



January 2018	Delaware County Democratic Party Newsletter	Issue #1
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Delaware Directions 1st Edition

Welcome to our first edition of *Delaware Directions*. We will be reporting relevant information for Delaware County Democrats on a regular basis, including important links to our updated website – www.ohiodeladems.org, our Facebook page <https://facebook.com/ohiodeladems>, the Ohio Democratic Party, and national Democratic and Progressive movements. This will be an email only opportunity, so please email communications@ohiodeladems.org with your latest email address and email addresses of friends you think would like to receive this. This is one of the best ways to build our party. Feel free to forward any ideas or suggestions for futures issues to the same email address.




Ed Helvey

Cheers From The Chair

We hope at least some of you made a New Year's resolution to become more involved in the county Democratic Party, and of course we strongly encourage that involvement. One way you can do that is to run to become a member of the Delaware County Central/Executive Committee. Serving as a Central Committee member gives your precinct a voice in the Party, and gives you a chance to bring the Party's voice to fellow Democrats in your precinct. It may seem a like a small commitment, but it's a very important step in helping to turn Delaware County blue. To secure your place on your Precinct's ballot for the May primary you need to file a Declaration of Candidacy form by the February 7th deadline. You can find the form at the Delaware County Board of Elections [website](#). Either file the form yourself at the Board of Elections or mail it to us at PO Box 872, Delaware, OH 43015. If you have questions or need more information, please contact the chair of the Campaigns & Candidates committee, Peg Watkins at ploiskent@gmail.com. If you're interested in attending Delaware County Democratic Party meetings, they are open to the public and take place at our HQ, [12 1/2 North](#)

[Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015](#) on the third Thursday of the month. The meetings begin at 7:30pm and we like to conclude by 9pm.

Special Note: The Delaware County Democratic Party will turn this month’s Central Committee meeting into a petition signing event for the 2018 Democratic Candidates (official business will be postponed until next month). This is, by far, the most important activity we can do this month. Bring your Democratic friends, neighbors, and family members along to sign as well. See you at our Headquarters **Thursday, January 18th.**

	...Recent polls show a decided preference for Democrats in the generic congressional vote. 'Real Clear Politics' reports that 47.6% prefer Democrats to control Congress and only 36.4% want Republicans.	...Delaware County has the highest per- capita, median household, and median family incomes of all counties in Ohio (Geauga, Warren, Medina, and Hamilton are the next in the top 5).
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Fair Districts – What’s Happening

Congressional districts are drawn to favor the party in power. The result in Ohio has been that, although the total number of votes cast for each major party is consistently close, the party that drew the maps [won 75% of the seats \(12 of 16\) even though they only got roughly 50-60% of the votes.](#)

The party favored by the districts, currently the Republican Party, [won 100% of the time](#) in 2012 and 2014, and that trend is expected to continue. The result is that the real election occurs during the primary, not the general, for the party favored by the district. This tends to yield candidates that appeal to party extremes rather than the electorate as a whole.

Ohio’s districts are often oddly-shaped districts that reach in all directions. The “Snake on the Lake,” which stretches from Toledo to Cleveland along Lake Erie, is one example.

And you need to look no further than our own 12th Congressional District to see the same pattern. With Delaware County near the center, it includes all of Morrow County to the north and seeps into the edges of Marion and Ashland Counties. The 12th has tentacles in Franklin County, and covers all of Licking County and half of Muskingum County.

The Fair Districts = Fair Elections Coalition seeks to reform the way Ohio's Congressional Districts are drawn with the **goal of prohibiting, or at least reducing, partisan gerrymandering.** A petition campaign is underway to place corrective legislation on November, 2018 ballot. You can get blank petitions from the Delaware Dems office. You need to be trained, which is very easy but necessary.

Although this corrective issue is intended on being placed on the November, 2018 ballot, a legislative committee was formed to determine the action it would suggest for redistricting in Ohio for the May

ballot. Recently, Senator Matt Huffman, R-Lima, outlined a proposal that would require support of at least one-third of Democrats before a new congressional map could be approved for the full 10 years. The next map will be drawn in 2021, after the next census.

"It would easily be possible to construct a 12-3 Republican map using these rules," said Richard Gunther, an Ohio State University political science professor emeritus who has worked with the coalition. His count assumes Ohio loses another congressional seat in 2022. The current breakdown is 12-4 Republican.

"This would enshrine rules that are extremely unfair that would perpetuate one-party domination of our congressional delegation."

The effort to get the Fair Districts initiative on the November ballot is still going strong--and will continue until enough signatures are received in order to get this important bill on the November ballot. The League of Women Voters is a major sponsor of the initiative. For more information and to help in the petition drive, check fairdistrictsohio.org or write Fair Congressional Districts for Ohio, c/o League of Women Voters of Ohio, 100 E. Broad St., Suite 1310, Columbus, OH 43215. They need your help!

To see a map of the most up-to-date status of signatures gathered by county, click [here](#).



Campaign Outlook - Statewide

Below are the current Democratic candidates for elective offices in Ohio. To get the latest candidate updates and more information about the current election cycle, registering to vote, and voting locations, please go to the "[Vote and Get Active](#)" section of our website.

US Senate	Sherrod Brown	www.sherrodbrown.com
12th US House District*	Ed Albertson	www.albertson4congress.com
	Crystal Lett	Lettsgoohio.com
	Jacqueline Patton	Jackiepattonforcongress.com
	John Peters	www.johnpetersforthe12th.com
	John Russell	www.russellforohio.com
	Zach Scott	www.zachscottforcongress2018.com
	Doug Wilson	www.dougwilson4ohio.com/meet-doug
Governor	Rich Cordray	www.cordrayforohio.com
	Connie Pillich	www.conniepillich.com

	Joe Schiavoni	www.joeforjobs.com
	William O'Neill	www.billforohio.com
	Dennis Kucinich	www.kucinich.com
Attorney General	Steve Dettelbach	www.steveforohio.com
State Auditor	Zack Space	www.zackspaceforohio.com
Secretary of State	Kathleen Clyde	www.kathleencyde.com
State Treasurer	Rob Richardson	www.robforohio.com/robrichardson
19th State Senate	Louise Valentine	www.valentineforohio.com
68th State House	Jason Vazquez	
67th State House	Open	Contact Peg Watkins: ploiskent@gmail.com
County Commissioner		
County Auditor		

***The Special election for Congressional District 12 will be on May 8th (regular Primary), and August 8th for the Special General Election.**



DeWine Endorses Anti-Worker Ballot Initiative

Mike DeWine made clear that he would drag the state back into divisive fights over issues like so-called “right to work” legislation — which DeWine told the Columbus Dispatch he supports putting on the ballot, despite the fact that voters overwhelmingly rejected a similar anti-worker law with the defeat of Senate Bill 5 in 2011.

“When you consider Mike DeWine’s answers to the Columbus Dispatch’s survey of the candidates for Ohio governor, it’s clear that he wants to drag Ohio right back into the thick of nasty political fights — fights that target everyday Ohioans and workers,” said Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper. “Even though John Kasich said so-called ‘right to work’ legislation isn’t on his agenda and Ohio voters shot down Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 vote, Mike DeWine said he supports getting the anti-worker initiative — which is backed by out-of-state billionaires like the Koch brothers — on the ballot.



Get Involved!

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 Donations](#) area to sign-up for or renew your Party membership.

Interact with us on Facebook:

Communicate with our active membership and get the most up-to-date information.

<https://facebook.com/ohiodeladems>

Attend a 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***

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. Also see Chair Ed Helvey's comments in the above article *Cheers From The Chair*. And you can always get more information on our [website](#) on how to file for candidacy.