



Word From the Chair



Peg Watkins, Chair

“There is nothing new under the sun,” according to one of my favorite books.

Yet we did experience new things in 2018. For the May Primary, not only did Democrats in our county actually have a full slate of candidates to vote for, there were a record number of Democrats on the ballot running for our Central Committee, including seven contested races. In August, the Special Congressional Election produced a result to shame the

Republican candidate, who just barely eked out a win in a gerrymandered district. In the November General Election, Delaware County had the highest voter turnout in Ohio by far. We end the year with a record number of dues-paying members in our local party – nearly 300!

Looking ahead to 2019, our county party is in a stronger position to support local Democratic “Main Street” candidates. If you are interested in running for any local office, the Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) has an online tool to help you identify which offices are up this year based on where you live. Go to: <https://ohiodems.civicengine.com>. The deadline to file for most of these offices is in August. And please take a moment to read about what some first-time candidates had to say in the below article "The experience of running a campaign". You can also read about: our upcoming Board of Elections vote to elect (or re-elect) our Democratic representative; the 2018 Holiday Party; our "Member Spotlight" on Joydeep Gupta; and upcoming bills in the lame-duck state house session in our new "Ohio Legislative Watch" section.

After such an exciting year, what can we ALL do?

1. Pay your membership dues to support our party's infrastructure and keep our headquarters operating

2. Make some calls to your local legislators or to Kasich's office. Read the article in our new "Ohio Legislative Watch" section and keep up with the status of bills in the state legislature.
3. Reach out to fellow Democrats. If you're on the Executive or Central Committee, organize your precinct. Pick five people to reach out to, and have a gathering at yourhouse, your neighbor's house, or a local bar or restaurant. If you're not, find out who that person is and let them know you're willing to help
4. Join a committee – there are many to choose from. Our website describes them at: <https://www.ohiodeladems.org/subcommittee>

Happy Holidays and **Happy New Year** ! Relax and rest up, we have a big year ahead of us!

-Peg



BoE Election Reminder

At our January 17, 2019 Central/Executive Committee meeting, members will vote on the person we recommend to the Ohio Secretary of State for appointment to the Delaware County Board of Elections. As people are aware, the Board consists of two Democrats and two Republicans. Currently Peg Watkins holds one of the seats, and her terms runs through 2020. Ed Helvey holds the other seat; his term is expiring and he is running for re-election for another four-year term.

The job pays a stipend of a little over \$13,000 along with the county benefit plan. In addition to two meetings per month during normal business hours, the Board spends much more time the month before and after an election, as well as on election days. The Board also holds formal hearings when voters file challenges to petitions to determine the validity of the claims. Since 1999 Delaware County has had about 16 election cases that have been decided by the Ohio Supreme Court. Occasionally, the Board will meet with the County Commissioners to discuss funding and major purchases.

The seat is open to all Democratic electors who reside and are registered to vote in DelawareCounty. The vote on the recommendation will be by open vote of all members present at the January meeting of the Central Committee/Executive Committee.

The duty of the Chair is to guarantee that the process is open and fair. This is a campaign, so anyone who wants to be considered for the position can be nominated from the floor. In order to have information about your candidacy made available to the Central/Executive Committee before the meeting, please send an email that you would want shared with the Committee. This email will then be forwarded to the group. Send email to chair@ohiodeladems.org. If you have additional questions, send a message to the same email address.

This is an important decision that the committee must make. We need a board member who is dedicated to the task and will represent the ideals of the Democratic Party. We need someone who is smart and understands the election process.

For additional information, I recommend attending any meeting of the Board of Elections, which are open to the public. Meeting times and dates are posted on the BOE website. In January, the Board is scheduled to meet on the 15th at 9:00 a.m. You can also review information on the Secretary of State's [webpage](#). Of particular relevance is [Directive 2016-51](#).

Peg L Watkins, Chair



Great Party for a Great Party

The DCDP Holiday Party was a big hit as over 130 Delaware Dems came together to collectively celebrate all our hard work in 2018 and to share some Holiday cheer. Special thanks to **Mindy Hedges, Judy Carpenter, Marian Jacques, David Carpenter, Linda Behan, Emily Meck, Denise & Morgan McCandless, Marya Kolman, and Pam Warrick-Schkolnik** for all the work they did to make this an entertaining evening. And of course our gratitude to Chair, **Peg Watkins** and the other Officers for hosting such a festive event. Historic

Merrick Hall on the OWU campus was the backdrop for the Party. A savory selection of buffet-style hors d'oeuvres were the bill of fare, with more than enough pastry and sweets to tempt even the most calorie conscious, served up mostly by the Holiday Party committee. It was fun evening as we donned our Holiday apparel, and enjoyed each others' company while strengthening our Party bonds. See pictures from the event on the [DCDP Facebook page](#).



Peg kicked off the evening welcoming all the guests and reminding everyone of all of our accomplishments over the course of the year. See "Cheers From the Chair" for more from Peg.

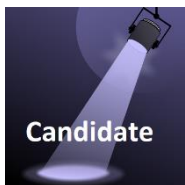
Next it was time for some special gifts, where several Republicans were "honored" in absentia. Our special "Elf on the Shelf", (**Judy Carpenter**, AKA Della Dem) handed out these dubious gifts to some of our party attendees in lieu of their intended recipients. See the [video on Facebook](#).

Among the "recipients" were:

- **Ed Helvey** accepting for **Brett Kavanaugh**: A double-sided beer helmet because, well, Beers
- **Louise Valentine** accepting for "ECOT-Andy" **Brenner**: A report card with straight F's for doing such a great job supporting the ECOT debacle
- **Marian Jacques** accepting for **Kris Jordan**: A Gift Certificate for Anger Management Classes because, y'know, he could've used them to avoid those divorce hearings
- **Spencer Dirrig** accepting for Liberty Township Trustee, **Melanie Leneghan**: An EMS helicopter because she'll need a new way to safely navigate to Liberty Township meetings
- **Cathi Kulik** accepting **The Republican Salamander Award**: Representing all of Ohio's gerrymandered districts (especially District 9, "Snake on the Lake").
- **Brad Shimp** accepting for **Donald Trump**: A one-way ticket to Moscow (with a layover in Saudi Arabia), to be with his BFF.
- **David Carpenter** accepting for **Mitch McConnell**: A Turtleneck, because...has anyone ever seen Mitch McConnell's neck?
- **Corinne Lyman** accepting for **Mike Pence** and **Mike DeWine**: Complimentary Membership Cards to Planned Parenthood (Mike & Mike, one opening soon near you!)
- **Marianne Gabel** accepting for Ivanka Trump: Sexy Inmate Outfit (with pre-affixed prisoner number 24601—somewhere Jean Valjean is smiling).

- **Emma Mirles-Jones** accepting for Melania Trump: Business Card of Divorce Lawyer Allie Monie, to remind her of all she has missed and what she can look forward to.

Written by: Brian Jaffe



The Experience of Running a Campaign

We asked some of our local candidates to share their thoughts about running for office. Each was a first-time candidate, and here's what they had to say:

Cory Hoffman

Many people think running for office must be boring, but it can actually be a lot of fun! On the first Friday of each month throughout the year, the City of Delaware hosts a little festival downtown they call -- wait for it -- "First Friday." On one such First Friday in October, as I was walking to the Delaware County Democratic Party's tent - I noticed a couple of guys dressed up like Ghostbusters taking pictures with little kids. As a huge Ghostbusters fan, I had to introduce myself to them and ask how and where they got such authentic looking costumes. When I did so, I noticed that they had picked up one of my yard signs from the Dem's tent, and it was sitting in the back of their mock "Ecto-1." I thought that was awesome and I mentioned to them that if I was going to be in politics I had dreamed of making a campaign ad based on the commercials from Ghostbusters I and II. They knew immediately what I was talking about, and it just so happens that one of the guys actually makes commercials and ads for a living! And so, we agreed to give it a go, and our Ghostbusters Tribute campaign ad "Who Ya Gonna Vote" went viral. Many people found it to be a refreshing deviation from conventional political ads, it even got covered by the Washington Post, and at least a few political science professors are planning to show it in their upcoming classes.



So what's the bottom line? The greatest prize that life has to offer is to work hard at work worth doing. if you believe in your soul the world can be a better place, there is nothing more worth doing nor more rewarding than campaigning for public office while evangelizing the ideals of

the Democratic Party, justice, and a more perfect union. Being a candidate is a chance to spread the Good News -- that the world can be better!

I'll finish by referencing a quote by the great Philosopher Bertrand Russell. He once said, "The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt." This quote perfectly sums up many people who run for office versus those who don't. This is particularly true with regard to our lovely delegation of Republican legislators here in DelawareCounty! Kris Jordan's IQ is so low he probably trips over it and almost shoots himself with his concealed handgun on a daily basis, but alas the guy's a legislator!

If you're thinking of running for office, and you doubt that you could do it or that you may not be qualified -- that is a feature, not a bug! And, let me tell you that, yes, you can do it. And, you're probably as qualified or more so than the majority of people currently running things. The only difference between you and people who are in office is that they believed they could do it. Please! Join us in the arena and run for office and we'll help you in any way that we can! "The only people who change the world are those crazy enough to try!"

Louise Valentine



I never had an epiphany moment when the light-bulb went off that I would run for office. After the 2016 election, I was talking with a friend who follows politics very closely and we joked that if Trump could run and win anyone could... maybe even me. After we stopped laughing at the prospect of me as an elected official, I actually started doing some research into who my representatives were, what their backgrounds were and what the qualifications were to even run for those offices. I'll be honest, I didn't know the answers to these questions. I didn't like what I found out and thought about what the future of Ohio would look like for the next generation, my children, if some changes weren't made. At this point I knew I just needed to get involved and start really paying attention.

I started attending Delaware County Democratic Party meetings, going to events like citizen lobby days, signing up for "running for office" training by different local and national organizations, just to start getting my feet wet to see what state politics really entailed and what it would take if I wanted to run. Admittedly, it's not easy to get engaged when you're working a full time job and raising two small children, but I got to a point where I was angry with who was supposed to be representing us. I wanted better for Ohio, so I made time. An hour here and an hour there really started to add up. After returning from an intensive four-day training in DC in

July 2017, I wasn't scared away from running and knew that if I hadn't thrown in the towel on this idea by now, I should move forward.

Running for office was easily one of the most stressful things I've done, but it has also been one of the most rewarding. I was, and continue to be, humbled by the support I received. So many people living in State Senate District 19 just want to be heard and have viable choices on the ballot, and it was empowering to know that I was part of something much bigger than just my ideas.

Democracy doesn't happen on its own; we have to fight for it. I hope there are some driven individuals reading this right now who will at least entertain the idea, because we need you in this fight.

Indu Rajan

I was a non-political person who had no political aspirations. But after the 2016 Presidential election I was sick of seeing the GOP destroying our safety net in the name of deregulation. I was sick of not having a choice in Delaware County to vote for anybody but a Republican.

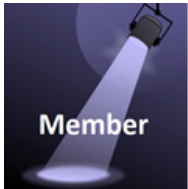
I filed my papers in February to get on the ballot. For the next nine months, life was a roller coaster. Since I did not have a campaign manager, I had to do everything myself, including collecting funds, designing and printing literature, managing finances, managing social media accounts, and much more.



There was never a dull moment during this campaign. I was able to meet so many wonderful people and build lasting friendships. My kids loved tagging along to the First Friday events and Farmers' Market. Emily's List, Progressive Change Committee, ODP, Run for Something and Facebook groups were all excellent resources. The support that the DCDP provided was incredible.

Now that we have built a foundation, it will be so much easier to run. When people come up to you and say "I voted for you," it makes you tear up and realize that it was so worth it. So, if I can run for office, you definitely can. I have no regrets and I would consider running again in a heartbeat.

- Edited by DCDP newsletter staff



DCDP Member Spotlight

Joydeep Gupta is a tireless, dedicated volunteer who knocked on over a thousand doors during the November campaign. He always makes us smile and appreciate his commitment to the Delaware County Democratic Party and our candidates.

Tell us a little about yourself and family -- where are you from, how long you have lived in Delaware County, what is your occupation, and your political participation before now?



First, I want to take this opportunity to thank the newsletter editors for considering me as the **Spotlight** member as I am honored to be included in this edition of our DCDP newsletter.

Now, back to the questions -- if I have to describe myself in a few words, it would be ***"a human being who is positive about every aspect of life and strongly believes there is a reason for everything that happens."***

I am from India, born and brought up (for the most part) in a beautiful, culture-rich, politically aware place, Silchar (in northeast India) and I have lived in quite a few cities across India before coming to the U.S. My wife is from New Delhi and we are living in the central Ohio region for almost 17 years, presently in the Olentangy Crossings community on Route 23 (Delaware county | Precinct: Orange-L).

By profession, I am an Associate Vice President (AVP) with Tech Mahindra, a USD \$5 Billion global Digital transformation and IT consulting company, with presence in almost all major cities across the U.S. I partner with the C-Suite leaders advising them on strategy, innovation, Industry shifts, and what they should be doing to stay ahead, be innovative and efficient.

My work involves lot of travel and takes me to many different places across the U.S., meeting & interacting with Industry leaders, providing me with opportunities to share and learn. Out of all these interactions, if you ask me, my two key takeaways would be: (1) we should

be **accountable** to our own selves, first and foremost and (2) **trust** will continue to be at the core of anything we want to achieve.

We have two children. Our daughter is getting ready to start college next year, with a few 'early action' college acceptances have starting to come in. Our son is in 8th grade, at Shanahan Middle school (in the Olentangy school district).

Before the 2018 midterm, I did not involve myself in any political activities other than running for HOA trustee board, which I won and I was the president of the first elected board for three years.

I look at politics as one of the key enablers of change and a powerful platform that could transform lives of everyone, making this world a much better place for all of us and for generations to come. The process of "how" is what makes it very fascinating. To me, every citizen should participate and get involved in politics, in anyway possible.

When did you join the Delaware County Democratic Party and why?

Officially, it started with the 2018 midterm but back in 2009, I shared my interest with Ed Helvey, who was the chairperson of DCDP at that time. My relationship with Ed started from those days and we continued to stay in touch. I am happy to have known him, and I have high regards for him.

I joined the Democratic Party because of its ideology, its value system, what it stands for, it's bold and transformative policies, amazing leaders and more importantly, our Delaware County Democratic Party team. I find the DCDP like a happy family, always welcoming, very friendly, and true to its mission (2018 midterm results demonstrates these). With DCDP, I feel a sense of "togetherness."

What was the most fun event you have participated in so far?

With this midterm campaign, I have participated and attended quite a few events and I will highlight two of them here:

(1) Sen. Sherrod Brown's event for Louise Valentine at DCDP HQ. I think it was well-deserved support from Sen. Brown, and it further strengthened Louise's position. It was also a proud moment for us at DCDP. (2) The Blue Wave Blowout event at Highbanks, which created a good buzz for our candidates and the DCDP.

Tell us about a funny or silly thing that might have happened to you while working on an event or canvassing for a candidate

In fact, I can think of quite a few incidents to share, regardless of those being funny or silly :) like: (1) When we knocked on the door of Mr Troy Balderson's family member, we had a brief but very cordial conversation. (2) In another situation, the husband had shut the storm door saying he won't vote for us, and while I was backing my car, his wife came from inside waving at me to stop, and telling me she has already voted for the Democrats. (3) And then I had this experience. One gentleman invited me in for drinks at the end of our canvassing conversation.

What has been the most satisfying part or event you have done so far in politics? For the DCDP?

For me, the most satisfying part in politics was the 2018 midterm campaign. I wanted to do anything that was meaningful, and do as best as I could for the Democratic Party candidates. I really have enjoyed every bit of it. With this campaign, I have also come to know so many wonderful people, from both within and outside the Party.

What do you want to tell all our readers?

Whatever we set out to do, it's important to understand the purpose and be fully invested so we can create an impact and make a difference.

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

Edited by DCDP Newsletter staff



Ohio Legislative Watch

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

OHIO LEGISLATURE ACTIVITY – LAME DUCK SESSION

With the election behind us, the lame duck legislative session is in full swing and packed with a lot of potentially consequential legislation. Any bill not on the governor's desk before the two-year session comes to a close will need to be reintroduced and start the legislative process all over again in January.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Call or Email your **State Senator, Kris Jordan** (until Jan) (614) 466-8086
 - <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/jordan/contact>
- Call or Email your **State Rep Andrew Brenner** (until Jan) - Phone (614) 644-6711
 - <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/andrew-brenner/contact>
- And call **Gov Kasich'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.

For detailed **information on all legislation**, including current status, schedules, how specific legislators vote and more, go to: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>

Join the Facebook Group – **How Things Work at the Statehouse** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202571436523926/>

Testify or submit testimony on a bill (See end of this story for a How To Guide)

BILLS HEADED TO KASICH:

These bills have passed both chambers and are headed to the Governor for his signature.

[CALL KASICH IF YOU BELIEVE THESE BILLS SHOULD BE VETOED:](#)

House Bill 258 (Hagan, Hood) – (6-week abortion ban) Prohibit abortion if unborn has detectable heartbeat [Update: Vetoed 12/20!]: This bill would prohibit an abortion if the physician detects a fetal heartbeat, require clinic inspections to ensure reporting requirements compliance, and provide guidance in the event that Roe v. Wade is overruled. This bill would make it a felony of the fifth degree if a physician performs or induces an abortion before determining whether there is a detectable fetal heartbeat. The bill provides for the creation of a joint legislative committee on adoption promotion and support.

Senate Bill 145 (the abortion method ban) [Update: Signed 12/21 -- Expect lawsuit regarding the constitutionality] would block the safest, most common type of abortion procedure in the second trimester.

House Bill 119 - requires the state to check every quarter (instead of the current yearly check) to see if you're still eligible for food assistance.

For a more complete look at HB 119: <https://tinyurl.com/ycha8kh7>

House Bill 228 (Johnson, LaTourette) – Stand Your Ground: [Vetoed on 12/19!] This measure would allow armed individuals to use deadly force instead of walking away when it is safe to do so. The bill also shifts the burden to prosecutors to convince juries beyond a reasonable doubt that a shooter did not act in self-defense when shooting to kill. The bill would also effectively allow for the carrying of concealed weapons without a permit by making it a minor misdemeanor. It additionally prohibits Ohio communities from enacting gun legislation, further eroding local control over gun violence prevention standards.

Amended on 12/6 - They pulled the penalty reduction for illegal concealed carry out of the bill. The bill guts local communities' ability to make their own gun regulations. It shifts the burden of proof to the state. (If you shoot someone and they die, the decedent's lawyers have to prove you weren't acting in self-defense.)

House Bill 494 - Would exempt corporate franchisors from state labor violations made by its franchisees. It would give corporate franchise owners a free pass when it comes to their franchisees complying with labor and employment law.

“If this bill were enacted, workers and the state could no longer hold franchisors jointly responsible for... violations, regardless of the level of control the corporate owners exerted over the franchisees’ practices.” (*Policy Matters* testimony)

For a more complete look at HB 494: <https://tinyurl.com/y9xbarw2>

CALL KASICH IF YOU SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

House Bill 491 (Galonski) - Graduation Pathways [Update: signed on 12/19!] will help THOUSANDS of Ohio students graduate in 2019 and 2020. They are currently at risk of not graduating simply because state testing standards have been constantly changing. <https://tinyurl.com/ybonn6s8>

House Bill 497 (Schiavoni, Rogers, Manning) – Private Sexual Images [Update: Signed 12/21!] This bill prohibits the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, also known as ‘revenge porn’ and established some rights and protection for victims of revenge porn. Second hearing, all testimony in Senate Judiciary. (If someone posts nude or sexually explicit photos/videos of you online without your permission. that practice is still legal in Ohio).

Committee Chair: Kevin Bacon, (614) 466-8064.

Email: <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/bacon/contact>

BILLS TO WATCH & ACTIONS TO TAKE

House Bill 545 (Kelly) – Pink Tax would eliminate the tax on medically-necessary feminine hygiene products.

This bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate.

ACTION: This bill needs to be assigned to a Senate Committee. Call Senate President Larry Obhof, Rules Committee Chair, (who assigns bills to other committees). 614-466-7505. Tell him you want HB 545 assigned to a committee and given a vote before the end of the year.

HJR 19 (LaTourette, Holmes) – Block the Ballot would reform the way initiated Constitutional amendments can make it onto the ballot in Ohio. It would require proposed constitutional amendments to win 60 percent of the statewide vote, rather than the current 50 percent. It would also move up the deadline to submit over 630,000 petition signatures needed to put a proposed amendment on the ballot. That deadline is now in early July; the resolution would move it to April 1. In addition, each petition signature would only be valid for 180 days. Right now, there’s no expiration date for signatures. This means that all signatures would only be able to be collected through the coldest winter months from October through March.

House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee.

Committee Chair: Louis Blessing, III, (614) 466-9091.

Email: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/louis-w-blessing-iii/contact>

Status: This bill STILL hasn’t gotten through committee. Keep watching this bill, but every day it doesn’t move increases the odds that it’s dead and will have to start all over in 2019. This bill had a revision submitted, which is one reason it wasn’t voted on to move to the floor. This may

not hold it from a floor vote for long, but there have only been negative testimony, to date. Please call all the committee members to voice your concern about this bill!

Senate Bill 250 (Hoagland) – Utility Protests. To increase criminal and civil penalties for protests that take place on so-called “critical infrastructure facilities.” In other words, it would restrict Ohioans' freedom of speech and assembly by, among other things, punishing environmental/fracking protests with felonies. The bill claims to be punishing protesting on private property. Pipelines/wells tend to be located on land owned by the entity allowing the fracking, but this could restrain any protests on state property like the statehouse, or any other state property that the Legislature deems a "critical facility."

Status: This bill passed the Senate and now goes to the House. We're waiting for this bill to be assigned to a House Committee. Once it's assigned, we can start calling those committee members!

House Bill 390 (Merrin) – Eviction. To “streamline” the counting of days before occupants can be forcibly removed from rental properties, opening the door to Sunday and holiday evictions. House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development. **Committee Chair:** Jonathan Dever, (614) 466-8120.

Email: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/jonathan-dever/contact>

Status: This bill (“Scrooge Act”) was pulled from the last bill they tried to hide it in!

We still need to watch as it could end up on the House floor on its own (HB 390). But every day it doesn't move increases the odds that it's dead and will have to start all over in 2019.

Action: Call Speaker Ryan Smith. 614-466-1366. Tell him you don't want Merrin's "Scrooge Act" to get to the floor by itself OR inside another bill!

Call YOUR state rep. Tell them NO on Derek Merrin's “Scrooge Act.” Warn them it could appear on the House floor by itself or inside another bill, and they need to vote NO wherever it is.

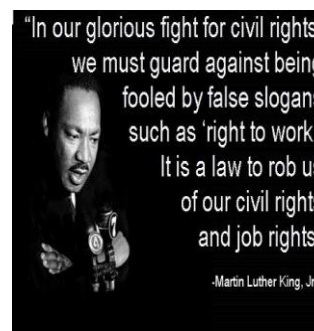
House Bill 625 (Lang, Lipps) – Plastic Bag Fees. To prohibit local governments from imposing a fee on single-use plastic bags or other auxiliary containers.

Status: This bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate. We're waiting for this bill to be assigned to a Senate Committee. Once it's assigned, we can start calling those committee members. This bill is urgent to call and protest because to help save Ohio's environment!

House Bill 393 - would allow brine from oil and gas drilling (fracking) to be used to de-ice roads. (The brine likely contains dangerous and radioactive chemicals.)

Status: This bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate. We're waiting for this bill to be assigned to a Senate Committee. Once it's assigned, we can start calling those committee members!

House Bill 53 (Becker) – Public Sector Union Dues: So-called 'Right-to-Work' legislation that would allow public employees to work in unionized workplaces without actually joining the union or paying regular union dues, making it more difficult for workers to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. **We received information that this bill remains in the House Finance Committee and will not come to a vote during this General Assembly. It appears as if this bill is dead during this Lamé Duck Session.**



Committee Chair: Scott Ryan, (614) 466-1482.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call or Email your **State Senator, Kris Jordan** (until Jan) (614) 466-8086

Call or Email your **State Rep Andrew Brenner** (until Jan) - Phone (614) 644-6711

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/andrew-brenner/contact>

- Call **Gov Kasich's** office asking him to veto any bill you oppose that passes in the House and Senate. (614) 466-3555
- For detailed **information on all legislation**, including current status, schedules, how specific legislators vote and more, go to: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>
- Join the Facebook Group – **How Things Work at the Statehouse** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202571436523926/>

This group has a wealth of information on their site, including the following:

How to testify or submit testimony on a bill:

- Write your testimony. [Template can be found here](#)
- You can say anything you'd like. Share your personal story, share your experience as a professional, share facts/data.
- Keep it short! Committee chairs sometimes limit testimony to 2-3 minutes per person
- Fill out a witness slip. [Blank ones can be found here](#)
Email your testimony and witness slip to the Chairman/Chairwoman of the committee where the bill is. [List of committee contacts can be found here](#)

(If you CANNOT present your testimony in person - you're done! No more steps!)

- If you **CAN present your testimony in person**, show up to the committee on the day of the hearing.
 - You will have to wait a while - likely through several other bills. Plan for a few hours.
 - Supporter testimony is usually the 2nd hearing. Opponent testimony is usually heard during the 3rd hearing.
- When they call your name - go up to the podium and read your testimony (you don't have to read it word for word. The legislators just like to have your testimony in front of them ahead of time so they can follow along).

After you're done, the legislators will have a chance to ask you questions. If you get into a good back and forth with the legislators, reporters may write about it!

⚠ Watch for committee schedules each week here:

Senate: <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/committees>

House: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/committee/standing-committees>

Written by: Marian Jacques



Upcoming Special Events

What: Free Cyntoia Brown And Alexis Martin Rally

When: Saturday, December 22, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Where: Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio 43215
[Click here for more info](#)

What: Special Powell Trustee Meeting!
When: Monday, December 24, 2018 at 9:00am – 11:00am
Who: Public · SAVE Liberty Fire/EMS and Liberty Township Professional Fire Fighters IAFF 3754 / Powell Ohio
Where: 10104 Brewster Ln, Powell, OH 43065-7571
[Click here for more info](#)

What: Rally For Democracy at Representative Balderson's Office
When: Thursday, January 3, 2019, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Where: 250 E Wilson Bridge Rd, Worthington, OH 43085-2332
[Click here for more info](#) [Click here for add'l info](#)

What: First Friday: Fire & Ice - 6pm to 8pm
When: Friday, January 4, 2019 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Where: Historic Downtown Delaware More Info: 740-362-6050
/ mainstreetdelaware.com

What: 2nd Annual Powell Watchie Awards
When: Friday, January 4, 2019, 7:00pm
Where: Powell, Ohio [Click here for more info](#)

What: Official Women's March Ohio 3rd Columbus Anniversary
When: Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 11:00am - 2:00pm
Where: Columbus, Ohio
[Click here for more info](#) [Click here for add'l info](#)

What: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Breakfast
When: Monday, January 21, 2018. Buffet breakfast opens at 7:45 a.m., program begins promptly at 8:30; program ends at 9:30
Where: Benes Room, Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, Ohio Wesleyan Univ., 40 Rowland Ave., Delaware, 43015
Cost: \$22 per ticket for a seat at a Democratic table. Communicate your intent and reserve your seat by sending an email to John Schmarr at schmajo@aol.com. Include your full name and address and the names of each person that will attend with you.

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
- Delaware County Young Democrats
- Membership

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 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.