - 5:30pm - 7pm - 299-2 Wood Ridge Dr., Aurora, OH 44202
Please join donors from around the area in support of Steve Dettelbach, former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio and candidate for Ohio Attorney General. Contribution levels are \$500, \$250, or \$100. Please make checks payable to "Dettelbach for Ohio," and mail to 35 E. Gay St. Suite 403, Columbus, OH 43215. Contributions can also be made online at www.stevedforohio.com/october13.

[Jefferson-Jackson Dinner](#)

October 19, 2017 - 5:30pm - 8:30pm - Ravenna Elks Lodge, 775 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, OH 44266

You are cordially invited to attend the Federated Democratic Women of Portage County for their Annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, which celebrates our Party's history and points toward a more progressive future. This year's keynote speaker will be Rob Richardson, Jr., a Cincinnati attorney and candidate for Ohio Treasurer of State. Tickets are \$40/person. Please mail checks, made out to "Federated Democratic Women," to Suzanne Coia, 3960 Summit Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266, and call 330-310-0126 with any questions.

[NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner](#)

October 21, 2017 - 5:30pm - 7:30pm - Kent State University Student Center, Kent, OH 44240

Join the Portage County NAACP for their annual fundraiser in support of their education fund. The event also recognizes individuals and groups for their leadership, support of education, academic achievement and overall community building. Contact Frank Hairston for ticket information at 330-296-3556.

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ELECTIONS UPDATE

The voter registration deadline for this fall's General Election is October 10, 2017. To register, complete the form [here](#) and return to the Board of Elections by that date (they will be open until 9pm to facilitate that activity). You can also register or update your address [online](#).

Candidates for positions on the ballot this fall must file their pre-election campaign finance reports no later than October 26, 2017. The report should reflect activity through October 18th.

For a full list of candidates in this fall's election, see [this list](#).

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 - Clerk of Courts Jill K. Fankhauser

This section highlights the work of our local elected Democrats.

Clerk of Courts Jill K. Fankhauser (D - Kent) was appointed in 2015 to complete the term of her mother-in-law and long time Portage County office holder Linda Fankhauser. She won election last fall to a full term in one of the year's most hotly contested down ballot races, fighting off well-funded, extremely negative attacks from her opponent. She pledged during the election to run the office - which has a staff of 53 and an annual budget of \$2.8 million - with "honesty, integrity, and with an open door policy." We sat

down with Jill to talk about why she was interested in the office, what she's most proud of thus far, and what work remains. Lightly edited notes of that conversation follow.

Thanks for making some time to talk with us today, Jill. Let's start with your background - why did you want this job?

"I worked as an attorney in private practice for 12 years before running for office, and was a probation officer before that. I have been an assistant prosecutor and public defender in my career, as well, so I have seen the system from many perspectives. I felt I could use my knowledge and experience as a lawyer to serve the public in a greater way, and Linda's retirement created an opportunity to do that."

What are you most proud of when you think about your time as Clerk?

"My Deputy Clerks, and how well they work together to serve the public and the 11 judges our office works so closely with. They represent our office well, with an overall goal of providing quality service to the public. They do a good job, and are public servants first and foremost."

What's surprised you about this office? What's been most challenging?

"Not much has surprised me given my prior experience interacting with the Clerk's office. In leadership, you always try to do what's right, and that's not always popular. Keeping that focus on the greater good is the important thing."

What are your plans for the office going forward?

"We're currently working on security and infrastructure upgrades to our facility. There's a need to balance access for the public with the safety of my staff - particularly given the sensitive work we do and the information we have. We're also working on e-citation, and we have a grant that's paying for that service, which connects officers directly with CourtView (the office's main software). e-citation will make our office more efficient and free our clerks up to do other projects we'd like them to do - and save time for our officers, too."

Ok, Jill, last question: what can we do to help?

"Tell your friends and neighbors about positive experiences you have with our office. Going to court isn't fun, and often the days they see us are some of the worst ones of people's lives. We try to provide friendly, competent and efficient service, and work really hard at it. We can use the positive reinforcement - and help spreading the word!"

We'll definitely do our part. Thank you again for your time!

To learn more about what Jill's working on, visit her office website [here](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Lima News - [Auditor candidate Space makes pitch in Lima](#)- August 29, 2017

"While the office of Ohio Auditor may not carry with it the same level of name recognition as a governor or congressional representative, it is an important one with powers that, according to one candidate, can be used for the benefit of Ohioans. That was the message from Democrat Zack Space, a former congressman who announced his candidacy for state auditor Tuesday at United Association Local 776 in Lima, part of a campaign kickoff tour that also included stops in Martins Ferry, Zanesville and east Columbus."

Bloomberg - [There's Something The Matter With Ohio, Too](#)- August 30, 2017

The Buckeye State isn't collapsing, as it did in the early 1980s, but it's suffering a long, grinding slide into the lower ranks of U.S. states. Meanwhile, Ohio is undergoing social breakdown -- it's at the center of the national opioid epidemic.

CNN - [Jerry Springer on Ohio governor run: 'I haven't decided'](#) - August 31, 2017

Jerry Springer says he is still deciding whether he will run for Ohio governor in 2018. "I know there's talk ... I haven't decided anything ... and certainly no announcement Monday," the TV host and former Democratic Cincinnati mayor told CNN in an email statement issued by his publicist Wednesday. "I'm in Cleveland that day giving a speech at the Labor Day rally supporting unions."

Washington Post - [*Rader: I was born in poverty in Appalachia. "Hillbilly Elegy" doesn't speak for me*](#) - September 1, 2017

Portage County congressional candidate Betsy Rader rebuts Republican J.D. Vance's popular novel, and the policy solutions it proposes for addressing rural poverty in Ohio and the Appalachian region.

Chronicle-Telegram (Elyria) - [*Rep. Kaptur backs Betty Sutton for Ohio Governor*](#) - September 5, 2017

During the annual Labor Day Family Celebration at Black River Landing, Kaptur, D-Toledo, voiced support for Sutton's 2018 Democratic gubernatorial bid, saying she fought for Lorain when she was a congresswoman and she would keep fighting.

WFMJ (Youngstown) - [*Ohio senators call for creation of path for immigrant "Dreamers"*](#) - September 5, 2017

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) issued a statement saying that while he favors increased border security, he also would like to see Congress create a path to citizenship. "President Trump promised to go after violent criminals, not innocent children," said Brown. "We should not be targeting young people who are working, going to school, paying taxes and contributing to this country - the country they grew up in and the only home they've ever known."

Record-Courier - [*Portage cities weigh city managers*](#) - September 5, 2017

For more than 40 years, Kent has been sort of a governmental odd duck in Portage County, with a form of government no other political subdivision in the county has. Now, if some in Ravenna and Streetsboro have their way, the city manager form of government may be the rule, rather than the exception in the county.

New Yorker - [*9 Mayors on What Washington Can Learn from Local Government*](#) - September 6, 2017

Nan Whaley (D), Dayton, Ohio (Mayor and Candidate for Governor): "In Dayton, we're in the most conservative part of the state of Ohio. And you know, when I tell people that the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce supported an income tax for universal pre-K, I mean it's just unheard of. But that helped a lot, to make sure we had a double-digit victory, that the whole community bought in."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [*There's a compelling reason to fund Pre-K: It works*](#) - September 7, 2017

Quality preschool, coupled with parental counseling when necessary, offers the only realistic hope of changing that. And communities with high concentrations of poverty that ignore the evidence will find it increasingly difficult to survive. There's a simple reason cities and states across the country are pouring money into quality preschool. It works.

Record-Courier - [*Celebrate Portage! Awards recognize the best in the County*](#) - September 7, 2017

As the rain came down on Portage County on Thursday, the spirits of community members were lifted in celebration inside the NEOMED Education and Wellness Center. They were gathered for the annual Portage County Celebration Dinner. The event recognizes award nominees and winners of the Celebrate Portage! Awards. Categories included initiatives in the areas of cultural arts, economic development, community service and public health; most engaging high school initiative; and community hero award.

The Daily Democracy - [*Women are leading the fight for voting rights*](#) - September 7, 2017

As an Ohio state lawmaker, (Kathleen) Clyde, a Democrat, has been a voting rights champion, fighting the state's cuts to early voting and same-day registration, its purges of the voter rolls, and other restrictive voting policies. Now she's running for secretary of state, with automatic voter registration a key part of her platform.

Plunderbund - [*AG Candidate Steve Dettelbach Wants to Be People's Attorney*](#) - September 8, 2017

Dettelbach said he is not a career politician; he is a career prosecutor who has spent his life defending victims and practicing law. "The rule of law at its best means one simple thing: That there is one set of rules that applies to everybody, one set of rules that applies to protect every single person, no matter how vulnerable, and holds every single person accountable, no matter how powerful," Dettelbach said.

Record-Courier - [*Opioid crisis growing in Portage County*](#) - September 10, 2017

"We started seeing a problem in 2012 when heroin came onto the scene. It

was strong and it was cheap. People started falling like flies,” said Wayne Enders, the administrator for Coroner Dean DePerro’s office. “And then heroin wasn’t enough. It didn’t last long, so people started mixing stuff into it. That’s when things got lethal.” There were 158 drug intoxication deaths in Portage County between January 2013 and August 2017. The previous six years saw fewer than half of that, with 65 deaths.

Enquirer (Cincinnati) - [7 Days of Heroin: This is What an Epidemic Looks Like](#) - September 11, 2017

Reporter talks with addicts, families, law enforcement and service providers to put a face on the crisis. A must-read.

WTRF (Wheeling) - [Locals react to Governor Debate](#) - September 13, 2017
Candidates fielded questions concerning the Buckeye State, but a poll during the debate showed the big topics of concern were jobs and economy issues. Locally they're worried about keeping young people from leaving this area to improve the local economy.

Record-Courier - [Census: Median income drops in Portage](#) - September 14, 2017

Portage County residents hoping for good news from the latest U.S. Census Bureau survey numbers released Thursday might be a bit disappointed, as the median wage for Portage County residents dropped while the poverty level grew.

Dispatch (Columbus) - ['Navigators' for Ohio's uninsured shocked by 71% budget cut](#) - September 15, 2017

President Donald Trump’s administration has slashed funding to Ohio nonprofit groups that help the poor sign up for subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. “We are in an absolute state of shock,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “We are trying to determine if we can move forward.” The charity, which funds local organizations known as “navigators,” was informed by federal Health and Human Services officials Thursday that its funding would be cut by 71 percent, to \$485,967, for the coming year, severely undermining outreach efforts across the state.

Record-Courier - [Portage judges back plan for drug treatment center](#) -

September 16, 2017

Three Portage judges are pushing for the creation of a residential drug treatment center in the county — and are urging county commissioners to fund it. Municipal judges Kevin Poland and Becky Doherty, along with Common Pleas Judge Barb Oswick, spoke to commissioners recently about their vision and need for a facility that could help in the county's opioid crisis.

The New Political (Athens) - [*You should know Joe Schiavoni*](#) - *September 18, 2017*

Highlighting a piece of Maryland Statehouse legislation, Schiavoni is introducing a bill to the Statehouse that will cut college loans in half for students who purchase homes in specified economic revitalization zones across Ohio. According to Schiavoni, "sometimes you have to do things like this to incentivize young people to stay in this area... it's about reinvesting, but reinvesting in creative ways."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [*Possibly vote next month could reinstate Medicaid expansion freeze*](#) - *September 18, 2017*

(Ohio House Speaker Cliff) Rosenberger recently sent a memo to House Republicans, giving them until 5 p.m. Sunday to indicate whether they would vote to override Kasich's veto. The freeze would go into effect July 1, 2018, and would make an exception for people receiving drug and alcohol addiction or mental illness treatment.

WCMH (Columbus) - [*Sen. Brown blasts Ohio legislators for school building conditions*](#) - *September 19, 2017*

United States Senator Sherrod Brown says the state legislature has failed its citizens. "We've had a state legislature that, frankly, hasn't stepped up on education and healthcare; two of its most important functions," said Brown. That is why he has introduced federal legislation to step into the gap left by the state. Brown's school infrastructure bill would set aside \$70 billion dollars for schools across the country to access via grants for infrastructure needs. "Our schools are woefully underfunded, the legislature hasn't done its job," said Brown.

Dispatch (Columbus) - [*Russian Hackers target OH elections, but no breach*](#)<http://www.portagedemocrats.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dispatch.com%2Fnews%2F20170924%2Fohio-among-states-targeted-by-russians-but-no->

[breach&e=3359918e7020905197ef1641deadf1ec&utm_source=portagedems&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=septnews2017&n=40&test_email=1](https://www.ohio-democrats.org/news/2017/09/25/breach&e=3359918e7020905197ef1641deadf1ec&utm_source=portagedems&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=septnews2017&n=40&test_email=1) - *September 25, 2017*

While Ohio's election system was neither breached nor compromised, state officials learned for the first time Friday that the Buckeye State was among 21 that hackers linked to Russia tried to penetrate in the months before the 2016 election.

Blade (Toledo) - [*Ohio Democratic governor candidates set second debate*](#) - *September 26, 2017*

The Ohio Democratic Party on Monday announced it would hold its second debate among its four gubernatorial candidates on Oct. 29 in Columbus at the Convention Center as part of the party's annual state dinner. A time for the debate hasn't been set, but officials said it would be in the early evening. Participating will be former state Rep. Connie Pillich of Montgomery, state Sen. Joe Schiavoni of Boardman, former U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton of Copley and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley.

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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/>

The Portage County Democratic Party · 210 S Meridian St, Ravenna, OH 44266, United States

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