



Delaware Directions

12th District *Special Election Edition*

Election Day: August 7th
Early Voting: Now through August 6th

July 2018	Delaware County Democratic Party Special Bulletin	Issue #7
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Peg Watkins, Chair

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Message

While most of us have already voted for Danny O'Connor in the Special Election, our **job is not done**. We all need to make more voters aware of this opportunity and to know **what a difference we can make in District 12 on August 7**. This race is a great combination of local and national government interests – we have a chance to send one of our own to Washington, DC. I hope each and every member of the Delaware County Democratic Party will support Danny's campaign one way or another—volunteering, writing checks, and/or talking with your friends and neighbors about this champion of faith, family, and central Ohio.

In order to restore some balance of power in our federal government, we need to gain seats in Congress this November. Our District 12 race is special not just because of the timing, but because it is **an open seat that is close enough to flip through our efforts**. Harbingers of potential success include the great media attention this race is getting, a welcome surprise endorsement from the Columbus Dispatch (see below), and comparisons on CNN and other outlets of this race to the win by Conor Lamb in PA.

This special election comes down to voter turnout. In addition to getting our base to get to the polls, we also need to reach out to the majority of Delaware County voters who are either Republican or unaffiliated. In the Primary of 2016, Delaware County chose John Kasich over Trump by 64:22. Danny is a moderate who has promised to work with Republicans in congress and to press for new leadership in our party. Unlike his predecessor, **Danny O'Connor will represent our 12th District in congress.**

We've been working hard and doing well so far - an impressive 68% of Democrats in Delaware County participated in the primary that nominated Danny O'Connor. Together we can win in August, but we need to

talk to our friends, family, and neighbors about Danny's campaign for new leadership in Washington – and **get them to the polls!**

Be a part of this crucial moment, here's how:

- Call Fred Young: 740.965.5961
- Email Fred: fyoun@ohiodems.org
- Browse volunteer opportunities: <https://events.mobilizeamerica.io/oconnorforcongress>
- Stop by the DCDP headquarters: office hours: 11-5, Tues - Fri, or call (740) 363-7500



Candidate Spotlight

Danny O'Connor is running for Congress. But he's not running to be just another representative in the pocket of big business – that's why he's rejecting corporate PAC donations. He's certainly not running to contribute to the stalemate that has left Congress immobilized in partisan gridlock – that's why he is committed to working with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Danny O'Connor is running for Congress for one reason and one reason only: to represent you.

Danny's passion for service started at a young age when his teacher mom inspired him with her commitment to community. After attending Wright State University, Danny joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps because veterans, immigrants and families stricken by poverty deserve qualified and dedicated legal aide. From there, his legal career led him to start his own firm. When the position of Franklin County Recorder opened up, Danny knew this was an opportunity to continue his duty to his home. Once elected, he worked hard to streamline services that mattered to his constituents by promoting transparency and consistency. Getting to know the people of Central Ohio has been Danny's greatest honor and he steadfastly believes that they deserve a representative who will fight for them.



Danny's mission in Washington will be to usher in a new era of leadership in Congress and as your next Congressman, he will represent people from all reaches of this district. He knows that that means speaking up for the people of Delaware County. Even in time since he secured the nomination, Danny has shown time and again that he will fight for needs of the hardworking people of Delaware County. He proudly launched his early voting tour in Delaware County, participated in multiple parades in the county. His opponent can't say that he's vested so much time and energy in the good people of this county.

As your our Congressman, Danny O'Connor will work with both sides of the aisle to expand Medicare and Social Security benefits, create more economic opportunity for working families and small businesses and help rid dysfunction from a broken Washington.

Even though Danny proudly rejects corporate campaign donations, his opponent does not. Because such donations rig the system, Danny knows that this special election is going to take the effort of Delaware County to win on August 7. Through his long history of work within our region, Danny knows that no one works harder than the people of Central Ohio. Together, we can bring a new brand of leadership to Washington.

Danny is a small business owner himself, the son of a breast cancer survivor and has a proven record of being a reformer. This passion for working for the people of Ohio makes him uniquely qualified to be the next Congressman from Ohio's 12th district.

-Staff of DOCFC



Endorsements: Danny O'Connor favored

From the July 8th Columbus Dispatch:

"...By all accounts, both O'Connor and Balderson are decent, successful men who would work hard for voters of the 12th District. But one supports a reasonable, thoughtful approach to addressing the important issues facing Congress and our country, and the other supports a president who uses tactics and pushes policies that this Editorial Board has denounced. **Our endorsement goes to Danny O'Connor.**"

Read the complete endorsement from the Dispatch [here](#)

Other endorsements are coming in quickly. To date they are:

- Governor Ted Strickland
- Congressman Tim Ryan
- Congresswoman Joyce Beatty
- Delaware County Democratic Party
- Columbus Dispatch
- Mayor Andrew Ginther
- Indivisible 12
- Indivisible Delaware
- Franklin County Sheriff Dallas Baldwin
- Democratic Progressives of Ohio
- Franklin County Democratic Party
- Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- CWA Local 4502-The International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
- The International Union of Painters And Allied Trades (IUPAT)
- Service Employees International Union
- Moveon.org

-DCDP staff



Danny's Campaign Positions

When you're canvassing and talking to your neighbors, keep in mind Danny's positions on key issues. To read more about Danny's priorities for when he is elected go [here](#).

Immigration

- O'Connor supports tightening border security, but also said he would “rather build roads and bridges here in Ohio than build a wall on the Texas border.”
- He deplores the policy of separating kids from their parents at the border, saying it “does not make our country safe. I view that as a stain on our country right now.”

Budget/taxes

- O'Connor opposed the 10-year, \$1.5 trillion tax cut signed by Trump last year, saying the tax reductions were not paid for and disproportionately benefit the wealthy.
- Danny is against raising the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare. “People call it entitlement reform — it's not entitlement reform,” O'Connor said. “When you pay into Social Security and Medicare, you're entering into a contract that after a lifetime of hard work, you get to retire in dignity.”

Health care

- He supports “common sense” fixes to the 2010 Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, such as extending open enrollment periods during tax season, protecting those with pre-existing conditions and spending money to encourage younger and healthier people to get federally subsidized individual insurance plans.

Gun Safety

Danny supports the Second Amendment and common sense Gun Safety regulations. O'Connor, who grew up in rural Shelby County in western Ohio, remembers the Monday after Thanksgiving being the start of deer-hunting season, and recalled it being “like a religious holiday” in his part of the state.

- He believes those on the TSA no-fly list also should be denied the right to buy a gun.
- He supports “red flag” laws that would allow taking guns from those who have been convicted of domestic abuse. (Balderson, by contrast, said, he “will not take anybody's gun.”)
- He supports banning bump stocks, implementing universal background checks and banning assault weapons.

Trump

- O'Connor is a frequent critic of Trump policy while Balderson completely supports all of Trump's policies. O'Connor said, however, that he is willing to work with Trump on issues on which they agree.

Trade

- O'Connor believes we need to protect U.S. workers from unfair trade practices by other countries, but sharply objects to Trump imposing tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.
- He has warned that Ohio farmers, who last year exported \$1.8 billion worth of soybeans internationally, will be harmed by a trade war.
- On NAFTA, he agrees with Sherrod Brown and supports renegotiation with Mexico and Canada, saying that pact has cost the state manufacturing jobs and has punished the very workforce that has powered the country.

- DCDP staff



When Danny met Troy

Editors of the DCDP newsletter attended the July 12 Forum for 12th District candidates **Danny O'Connor** and **Troy Balderson**, moderated by **Jo Ingles** from WOSU. The event was hosted by the New Albany Chamber of Commerce and attracted a wide range of national press, including the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, as well as party notables from both sides.



As the forum began, it became clear who was in control of the debate. **Danny exuded confidence**, speaking loud and clear and jumping at the opportunity to answer each question. Balderson was more subdued, as the audience often strained to hear his answers.

Kicking off the questioning, candidates were asked what they stand for, beyond 30-second TV ads.

Answering first, O'Connor set the tone, noting it was important to have new congressional leadership that is independent of those now running Washington. His vision includes growth and development, expanded healthcare, and help for people in our communities, no matter where they come from and who they are. He said he will fight for all to achieve their version of the American dream.

Balderson spoke of his humble beginnings in Muskingum county--what he called the Shaker Heights of Appalachia. He helped run his family's farming business, a 120-head feed operation. It showed him the important struggle of the working man, because he had been there. He also emphasized his work in the state legislature.

On why he was running for congress, Danny gave as an example meeting people in Sidney, OH. They discussed their economic concerns -- how to pay the mortgage, how to save for retirement, and how to send kids to school. In DC he will work to overcome the partisan divide by working with whomever is willing to make sure we have an infrastructure, healthcare, and an economy that will serve the people.

Troy said he loves working with people. He mentioned his efforts on the House Finance Committee, working with people on both sides of the aisle. He said the committee worked on balancing the state's budget without raising taxes and contributed to the adding of a half million new jobs in the past year. He noted that the state's rainy-day fund stands at over \$2 billion.

Of their three top priorities, Danny focused on the need for an infrastructure bill and the jobs it will create. He voiced concern over putting \$1.9 trillion on the US credit card, with no way to pay it off. He said that he supports Kasich's position on Medicaid expansion, especially to help in the fight of opioid crisis. **Danny mentioned his endorsement by the Dispatch**, saying the editors know we need someone in DC who is focused on problem solving.

Of his three top priorities, Troy said that jobs are number one. Second, he said a balanced budget is important, because we cannot sustain our current spending and budget demands. He wants to take his experience in helping balance the state's budget to Congress. Third, he will continue to invest in solutions for the opioid crisis.

On Social Security, Danny pointed out that the debate is misconstrued—Social Security is not an entitlement, it's an earned benefit. He believes we can make SS solvent and do so without raising the retirement age, which he says is an ineffective and unfair way the Republicans are proposing to help pay off the debt they created. His priority is treating people with the dignity and respect they deserve. We need to invest in the hard-working people, especially those 65 and older.

Troy said we need to reform the Social Security. Medicare and, Medicaid programs so they will be there for families in the future. He pointed to the work on Medicaid and balancing the budget within the state.

On a single-payer healthcare solution, Danny responded that we need to focus on protecting key parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), especially pre-existing conditions. The issue of health care is personal for him, since his mother, who was in attendance, faced a breast cancer diagnosis and went through chemotherapy and surgery. She beat cancer because she had access to care. In a rare display of emotion, he said he was angered by those trying to repeal ACA and deny others its benefits. It's not about platitudes, Danny said, it's about people.

Troy said he was in support of repealing the ACA but will support covering pre-existing conditions, which was met with some groans from attendees. Pre-existing conditions without the protection of the ACA will make premiums sky-rocket for those with pre-existing conditions. Troy repeated some of the well-worn alternatives to the ACA, many of which have not worked in the past or which disadvantage lower income citizens.

In closing Danny underscored the importance of this election for the future of community, state, and nation. He remains focused on delivering solutions to real people and is willing to work across the aisle as to achieve his goals. He says a strong future is contingent on people who have the guts and courage to fight for the progress this country can make. "What we can do is limitless if we work together."

Troy said he has the record to make it better. Having worked across the aisle he has contributed to creating jobs and wants to take it to the next level. Said Troy: “I’ve got grit, and will take that grit to DC, and will work for the 12th.

- DCDP staff



Voting Information

Delaware Democrats turned out in the May primary at a rate of 67%! We nominated candidate Danny O’Connor, who is waging an excellent campaign.

We now need a high turnout in this special election through mail-in ballots, early voting at the Board of Elections, and at polling locations on August 7. Here is the information from the Delaware County Board of Elections.

Hours of Operation for In-Person Early (Absentee) Voting

July 16th – July 27th:	Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
July 30th – August 3rd:	Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 4th:	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 5th:	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 6th:	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Go to www.delawareboe.org to:

- Find your precinct
- Find your polling location
- Find your sample ballot
- Print an absentee ballot application

To vote by mail – return your absentee ballot application to:
Delaware County Board of Elections
2079 US Hwy 23 North, P.O. Box 8006,
Delaware, OH 43015-8006

Absentee applications must be received in office by Saturday, August 4th, 2018, at 12:00 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION:
email: boe@co.delaware.oh.us
Phone: 740-833-2080

Source: DelCo Board of Election



DelaDems in the News

July 13, 2018, *NY Times*, **Mindy Hedges**, Radnor Township Central Committee representative, quoted in article.



"NEW ALBANY, Ohio — There was a pitiable chance of success when Danny O'Connor knocked on Tami Halliday's door Thursday morning to ask for her vote. All the data showed that Mr. O'Connor, a Democrat running in an August special election for a House seat here, was all but wasting his time.

But when Ms. Halliday asked him his stance on gun control, things got brighter fast. Mr. O'Connor said he favored an assault weapons ban, along with preventing people with domestic violence records and mental illness issues from having guns. "Do you take money from the N.R.A.?" she asked. "No," Mr. O'Connor replied. "I have an 'F' rating from the N.R.A.

With that, Ms. Halliday, who voted for President Trump in 2016, said she would vote for Mr. O'Connor...."

Read full article [here](#).

July 10, 2018, *Delaware Gazette*, Letter To the Editor: **Jon Powers**, Delaware



"As many of you know, I have lived in and come to deeply love Delaware for over 30 years. I have raised my family here, and I and my family have committed to live here for the rest of our lives. Throughout those years, I have voted in nearly every election – for every single tax levy, and for many amazing Republicans like sheriffs Al Meyer and Russ Martin, County Commissioner Deborah Martin, judges Henry Shaw, Duncan Whitney, and David Hemjanowski; and even governors like Robert Taft. At the same time, I have voted mostly Democratic, but always with my commitment focused on the well-being of this amazing bipartisan community we call Delaware.

On Aug. 7, we have a great opportunity to affirm that same kind of bipartisan spirit by electing a homegrown, humble, and deeply dedicated moderate young leader whose fiancé is a staunchly registered Republican, even as he is a moderate, let's-work-together-to-get-something-positive-done Democrat. His name is Danny O'Connor...."

Read full letter [here](#).



July 5, 2018, *Columbus Dispatch*, Letter to the Editor: **Paul Kulik**, Westerville

"As a former government/American history teacher, I was dedicated to helping students understand the different forms of government. In particular, I wanted my students to be able to

differentiate between autocracies and democracies. Autocracies are rule by a single person, while democracies are rule by the majority.

As we continued to discuss the branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial), I emphasized that the checks-and-balances system that our forefathers put in place were such that no one branch would become singularly able to override the other branches of power...."

Read full letter [here](#).

July 17, 2018, *Delaware Gazette*, Letter to the Editor: Corinne Lyman, Delaware

Trump inherited 'robust economy'



"Sen. Rob Portman had a column in the Gazette July 9 arguing that President Trump's tax reform is making a real difference. He says economic growth is much better than over the past decade. The tax reform kicked in the beginning of 2018, and the half year doesn't tell you much. Portman makes interesting points about small business. He doesn't mention agriculture: corn, soybeans, pork. In fact, what he doesn't say is much more important. Nowhere does he mention that the top 1 percent of the economy got 50 percent of the benefits — huge permanent tax cuts, while the rest of us got minor tax cuts, however welcome, that are not permanent. Nor that many of the big companies at home, and those returning profits from abroad, are buying back stock and giving it to stockholders and management rather than making investments that would lead to hiring more workers at higher wages...."

Read full Letter [here](#)



Become Part of the Solution

What: Campaign For Danny O'Connor

When: Now until August 7, 2018

Where: Click this [link](#) for campaign events through election day

What: Catch a Rising Star DCDP Fundraiser

Who: Steve Dettelbach, candidate for Attorney General is our Featured Speaker

When: July 24, 2018 at 07:00 PM

Where: [Scioto Reserve Country Club](#) in Powell, OH, Click [here](#) to buy tickets, or call the office to reserve your seats (740) 363-7500.

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>

Attend a Central Committee Meeting:

The county-wide Central Committee meets the third Thursday every month (except when notified differently), 7:30pm, and is open to the public. It is held at 12½ N. Sandusky St. Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Check the [website](#) for volunteer opportunities

Central Committee Membership - Opportunity to Make a Difference

Any interested registered Democratic voter can always request an at-large 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 always get more information on our [website](#) on how to file for candidacy.

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

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