

DELAWARE DIRECTIONS

March 2019 Delaware County Democratic Party Newsletter Number 2-1



Word From the Chair



Peg Watkins, Chair

The theme of this year's MLK, Jr. Breakfast was "The Beloved Community", taken from speeches lesser known than the "I Have a Dream" speech. Bishop Tracy Malone shared what it means to live in community. As your party chair, I consider all Democrats in Delaware County to be part of my "beloved community." Relating to each other in beloved community is how we will identify and support good local candidates in 2019.

We are seeking people interested in running for the nearly 100 nonpartisan local offices that will be on the ballot this fall (*see below for the current list of DelaDem candidates*). We want to get as many names of Democrats on the ballot as we can, and then support them. In the past, many offices have had only one candidate, and some races have even had no name on the ballot and positions were filled by appointment after the fact. I'm happy to talk and/or meet with these prospective candidates to let them know what resources DCDP can offer them. We also have a committee on Campaigns and Candidates, chaired by **Aileen Wagner**. Please feel free to contact either of us for more information.

Especially this year, when our candidates are running within one school district, one village or part of a city, one township, these are neighborhood races. We have been developing stronger relationships with other Democrats in the county that make us stronger and capable of more than any of us can do alone. As we look at festivals, street fairs, and parades this year, our presence will show the many non-affiliated county residents that we are not a one-party county, that there is an alternative to the local GOP.

In the 1970s, we said, "Think globally, act locally." Today, in 2019, we need to ACT LOCALLY. Our

local candidates in 2018 built the strength of the Democratic community in Delaware. If we don't continue to strengthen that foundation, we will not be ready for 2020, regardless of how much speculation or jockeying for position among candidates happens this year.

We need everyone's help to build this community, whether you run for office or help identify and/or support someone else to run. We have just one county-wide candidate to support: **Emma Jones**, candidate for Municipal Clerk of Courts. A handful of other candidates have announced, and we expect to see many more. If you are not able to run this year, please consider helping with someone else's campaign – it's the best way for you to get elected in the future!

This year is important; please be a part of growing this beloved community!

Thanks, Peg



"On the Basis of Sex"

We had a great turn-out for our private screening/fundraiser of "On the Basis of Sex". The movie is about the rise of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg through the male-dominated legal profession of the '50s, '60s, and '70s, from law school on up. The film focuses on a pivotal tax law case she argued that changed how federal laws were written with regard to gender-



discrimination. 130 people showed up (on Saturday morning!). It was an enthusiastic audience who responded to the emotional and poignant moments in the film. After the movie, Judge Pat Delaney of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (*at left with Chair, Peg Watkins*), shared her thoughts on the gender issues raised in the movie and even some insights on how the relationship between Justice Ginsburg and her husband was portrayed. She also fielded questions from the audience. Special thanks to all who made this event

possible including **Linda Diamond**, **Julie Houston**, Fund-Raising Chair, and the intrepid Communications team, including **Mindy Hedges**, **Bertie Dell**, et al.

- Brian Jaffe



The 2019 Elections!

Our Current List of Candidates:

- **Emma Jones** is running for Delaware Municipal Court Clerk in Delaware County. Please support her: <https://www.votemirles.com/>
- **Melanie Farkas** is running for Township Trustee in Liberty Twp. Please support her: <https://www.melaniefarkas.com/>
- **Joydeep (Jay) Gupta** is running for Orange Township Fiscal Officer. Please support him. <https://www.votejaygupta.com/>
- **Heather Stevens Karr** is running for Powell City Council. Please support her: <https://heatherkarr.com>
- **Drew Farrell** is running for Delaware City Council, Ward 4.

Thinking About Running for Office?

If you are considering getting your name on the ballot, here are some important resources:

- [Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy](#)
- [Candidate Requirement Guide](#)
- [Visit the Delaware County Board of Elections - Candidate Portal](#)
- Please contact **Aileen Wagner**, Chair of the DCDP Campaigns & Candidates committee. Find her contact information [here](#)
- **NOTE:** filing deadline is **August 7** (90 days before the general election). But don't wait too long, as you will have to file a petition with verified signatures

Poll Worker Help

As you may have read, the Delaware Board of Elections will be using a new voting system starting in the May Primary. This is a small election with only one contested race on the Republican side. Regardless of the number of items on the ballot, we need to have people trained on this new system. **The Democrats are in need of 50 precinct elections officials for May.** This way we will be more than ready to go for the big November election that will have over 100 races, countywide. To sign-up, please **Contact Amy Murphy** at 740-833-2080. You will be paid for training and for election day. You must be over 18 and live in the county. If you have a member of your family who is 17, we may be able to use them as well.



Citizens Climate Lobby - Update

Editor's Note: Occasionally we invite guest columnists for the newsletter. The views expressed in these guest columns are not necessarily those of the Party.

Big News: A Carbon Fee Bill is Introduced! Supported by Citizens' Climate Lobby, including the Delaware CCL Chapter



Marianne Gabel

With a nonpartisan hat firmly in place, this Delaware County Democratic Party (DCDP) Executive Committee member is writing to tell you about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA), introduced this month in the U.S. House of Representatives by a bipartisan group. What an important moment this is in the fight for the future of the earth!

Why is this bill important? The nonpartisan group Citizens' Climate Lobby (I'm a member, along with at least three other DCDP Executive Committee members) has been working to get a "carbon fee and dividend" bill into Congress for ten years. Support for this bill is critical, given the short time that we have for slowing global warming to a livable level for the earth.

How will it work? This bill would impose a fee on carbon (starting at \$15 per metric ton of CO₂ released) paid at the fossil fuel well-head or mine. The fee would rise by \$10 per year. This system will be market-based (not regulatory), transparent and predictable, which gives it bipartisan appeal. Any climate policy, to be successful, must have bipartisan support....

[Click here](#) to read the complete article about EICDA.

-Marianne Gabel is a lawyer, environmentalist, and founder of the local chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby.



How to Break the "Red Ceiling"

Jack Hartman is a journalist, professor, and activist. In a two-part presentation delivered over the past two monthly Executive Committee meetings, he offered his thoughts on the opportunities for Democratic success in Delaware County. The presentation is reproduced in his column.



Jack Hartman

In Delaware County we Democrats must break what I call The Red Ceiling.

We have not elected a Democrat to a county or state legislative office in more than 40 years. Despite a Herculean effort in 2018, we came up short. We got closer than we have gotten in a long while, but we still failed to win. We failed to break the Red Ceiling. We need a comprehensive "autopsy" to determine why we lost and create a plan for winning in the future.

Our best showing was in the August 7 Special Election for the 12th congressional district, when **Danny O'Connor** got 46% of the vote to his opponent's 54% in Delaware County. In the general election, Danny got 44% to his opponent's 55% in Delaware County, a net slippage of 3% compared to the Special Election.

Two judicial candidates did get a majority of the votes in the county. **Pat Delaney** got 62% for court of appeals judge and **Michael Donnelly** got 52% for Ohio Supreme Court. **Melody Stewart** got 46% of the vote for the other Ohio Supreme Court seat.

All three judicial candidates went on to win their races. Judicial candidates in Ohio do not have their party membership stated next to their names like candidates for non-judicial do. I believe the fact that only judicial candidates carried Delaware County has great significance to our future. I will get to that in a moment.

From 2008 to 2016, the Democrats running for county and legislative office in Delaware County have received an average of 33 percent of the vote. The Republicans have gotten an average of 67 percent. (The highest Democratic percentage was 39 percent).

In other words, Democrats must persuade 17 percent of the electorate to change their political behavior. This is a tall order because most voters are creatures of habit

A wave election generally nets the benefiting party 8-10 percent more of the vote than usual. That still leaves us 7-9 percent short. Individual voter contact through a strong "ground game" can be helpful, too, but generally produces a 3-5 percent gain. Adding the best case scenarios of both a wave and a ground game together adds up to 15 percent, that is still 2 percent short of victory since we must overcome a 17 percent deficit.

In other words, we could receive a very favorable "double benefit" and still end up losing ... again.

We did make significant gains in 2018. Our six candidates for county and legislative office averaged 40 percent, a 7% increase over our 10-year average. I would credit some of that gain to a mini-blue wave and some of it to a solid ground game.

However, that 40 percent only increased our average vote for county and legislative offices for the past 12 years by 1 percent to 34 percent.

Yet we are far from the promised land of victory. Conditions for us Democrats were more favorable than normal in 2018 in part because two of the republican candidates -- Jordan and Brenner -- were discredited and unpopular in their party. One, Brenner, has a 4-year term and probably will not be on

the ballot in 2020 and the other, Jordan, is engaged in a nasty divorce proceeding and is trying to knock off the incumbent **Cindy Dinovo** in the clerk of courts primary in May. If Jordan wins the primary, our candidate Emma merles has improved chances in the general election. If Jordan loses the primary, he probably will run for re-election to the Ohio house in 2020 and will again become the republican we most likely can defeat.

We cannot predict at this time whether or not conditions for Democrats will be favorable, unfavorable or neutral in 2020.

Nonetheless, we Democrats remain *decided underdogs* in Delaware county going into 2020. The same power dynamics of the past 40 years *remain largely in effect*. The republican winners in contested races will have *higher name recognition*, the *more* office-holding experience, the *more* money, *more* endorsements by county parties and party leaders, *more* media coverage, *more* television commercials, more social network presence, *more* color postcards sent through the mail, *more* yard signs, and *more* ability to portray their opponents in a negative light than we Democrats do.

In Delaware county, we must either adopt the tools of the power dynamics or see our string of losses continue. Idealism is a wonderful part of political involvement, but we are doomed if we fail to confront the objective reality of the situation in which we find ourselves.

We Democrats need comprehensive, monumental, game-changing campaigns to win in Delaware County. In order to succeed, Democrats, first, must be willing to invest in the campaign management, political polling and research in order to determine a feasible path to victory. Then we Democrats must be willing to invest in organization and campaign activities -- such as expensive direct-mail advertising, social-media advertising, TV advertising and yard signs -- in order to achieve success. *Danny O'Connor was able to do this and ran a close race.*

What we learned from the results of the three judicial races, in which two of the three Democratic candidates carried Delaware County and the third one came close, is that the biggest obstacle to our success is the word "Democrat." Remove the party label and our people can carry the county.

What does that mean? It means that the perception of the vast majority of the voters in Delaware County is that the Democratic party does not represent their values. Conversely, it means that the vast majority of the voters in Delaware County believe that the Republican party represents their values and they vote that way. I heard a story a few years ago that a local man went into his voting precinct and said to the workers, "please tell me who the Republicans are so i can vote for them."

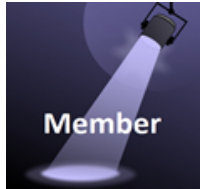
It is my belief that the perception of the Democratic party by local residents is derived largely from the actions and policies of the national Democratic party and its leaders, *not* from the behavior of leading Democrats *at the county and state level.*

In other words, our brand, the Democratic party at the national level, has caused us to lose for four decades.

So for us to succeed in electing Democrats to county and legislative offices, we must develop and publicize a unique brand of the Democratic party of Delaware County. One that more closely represents the thinking of the residents of the county and one that is distinct from the national party. We must change our brand before we can start winning elections. We need to conduct a public opinion poll to determine the wants, needs and attitudes of Delaware counties and more closely align our party's values with our constituents. We must change the way the Delaware County Democratic party is perceived by county residents before we can break the red ceiling. It is as simple as that. Let us get started.

We must be organized so that we can seize upon these and other issues in county government. We need two strong candidates to come forward to develop these and other issues and to gain name recognition.

LET US BREAK THE RED CEILING TOGETHER!



DCDP Member Spotlight

Interview with **Marian Jacques** for our *Member Spotlight*.

Tell us a little bit about yourself -- Where are you from?

I am from the state up North! I lived in the Detroit area until I was eleven. We then moved to California for about 5 years, returning to the Midwest when I was 16. I finished high school in Cincinnati and attended Ohio State University where I majored in social work. I have been in the central Ohio area ever since.

I have two children. My son, Neal, lives with his wife in Albuquerque New Mexico. My daughter, Lee Ann, and her husband live in Washington DC.

I worked in the social service field for over 30 years, retiring at the end of 2011. I very much enjoyed my career and am enjoying retirement even more!



How did you get involved in politics and the Democratic Party? When did you join the Democratic Party in Delaware County and why?

My passion for environmental issues started in 1970 when Ralph Nader spoke at a presentation when I was at Ohio State.

I raised my kids in Marysville and lived there 23 years. During that time I became involved in a number of local issues. I also served two terms as a township trustee.

I have lived in Delaware about two-and-a-half years. I became actively involved with Indivisible immediately after the 2016 election. At our first meeting a comment was made about people joining the Democratic party. The statement was made that there are things you don't like about it, get involved and try to make changes. I took this challenge to heart and joined the Delaware Dems shortly after that meeting.

What is your favorite thing about the DCDP?

One of the things I most enjoy about the Delaware Downs is that it feels very much like a Grassroots movement. It is so easy for us to be angry at the national political scene, the division in our country and the hopelessness of our efforts to change things at the top. However, at a local level, I see where a lot of good can take place and I admire the members of the party and their activism.

What's your favorite personal activity?

I have a new personal favorite activity. My first granddaughter was just born on March 11th. Cassidy Ann is absolutely beautiful and I am looking forward to showering her with so much love.

I also love traveling and spending time volunteering in Tanzania.

What do you want to tell the rest of the Party and our readers about why they should become involved in the Party?

We need people involved in the Democratic party. Fresh new ideas and perspectives are always necessary for the growth of any organization.

I have made so many good friends through my involvement with the party. It is a wonderful thing to be with like-minded people who share your beliefs and values. I believe there is strength in numbers.

We have a lot of work to do but I am very proud to be part of the Democratic party and work with an amazing group of people.

Interested in sharing your story? Send an email to communications@ohiodeladems.org.

Edited by Mindy Hedges



DeLaDems in the News

Melanie Farkas:

- December 18, 2018, ABC 6, [Article on Liberty Township EMS Fire Service](#)
- December 27, 2018, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter, Liberty Trustees ignore needs of community](#)
- January 15, Delaware Gazette, [Article on Candidacy for Liberty Twp Trustee](#)

Brian Jaffe, December 15, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: Time Obama Weighed in](#)

Virginia Yoder, March 1, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: Portman Should Scrutinize Trump](#)

Albert Gabel, March 9, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: Walls are closing in on President Trump](#)

Mindy Hedges, January 15, WSYX, [Interview: Governor's promise to keep Pre-existing conditions covered in Ohio's healthcare](#)

Marianne Gabel:

- December 2, 2018, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: Bipartisan Proposal on Climate Change](#)
- February 12, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: How to Defray Conservation Cost](#)
- February 21, Delaware Gazette, [mentioned in article: Climate Group Celebrates Bill](#)

Richard Bradley: March 14, Columbus Dispatch, [Letter: Future Leaders and Renewable Energy](#)



Ohio Legislative Watch

This section is intended to keep our readers up to speed with key legislation moving through the Ohio State House.

New Legislation - In the past few weeks, the floodgates opened as lawmakers in both the Ohio House and Senate introduced a total of 118 bills for consideration by the 133rd General Assembly.

Some of the proposals that we'll be watching in the coming months include:

[House Bill 19 - Menstrual Hygiene Products \(Antani, Kelly\)](#) - Exempts tampons and other menstrual hygiene products from the sales and use tax.

[House Bill 34 - Minimum Wage \(Kelly\)](#) - Increases the state's minimum wage to be \$15 per hour by 2023. Also allows for municipalities, townships, and counties to establish higher minimum wage requirements.

[House Bill 49 - Voter ID \(Greenspan\)](#) - To authorize the use of a concealed firearms permit as an approved photo identification for voting purposes.

[House Bill 54 - Local Government Fund \(Cera, Rogers\)](#) - To restore revenue sharing between the state and its counties, cities, townships and villages via the Local Government Fund to its pre-2011 levels.

[House Bill 62 - Transportation Budget \(Oelslager\)](#) - To approve expenditures of gas tax revenue for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. A placeholder bill today, the legislation will soon be amended to include the DeWine Administration's proposals to address what they are calling a transportation funding "crisis."

[House Bill 68 \(Hood, Keller\) / \[Senate Bill 23 \\(Roegner\\)\]\(#\)](#) - **Abortion Ban** - Bans abortion at the point of a detectable fetal heartbeat. The bill would also criminalize doctors who perform an abortion after this point with a fifth degree felony, with the ability for the State Medical Board to suspend a medical license without a hearing. Many believe this measure would result in the closure of all remaining clinics in Ohio, effectively ending legal abortion in the state.

[Senate Bill 3 - Drug Sentencing \(Eklund, O'Brien\)](#) - To revise Ohio's drug sentencing laws.

[Senate Bill 11 - Ohio Fairness Act \(Antonio\)](#) - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, meaning that it would add LGBTQ people to the laws that make discrimination illegal in Ohio. The bill would not affect existing religious exemptions that are currently present in Ohio's law.

[Senate Bill 19 - Extreme Risk Protection Order \(Williams\)](#) - To allow family, household members and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order temporarily restricting a person from having access to firearms if that person is deemed a danger to themselves or others.

[Senate Bill 27 - Fetal Remains \(Uecker\)](#) - To require the burial or cremation of fetal remains resulting from a surgical abortion procedure.

[Senate Bill 30 - Women's Suffrage \(Kunze, Williams\)](#) - Creates the Bi-Partisan women's Suffrage Centennial Commission responsible to plan and carry out events that educate and raise the awareness about the women's suffrage movement in recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the 19th amendment.

[Senate Bill 33 - Critical Infrastructure \(Hoagland\)](#) - To increase penalties for damage to certain so-called "critical infrastructure" facilities. This measure is believed to be targeted at environmental protests of pipelines and other energy infrastructure.

[Senate Bill 43 - Domestic Violence \(Kunze, Antonio\)](#) - Addresses domestic violence by enhancing penalties and restricting firearms from convicted perpetrators. The bill also prohibits strangulation against a family or household member or dating partner.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Call or Email your **State Senator Andrew Brenner** - Phone (614) 466-8086
- <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/jordan/contact>
- Call or Email your **State Representative, Kris Jordan 67th** - Phone: (614) 644-6711
- <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/andrew-brenner/contact>

- Call or Email your **State Representative, Rick Carfagna 68th** - Phone (614) 466-1431
- <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/rick-carfagna/contact>

And call **Gov DeWine's** office asking him to veto any bill you oppose that passes in the House and Senate. (614) 466-3555 or any bill you are in favor of that you want him to sign.

Click here to continue reading about what else you can be doing to affect legislation in the State House.

Compiled and edited by: Marian Jacques



Upcoming Special Events

What: [Legacy Dinner 2019, Featuring Nancy Pelosi,](#)

When: Friday, May 17th (Evening Time TBA)

Where: Columbus, OH (Location TBA)

The Party has reserved three tables (30 seats). Cost of each seat is \$250, but we are able to offer these at the discount rate of \$235 each. If you plan to attend, please do the following: Send an e-mail to our party treasurer schmajo@aol.com, or mail your check, payable to "DCDP" for \$235.00 to DCDP Treasurer, 6299 Lake Trail Dr., Westerville, OH 43082. (You may also bring your check to HQ, 12½ N Sandusky Street in Delaware, Tuesday through Friday, 11am to 5pm.)

What: **Great Decisions Lecture Series – The Rise Of Populism In Europe**

When: Friday, March 29, 12pm-1pm

Where: William St United Methodist Church, 28 W. William St., Delaware

More Info: Presenter: Benjamin McKean, Political Science, OSU <http://www.delawareohio.net/wp-content/uploads/2019-Poster.pdf>

What: **Main Street Initiative Candidate Training**

When & Where: Sign up [here](#) to receive info about upcoming opportunities and training near you.

More Info: The Ohio Democratic Party Main Street Initiative is hosting professional candidate training across the state to help you navigate and explore opportunities in public service!



Ongoing DCDP Events

EXECUTIVE/CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Delaware County Democratic Party monthly meetings are held every third Thursday of the month (unless previously notified). Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

- **When:** 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
- **Where:** We've outgrown our DCDP Headquarters at 12½ N. Sandusky St. For the balance of the year we will be meeting at the Willis Education Center on 74 W William St, Delaware, OH 43015 (unless otherwise notified; check the website or our [Facebook page](#).)
- [Event Calendar](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the following sub-committees:

- Campaigns and Candidates
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Membership Recruitment

Also check the [calendar](#) as meetings can get rescheduled.

Sign-up/Renew your Party Membership: While the Party operates on volunteer support, we do have actual costs that are required to maintain day-to-day operations. Please go to our [DCDP Membership](#) area to sign-up for or renew your Party membership.

'Like' and Interact with us on Facebook: Communicate with our active membership and get the most up-to-date information. <https://facebook.com/ohiodeladems>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DelCountyOHDems>

Check the [website](#) for **volunteer opportunities**

Central Committee and Executive Committee Membership - This is an opportunity to make a difference. Any registered Democratic voter can run for, or be appointed to a seat on the Delaware County Democratic Party Central Committee. If you are interested in serving, contact the central office for more information: Phone: (740) 363- 7500; email: chair@ohiodeladems.org. You can also get more information on our [website](#) on how to file for candidacy and to see if your precinct has an opening.

The *Delaware Directions Newsletter* is written, designed, and assembled each month by members of the DCDP Communications Committee along with contributing writers.

Brian Jaffe: Publisher/Writer

Mindy Hedges: Editor/Writer

Bertie Dell: Editorial Consultant/Writer

Marian Jacques: Writer

Peg Watkins: Advisor/Columnist

German Vargas: Web Guru