



February 2018	Delaware County Democratic Party Newsletter	Issue #2
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Ed Helvey, Chair

## Cheers From The Chair

### To Endorse or Not To Endorse

This is shaping up to be a unique election year in comparison to recent history. Unlike the past couple of decades, we have a very competitive race for the Democratic nomination for governor, and a very crowded field for the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. As such, many groups and organizations are weighing in on these races. In fact, I have been asked several times whether the Delaware County Democratic Party will endorse before the primary. The answer is no, and for what I believe are very sound reasons.

The purpose of an endorsement is not only to recognize the best candidate, but to also influence the outcome of the election. Recently, the Franklin County party made an endorsement in the congressional race. Their goal is to make sure that their candidate wins. Going forward, they will organize, spend money, and get out the vote for their chosen candidate. These activities will include GOTV drives in Democratic dense neighborhoods, handing out slate cards at the early vote center, and following up on mail ballots. Once again, the goal is to push for a winner in a large county. This would be hard to replicate in a smaller county.

Despite the great gains we have made in Delaware County in the past decade, we are still a small party trying to grow bigger. Endorsing could have a negative effect on our party's development. First of all, whenever there is an endorsement, there are losers in the process. If we lose the interest of even a dozen of our strong volunteers by not backing their favorite, it could cripple our party. While this has some effect in large counties, they have a bigger pool of replacement volunteers to step up. We may not.

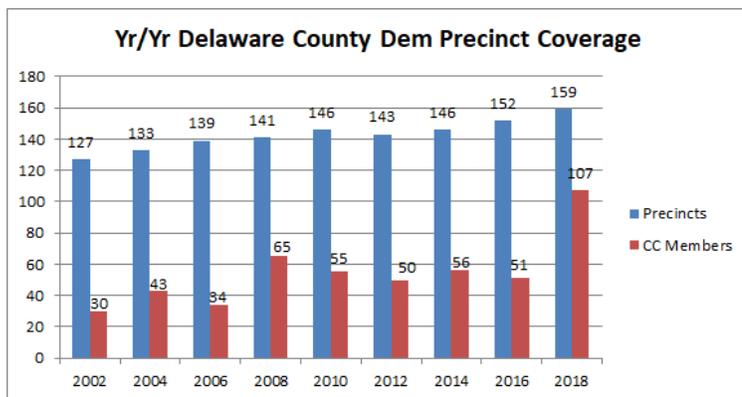
The second reason endorsements would not suit us well is that, once made, we would have to back the choice with real action. Large counties have the support of office holders, unions, candidate committees, and interest groups to give financial and volunteer support. While we have many generous donors and have never been in a better financial position than we are now, we are nowhere near where we would need to be to mount this type of campaign. Imagine how many volunteers it would take to hand out slate cards at the Board of Elections for an entire month before the election.

As I said before, we are growing and getting stronger every day. At some point, sooner than we imagine, we may want to step into that arena and make an endorsement. On the other hand, we may simply want to inform the voting public about all of the candidates and trust them to make their own decisions about who could govern us best.



## Central Committee Membership Filings Peak for 2018

DCDP is very pleased to announce that 114 people who filed Central Committee candidacy forms were certified by the Delaware County Board of Elections for the May 8, 2018 Primary. These 114 candidates represent 107 of the 159 precincts in our county, so voters in seven precincts with contested races will actually have to choose between two Democrats! To put this into perspective, there were 52 precincts represented in 2016, meaning that we will more than double our precinct coverage in 2018 (see below chart, tracking Central Committee growth since 2002). Chair of the Campaigns and Candidates committee, Peg Watkins, said “This was an excellent team effort over a period of months. This is the type of grass-roots organizing that will have an impact locally as well as throughout Ohio.”



Many people ask whether we can turn Delaware County blue, and if so, how. Several different things need to happen in combination which will help move us in that Blue direction. Our first step will be to work to strengthen our party by making connections with other local Democrats. So often we have heard, “I thought I was the ONLY DEMOCRAT in my neighborhood”, but we know this is not true. There are hundreds of Democrats in EVERY PRECINCT of this county, and we are excited about creating more opportunities to bring

them together.

Because of the many strong candidates on the Democratic Party ballots for the May primary, we expect to see a significant increase in the number of registered Democratic voters. Once we have identified these “new” Democrats, we will work on building a strong volunteer network to support our candidates. There will be opportunities to make phone calls, canvass neighborhoods, host fundraisers, and distribute literature. We want to increase the number of registered voters who will vote for Democrats, and also work to get these Democrats out to the polls on or before Election Day.

We have all heard the saying, “Think globally, act locally.” Each of us who has committed to putting our name on the ballot is acting in an important way that could impact our world. With our expanded group of Central Committee members reaching out to their neighbors across Delaware County, we hope to be able to encourage broader participation in the Party and better turnout for elections. Stay tuned to learn more about how the Delaware County Democratic Party and Central Committee will have an increasing impact on turning Delaware County Blue.



## Democrats running in all 99 statehouse seats!

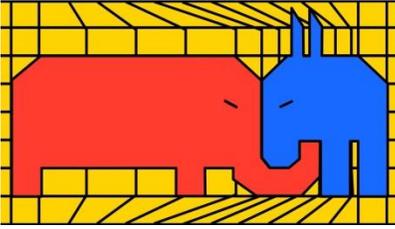
This is great news for Ohio Democrats, and a great story for Delaware and surrounding counties. People may wonder how we recruit and identify candidates. Sometimes it’s a well-crafted selection process, other times it’s making your voice heard. Cory Hoffman, a lawyer and business adviser for small businesses and individuals, had previously run for office and was on the radar of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus. *He is now the Democratic candidate for Ohio House District 67.* Louise Valentine, a senior product analyst at L-Brands, was looking for an opportunity to effect change after the disappointment in the 2016 elections. *She chose to run for Ohio Senate District 19.* Kathleen Tate walked into the Knox County Democratic Party and said she wanted to run for office, and has since connected with DCDP and the Ohio House Caucus. *Kathleen is the Democratic candidate for Ohio House District 68.* Indu Rajan is running for County Auditor, and Aileen Wagner is running for County Commissioner. **Please visit [our website](#) to "meet" your Delaware County Democratic candidates.**

All across the state, we have Democratic candidates in every one of the 99 Ohio House districts. The Ohio Senate Caucus worked to ensure that each of the 17 Ohio Senate districts that has an election this year has a Democrat on the ballot. This is an amazing accomplishment, and will be paired with an 88-county strategy. Chair David Pepper says, “This is how we kick-start the blue wave in Ohio.”

The Ohio Democratic Party is also mobilizing to re-elect Sherrod Brown, take back the governor’s office, sweep statewide races for attorney general, auditor, secretary of state, and treasurer. US House District 12 and the Governor’s race have generated an impressive number of candidates and interest (see list below). There will be multiple candidate forums and debates throughout the state and district. Make sure to check the DCDP website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

Statewide candidates are seeking volunteers to coordinate their campaign efforts within each county party. Cathi Kulik is DCDP’s county coordinator for Sherrod Brown’s campaign. We are still seeking volunteers to serve as the county coordinators for the following statewide offices: Steve Dettelbach for Attorney General, Zack Space for State Auditor, Kathleen Clyde for Secretary of State, and Rob Richardson, Jr for State Treasurer.

**Please take a moment to view this video from Ohio Democratic Party about [Ohio's 88 County Strategy](#).**



## Redistricting Reform on the May Ballot!

The question of drawing fair congressional districts in Ohio is still in process but becoming clearer. A consensus has been reached on the language in an issue for the ballot on May 8. **Still, it is imperative that signatures continue to be collected until the issue passes.**

Here are developments to date:

Gerrymandering -- drawing congressional districts to advantage one party -- is a national issue, with cases from multiple states being considered by both state and U.S. Supreme Courts.

According to Catherine Turner of Fair Districts Ohio, the proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that has passed in the legislature, meets the three standards our Fair Districts = Fair Elections coalition.

1. Both major parties must be meaningfully engaged in the process.
2. Communities should not be needlessly divided.
3. Maps cannot be drawn to favor a political party or candidate.

Turner continues: "The proposed amendment that passed the Ohio Senate creates a bipartisan process that strongly encourages both major parties to cooperate and agree on a congressional map that better represents the views of Ohioans."

### Turner explains how it works:

**Stage One:** Passage of a map requires a three-fifths vote of both the House and Senate and must include at least 50 percent support of minority party members. If that doesn't work...

**Stage Two:** Ohio's existing seven-person bipartisan redistricting commission will be empowered to draw districts and must approve a map with at least two minority party votes. If that doesn't work...

**Stage Three:** The legislature gets another chance to pass either (1) a 10-year map with one-third of the minority party's support or (2) a four-year map without minority party support. If the process gets to the last stage not requiring minority party support, stricter rules protecting against unfair manipulation would apply.

Elected officials do not give up the power to draw one-sided congressional districts on their own. This happened because of your visits, rallies, calls, and emails, and because together we have gathered more than 200,000 signatures to put reform on the November 2018 ballot. This collection cannot stop, as it is still up to the state legislative body to pass this to send to ballot, and if it does not pass on the May ballot, the coalition of redistricting reformers will need to place the [Bipartisan Congressional Redistricting Reform Amendment](#) on the ballot, with a collection of at least ten percent (10%) of the total vote cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election or a total of [305,591 valid signatures](#).

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio and Fair Districts can be reached through [info@actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@actionnetwork.org).

Gerrymandering -- drawing congressional districts to advantage one party -- is a national issue, with cases from multiple states being considered by both state and U.S. Supreme Courts (see article about Pennsylvania below).

**Did You Know...**

**Top Dems are Out-Raising Opponents**

Candidates for top statewide offices, Steve Dettelbach, Zack Space, Kathleen Clyde and Rob Richardson, each announced they had out-raised their Republican opponents during the latest filing period! Please keep on donating. We will make Ohio Blue again!

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**Delaware County was fastest growing Central OH county, 2010-15**

County	Growth Rate (2010-15)
Knox County	~0.2%
Morrow County	~0.5%
Licking County	~1.3%
Union County	~2.2%
Franklin County	~4.5%
Delaware County	~6.5%

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**Ohio is leading election indicator**

Since 1944, Ohio has voted for the winner in every Presidential election. The one exception? In 1960 when it went for Nixon instead of JFK. No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio.



**Campaign Outlook  
12th Congressional District**

The deadline for candidates and issues on the May ballot was February 7. It's time now to familiarize ourselves with the candidates and issues.

Profiles of Democratic Primary candidates for the 12th Congressional seat vacated by Republican Pat Tiberi are below. For a complete list of all Delaware County, regional, and statewide Democratic candidates, please visit the [DCDP website](#).

With the primary scheduled for May 8\*, It's not too early to learn about the candidates, so you can determine who best represent your values and also who has the best chance to win the election. The regular primary will be May 8th, where these candidates will all be running, but there will be a Special General Election scheduled for August 8th for the Democratic and Republican and other party winners if applicable. Then, these candidates can again run for the General election on November 6th, 2018.

John Russell -- [russellforohio.com](http://russellforohio.com)

John is running to represent Ohio's 12th district in Congress because he believes in the simple truth that, as working families go, so goes the country. If we want to deliver on our national promise that hard work will pay off, we have to start by electing representatives who understand what that promise really means. As a farmer, small-business owner and native of rural Ohio, John has seen firsthand the importance of economic opportunity for everyone - especially those on the other side of power. And that's why he knows the importance of fighting for affordable healthcare, defending access to family planning services, and addressing the overwhelming burden of debt for education.

Ed Albertson -- [albertson4congress.com](http://albertson4congress.com)

Ed is running to represent our 12th Congressional District (all of Delaware County, all of Licking County, all of Morrow County, and parts of Franklin, Muskingum, Marion and Richland Counties) in the United States House of Representatives in 2018. He previously ran in 2016 in an effort to provide our voters with a choice. The skills that Ed has developed over forty years in his business career and military experience while serving in the US Army are sorely needed in our government.

Chrystal Lett -- [lettsgoohio.com](http://lettsgoohio.com)

Crystal has spent her entire life fighting for the health, safety and prosperity of children and their families. The politicians in Washington have lost sight of their purpose: to serve the people of this nation. As your Representative, Crystal will stand up for middle class families, work across the aisle to improve and expand healthcare and invest in economic opportunity.

Danny O'Connor -- [friendsofoconnor.com](http://friendsofoconnor.com)

Danny O'Connor was born and raised in rural Ohio. His mom was a teacher, and his family taught him the value of service and giving back. In 2016 he was elected Franklin County Record and is now running for Congress to protect health care coverage, create more economic opportunities for working families and small business owners in central Ohio, and help fix the partisan dysfunction in Washington. As a small business owner, the son of a breast cancer survivor, and a reformer who has worked to fix what's broken with our government, Danny O'Connor knows exactly what's at stake this election.

John Peters -- [johnpetersforthe12th.com](http://johnpetersforthe12th.com)

John Peters was inducted into the national honor society and graduated from Marion Harding high school in 1997. He earned his degree in Criminology from The Ohio State University in 2002 and started work as a youth leader at The Buckeye Ranch making a difference in the lives of children suffering from the effects of traumatic crises. John Peters then taught at Excel Academy: a private school that specialized in educating children who were not successful in a public school setting. He has a Masters Degree in Intervention (Special Education) from Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Zach Scott -- [www.zachscottforcongress.com/](http://www.zachscottforcongress.com/)

"For the past 30 years, I've dedicated my life to protecting and serving our community. I'm running to bring proven leadership, creative solutions and bipartisanship to Congress on behalf of our district. You can count on the fact that your concerns are my concerns and I will fight for the people of my district with unwavering commitment. I want you to be proud to say, 'My congressman is Zach Scott.'"

Doug Wilson -- [dougwilson4ohio.com](http://dougwilson4ohio.com)

"A lifelong resident of Ohio, I was born in Lancaster in 1951 and I have been a resident of Ohio's 12th Congressional District for over half my life. Now semi-retired, I have worked in the healthcare sector since 1973 as a Respiratory Care practitioner and in a supervisory role in a number of the hospitals. Despite the progress made by the ACA, fixing the healthcare system in this country remains a major concern, but only one of many."



## Why Vote???

While pundits imply that "the American People" spoke in the 2016 presidential election, the fact is that only about one-fourth of Americans eligible to vote actually voted for Donald Trump, according to the U.S. Election Project.

Donald Trump was duly elected according to our Constitutional Electoral College process. But, like Al Gore in 2000, Hillary Clinton received a majority of votes from "the American People" -- almost three million more votes than Trump. But It came down to 80,000 more votes for Trump in just three states. If Clinton had done one point better in each state, she'd have won the electoral vote, too.

That's history. The bottom line here is that everyone who has a positive view of what we stand for as patriotic Americans and what we can do together to make the lives of all our people secure need to vote. In most elections there are just two valid choices. The question is: Which of these choices better represent your values?

Please remember: it is so important to convince our friends and every Democrat in Delaware County to vote, and ensure they understand these statistics. **EVERY VOTE DOES COUNT!**



## Become Part of the Solution

**What: Columbus, OH: Working People's Day of Action**

When: Sat, February 24, 10:30am – 1:30pm

Contact Info: [action@itsaboutfreedom.org](mailto:action@itsaboutfreedom.org)

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar»](#)

**What: Main Street Initiative Training**

When: Sat, February 24, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Where: Ohio Democratic Party, 340 E Fulton St, Columbus, Ohio 43215

For more information: [Main Street Initiative Training in Columbus](#)

**What: Ohio Democratic Candidates Town Hall**

When: Sunday, February 25. 2:00pm

Where: [Union County Veteran's Memorial Auditorium](#) 233 W6th Street, Marysville, Ohio 43040

**What: Indivisible Ohio District 12 Candidates Forum**

When: Monday, Feb. 26, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: First Unitarian Universalist of Columbus, 93 W Weisheimer Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43214

For more information: [Indivisible Ohio District 12 Candidates Forum in Columbus](#)

**What: Richland Co. Dems K.E.McCartney Memorial Celebration Luncheon**

When: Sat, March 10, 11:00am – 1:30pm

Where: K.E.McCartney Memorial Building, 16 South Park Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 ([map](#))

Special Guest Speaker Dennis Kucinich

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar»](#)

**What: ODP Legacy Dinner**

When: Friday, April 13, Time TBD

Where: Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High Street, Columbus

Special Guest Speaker Eric Holder

**What: National Coalition of 100 Black Women Annual Legislative Day**

When: Tuesday, March 13, 10am-4pm

Where: The Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio 43215

For more information: [National Coalition of 100 Black Women Annual Legislative Day](#)

**What: Moms Demand Action Advocay Day at the Ohio Statehouse**

When: Wednesday, March 21 at 9:00am - 3:00pm

Where: Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High Street, Columbus

For more information: [Moms Demand Action - OH](#)



**Get Involved with the Party!**

**February Central Committee Meeting Update:**

As Primary season heats up, expect to see a lot of activity centered in Delaware and neighboring counties. The Central Committee meeting, held on February 15, was testimony to that approaching excitement. Make sure to check our [Facebook page](#) for some pictures of the evening.

- Candidate for State Treasurer, Rob Richardson, was on hand and laid-out his background, qualifications, and experience that he brings to the race. Rob fielded a volley of tough questions from meeting attendees and made clear he is up for the challenge of working with his fellow candidates to take back the top statewide offices.
- Next was current Franklin County Recorder, Danny O'Connor who had just declared for the 12th Congressional District. This was Danny's second appearance at DCDP and he brings strong credentials and governing experience to the race for Tiberi's seat.
- John Russell, an avowed farmer and small business owner, followed O'Connor and clearly stated his intentions to make the 12th Congressional District race a competitive one. John made a strong run for the 68th statehouse seat in 2016 and is clearly ready to do the same for the 12th.

- John Peters, local schoolteacher and unknown firebrand, is also running for the 12th and was at HQ to remind that he is still in the fight. Battling name recognition issues, John has made an impression with his scrappy attitude and pugnacious style.

**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, 7:30pm, and is open to all Democrats and Progressives. It is currently held at 12 ½ N. Sandusky St. Delaware Ohio.

**Check the [website](#) for volunteer opportunities*****Central Committee Membership - Opportunity to Make a Difference***

There is still time to declare yourself as a write-in candidate. Several seats remain vacant on the Delaware County Democratic Party Central Committee. If you are interested in serving as your precinct representative, contact the central office for more information: Phone: (740) 363-7500; email: [chair@ohiodeladems.org](mailto:chair@ohiodeladems.org). You can always get more information on our [website](#) on how to file for candidacy.