

NEWS AND NOTES - November 2017

Friend -

Just a few days past Thanksgiving, it's important that we acknowledge what makes the Portage County Democratic Party so successful - you.

Your passion, advocacy, and tenacity have helped us deliver on the promise of a better future for residents of our County for many years. In these uncertain times, they are shining brighter than ever, and make me confident that we can continue delivering on that promise for many years to come.

We need look no further than the results of this month's election for examples. In Kent, we returned all three At-Large City Council seats - including promising newcomer [Gwen Rosenberg](#). In Ravenna's nonpartisan At-Large City Council elections, the story was the same - we returned Amy Michael for another term, and elected Young Dem [Andrew Kluge](#) to present a new vision for the City.

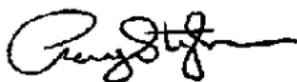
Across the County, up and down the ballot, Democrats new and old answered the call to service - and you answered the call to support them.

Sincerely: thank you.

Below are several events/activities for you to be aware of as we enter the holiday season. 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](#).

Thank you again for all that each of you do to make our Party a true champion for the people of Portage County.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Stephens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

[Joe Schiavoni at Kent State](#)

November 28, 2017 - 7pm - 8pm - Bowman Hall Room 207, 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.

[Federated Democratic Women Holiday Brunch](#)

December 2, 2017 - 10:30am - 12pm - Black Iron Grille, 7291 State Route 43, Kent, OH 44240

The Federated Democratic Women are hosting their annual holiday brunch at Twin Lakes' newest eatery. In lieu of gifts, this year the group is donating Christmas items to needy families (and making cash donations to Miller House). For details and to RSVP, contact Linda Fankhauser at 330-676-0559.

[Court House Christmas Party](#)

December 15, 2017 - 4pm - 8pm - Italian American Society, 644 S. Chestnut St., Ravenna, OH 44266

Join Judge Laurie Pittman and the Court House staff for their annual holiday event. Music, refreshments, a costume contest and more await!

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ELECTIONS UPDATE

Full election results from this month's local races/issues are now available on the Board's [website](#).

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 - Engineer Michael A. Marozzi

This section highlights the work of our local elected Democrats.

County Engineer Michael A. "Mickey" Marozzi has served in that role for 29 years, making him the longest-serving Engineer in County history. He's just beginning a new four-year term - his 9th in the office. We reached out to Mickey to learn more about how he came to office, what he's proudest of, and what he's working on. A lightly edited version of that conversation follows.

Thanks for taking the time to talk with us, Mickey. You've been serving so well and for so long, we think a lot of people forget exactly how it was that you came to office. Can you take us down memory lane and remind us?

"The story of how I came to be Portage County Engineer is rather unusual. Early in my career, I worked for 8 years in the Portage County 'Sanitary' Engineering Department (today it is called Water Resources). I left quite frustrated for various reasons and thought I was done with government service. A year later, my predecessor, LeRoy Satrom, hired me as his Assistant. Two and one-half years later, I was elected as Portage County Engineer for my first term. Fortunately, the only election contest I ever had was my first time out and it was only a Primary. The irony is, my opponent was my former boss, the former Portage County Sanitary Engineer. Needless to say, I won the Primary in a close contest and was elected without an opponent in the General. I have not had an opponent since that first Primary contest."

Why did you want this position?

"I didn't want the position until my predecessor decided he wanted me. I then took a good look at the position, decided I could do that and thought it would be a good career. So I decided to run for election. It seemed like a good job that I could make into a career and even stay locally in the County where I was born and raised. I am a Ravenna boy and have lived in Portage County my whole life."

What are you most proud of having accomplished?

"I am most proud of being involved in the creation of our current central facility. We have been at our current location on Newton Falls Road in Ravenna Township for about 18 years now. The prior facility we had on

Cleveland Road in the City of Ravenna was absolutely deplorable. It was old, outdated, undersized, and even condemned by the Fire Department. It took many years of hard work, but we opened the new facility in 1999 and I was a part of that whole process, from planning to design to construction. I would also have to list the Crain Avenue bridge project in Kent as one of my most satisfying accomplishments. I worked on that project almost 17 years. I would also add to that list of accomplishments my year as President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio. I was elected by my colleagues to be the leader of our state organization."

What challenges have been the most troubling to you?

"I would say that my most frustrating challenge is that most people think I should be able to pave all 370 miles of County road. I have been in office for 29 years and have only paved about 150 miles of road. Besides that, I didn't mention that we also have 170 bridge structures to maintain. Over my tenure, we have averaged about 2 bridge replacements a year. Most people have no idea how significantly underfunded our Department is based on our responsibilities."

What are your plans for the office going forward?

"My plans for the future are very simple. Pave as many miles of road per year as we can and replace as many bridges per year as we can. In the meantime, I will continue to work to try to get additional funding for road and bridge improvements. The need will never go away. There will always be another road that needs to be paved or another bridge that needs to be replaced."

What can we do to help you do your work most effectively?

"Be patient with our progress. You don't wave your hand and pave a road or replace a bridge."

Great stuff, Mickey. Thanks again for talking with us and for all you do, and best of luck in the new term!

For more on Mickey's work at the Engineer's Office, and the services the office provides, visit his website [here](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Vindicator (Youngstown) - [Rep. Tim Ryan says more funding needed for opioid crisis](#) - October 31, 2017

"Valley Congressman Tim Ryan says the fight against the opioid epidemic comes down to funding and the federal government isn't doing enough to help. "We've done a couple things, but nothing that is adequate," Ryan said. Ryan estimates the federal government needs to spend \$10 billion to support the fight on every front, from supporting law enforcement to prevention and longer addiction treatment options."

The Hill (D.C.) - [Trump repeals consumer arbitration rule, wins banker praise](#) - November 1, 2017

"Democrats and the CFPB criticized Trump, claiming he sides with banks over consumers. They've long called for action on forced arbitration, which they say denies fraud victims basic legal rights, and the CFPB rule was the most ambitious effort to regulate the practice."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [Emails, documents are stark reminder of Ohio's secret gerrymandering process](#) - November 1, 2017

"For weeks in 2011, state-paid contractors, on leave from their public jobs for Republican lawmakers, worked secretly in a hotel room described as the "bunker" to create political maps aimed at creating safe Republican districts for most of Ohio's congressional delegation. The maps, drawn in part with guidance from national Republican Party leaders and the staff of U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner, often disregarded community concerns and instead focused on political gains by creating districts that in some cases weave more than 100 miles across the state."

WLIO (Lima) - [Democrats to focus on local elections](#) - November 2, 2017

"It's all about going back to basics for Ohio Democrats this year. The Ohio Democratic Party says that a big focus for this year's November elections is local races...It's all about their Main Street Initiative. Chairman David Pepper says that politics should be about public service and that a strong party starts by having people who are in it for the right reasons. The goal of this initiative is to put an emphasis on those public servants who are good for building a strong community."

Times-Leader (Martins Ferry) - [Cera introduces bill to help extend broadband access](#) - November 5, 2017

"Whether it's applying for jobs, accessing critical health and financial information, taking classes or just trying to stay in touch with friends and family, the internet has become a vital part of our everyday lives," (State Rep. Jack) Cera said. "H.B. 378 directs resources to build our broadband infrastructure and allow Ohioans in all corners of the state to be more connected than ever before."

Record-Courier - [Pre-election robo-calls influence local school levies](#) - November 8, 2017

"Robo calls that went out to voters in four Portage school districts in the hours before Tuesday's vote contained grossly inflated costs and at least one superintendent plans to do something about it."

Record-Courier - [No charges filed against Ravenna Service Director Don Kainrad](#)- November 9, 2017

"No criminal charges will be filed against Ravenna Service Director Don Kainrad following a police investigation into his alleged misuse of city workers and property."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - [12 Ohio counties vote to raise taxes to fight opioid epidemic](#) - November 10, 2017

"Voters in a dozen Ohio counties agreed this week to pay more taxes to fight the fallout from the opioid epidemic. Thirteen counties put issues on the ballot to boost human services departments that have been devastated by the drug crisis. All but one approved the taxes...Authorities said counties across Ohio are placing more children than ever into foster care because of their parents' addictions to opioids. And those children are staying much longer, as their parents struggle to recover."

Record-Courier - [Portage leaders in dispute about state funding](#) - November 11, 2017

"A fight over millions in local government funds has local leaders at odds about how to best distribute the money."

Dispatch (Columbus) - [Mandel faith advisor defends Roy Moore](#) - November 14, 2017

"Ohio Treasurer U.S. Senate Candidate Josh Mandel has refused to say whether he supports embattled Alabama Senate nominee Roy Moore. But a

member if his faith outreach team has taken to social media to cast doubt on Moore's female accusers."

Enquirer (Cincinnati) - [Former AG Rich Cordray steps down at CFPB. Governor bid next?](#) - November 15, 2017

"Many Democrats' top choice for Ohio governor just quit his post as a consumer watchdog and is expected to enter the race soon. Former Ohio Attorney General and Jeopardy champion Richard Cordray announced Wednesday he would leave his post as leader of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is expected to run for Ohio governor as a Democrat to replace term-limited Gov. John Kasich."

Ohio Public Radio - [Women say the atmosphere at Ohio Statehouse has long been toxic](#) - November 16, 2017

"We are going to make sure anybody who comes into the facilities, that they are safe as well." (Democratic State Senator Charleta) Tavares says the Statehouse is still a male-dominated culture. Last week, she wrote an open letter, saying what current leaders have done is not enough to change attitudes and behavior. "It spoke to coming together as women to ensure we have a culture of safety here in the General Assembly, that we are going to protect the women within our organization and that we are going to make sure anybody who comes into the facilities, that they are safe as well."

Plunderbund - [Millionaire Jim Renacci just voted to raise taxes on middle-class Ohioans](#) - November 16, 2017

"Millionaire U.S. Congressman Jim Renacci voted Thursday for the House Republican tax plan, which will raise taxes on 36 million middle-class households across America, in order to give massive tax breaks to the wealthy and big corporations that ship jobs overseas, the Ohio Democratic Party said in a release this afternoon."

Advance Ohio (Cleveland) - Editorial: [Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill unfit for any public office](#) - November 19, 2017

"He said he wants to "speak up on behalf of heterosexual men" -- never mind, apparently about the waves of female victims who have revealed recently that they were sexually harassed or assaulted by politicians and Hollywood bigwigs. Democratic women legislators and staff members signed an open letter saying the Ohio General Assembly isn't doing enough to combat sexual

harassment at the Statehouse. It's ridiculous for O'Neill, who sits on the bench of the highest court in Ohio, to confuse his love life (which we hope was consensual) with allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault and pedophilia."

Record-Courier - Editorial: [Don't mess with local government fund formula](#) - November 19, 2017

"Those of you who wonder why roads don't get repaved or important ideas don't get traction might want to pay close attention to a simmering political fight between Portage County's townships and larger communities."

Record-Courier - [Medical marijuana to grow in Portage](#) - November 20, 2017

"Less than a year before Ohio's medical marijuana program will be implemented, it is starting to become clearer where this enterprise will be located in Portage County, and where it won't be."

Dispatch (Columbus) - [U.S. Supreme Court resets Ohio voter purge case to January 10th](#) - November 21, 2017

"The U.S. Supreme Court has rescheduled oral arguments to Jan. 10 on whether Ohio election officials violated federal law when they removed tens of thousands of people from the voting rolls simply because they had not cast ballots in recent elections. A federal appeals court in Cincinnati struck down Ohio's purge of the voter rolls in 2016 by the office of Secretary of State Jon Husted...The justices will have to determine whether Ohio devised a system aimed at circumventing federal law by striking voters — many of them low-income — from the rolls simply because they hadn't voted."

Record-Courier - [Tentative agreement reached to end DD strike](#) - November 23, 2017

"Members of the Service and Support Administration of the Portage County Board of Disabilities have reached a tentative agreement with the board to end a seven-week strike."

Record-Courier - [Judge rules for Portage County Commissioners in open meetings case](#) - November 24, 2017

"A judge has ruled in favor of the Portage County Commissioners, stating in his opinion that the board did not violate Ohio's Open Meetings Act in 2015."

Ohio Public Radio - [*Dettelbach wants better records kept on harassment, inappropriate conduct*](#) - November 26, 2017

"Steve Dettelbach, Democratic candidate for Attorney General, says just using that term - "inappropriate conduct" - isn't enough when state government is involved. Dettelbach says he would seek requirements for staff leaders to write up a report on each allegation, to create a paper trail to explain what happened. "We need to make sure that if someone is doing this that there's a record of it so that they don't go out and find the next intern, the next victim, the next donor or supporter's college kid and do the same thing to them as they did to the last person."

New York Magazine - [*The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was designed to stop Donald Trump*](#) - November 27, 2017

"The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which protects consumers from being defrauded by banks, is the only agency ever designed to withstand regulatory capture by big business. Now that its director has resigned, and is attempting to pass control on to a successor who shares its mission of preventing banks from misleading and exploiting consumers, the fight its designers imagined is coming to pass. The Trump administration is going to war to turn control of the agency over to forces that wish to destroy it."

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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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