



Portage Democratic Coalition
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Our Mission Statement

The Portage Democratic Coalition is an organization open to diverse individuals and groups. Our mission is to promote progressive domestic and foreign policies and practices, as well as positive change, at all levels of government and society.

We serve as a vehicle for social justice, a source for progressive public policy, and a force for universal access to education and other goods and services.

Membership

Become a member of the Portage Democratic Coalition. By becoming a member you are helping build a permanent progressive organization in Portage county. The more generous you are with your membership dues, the stronger we will become.

Membership Annual Dues—

- \$10 regular membership
- \$25 supportive membership
- \$50 sustaining membership

“Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing.”

--Thomas Jefferson

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Time to Stand and Fight Has Come

The primary season in Ohio has come to a close and the slate of Democratic candidates is poised to take back Ohio from the morally bankrupt and intensely corrupt republicans. The only thing standing between a state government led by Democrats and returning the republican swine to power is you. Each and everyone of you. The coming election will decide if democracy prevails in Ohio or if it will shrivel into nothing more than a façade to control the masses. We must all work every day until November, no matter how little or great, to ensure our victory.



Here is a road map to assist you in fulfilling your role as an activist:

First and foremost inform yourself. Learn all the candidates by name and know the issues and not just the democratic candidates or the progressive issues. The PDC has a library in our office, our website is full of great links and content, and our meetings are excellent places to network with other activists who are a wealth of knowledge.

Talk loudly and proudly to whomever will listen. Don't be ashamed of your views, don't be fearful of dittoheads blathering redundancies. Engage your friends, your neighbors, your fellow workers and let them know what is on the line in the fall election. Our voting rights, our economy, our infrastructure, our liberties are all endangered by the fanatical republican gubernatorial candidate. Spread the word about how great the Democratic candidates are and why each person you are talking to needs to join in the fight for victory. Use email as a tool to accomplish the same goal. Create a distribution list and forward all political emails to the list.

Volunteer your time. Making phone calls, collecting signatures door to door or at festivals, handing out literature, staffing a table, giving rides, attending rallies, writing letters, delivering yard signs and so much more are the activities that fuel political victory. Decide now to give an hour a day or a day a week, and follow through until November and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you made the difference in bringing about real change.

Lastly, donate financially to those candidates you believe in. You don't have to donate hundreds of dollars. If 1,000,000 of us donated \$10 to Marc Dann's campaign he would be unstoppable. Remember, it's the little fish working together that defeat the big fish!

Now is the time for all progressives, democrats, greens, activists who believe in a better future for all of us to come together creating a force that will be unstoppable. A force that will change Ohio for years to come, saving democracy here in the state, and setting the stage for the national election in 2008.

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING/VIEWING

An Inconvenient Truth opened July 16th at the Cedar Lee in Cleveland. Backed by facts, visual images, and the testimony of international climate experts, Al Gore confronts us with the truth of global warming. Images of the earth's dwindling ice caps and the cracking of major ice shelves in Antarctica and Greenland force the viewer to come to terms with this "inconvenient truth." If we do not begin to significantly reduce the burning of fossil fuels, in about ten years Gore claims the planet may reach a "tipping point" and there will be an irreversible slide into destruction as the Gulf Stream and Jet Stream change course. Gore ends the film by reminding us that we can reduce global warming, that "political will is a renewable resource."

Was the 2004 Election STOLEN? by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in *RollingStone*, June 15, 2006.

www.rollingstone.com/election04. Kennedy carefully crafts an impressive case in support of his claim that the 2004 election was stolen. This claim is primarily based on disturbing, irrefutable evidence from Ohio. Thanks to the machinations of Secretary of State Blackwell "one in every four Ohio citizens who registered to vote in 2004 showed up at the polls only to discover that they were not listed on the rolls, thanks to GOP efforts to stem the unprecedented flood of Democrats eager to cast ballots." Kennedy, without equivocation, declares, "the president's party mounted a massive, coordinated campaign to subvert the will of the people in 2004."

Power Grab by Elizabeth Drew in the *New York Review of Books*, June 22, 2006.

The author describes the concerted attempt by the Bush administration to disrupt the balance of power among the three branches of government with the most aggressive consistent assaults leveled against the legislative branch. She cites an article in the *Boston Globe* which states that Bush has claimed the right to ignore more than 750 laws enacted since he became president. Most of this has been carried out in obscurity, due primarily to the complaisance of Congress and a virtually silent press. Drew concludes with James Madison's prescient warning: The accumulation of all power legislative, executive and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many...may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

Resolutions on Torture and Preemptive Strikes

Two resolutions will be brought to PDC by the Communications Committee at our June 27 meeting. An anti-torture resolution will be presented for approval, and an anti-preemptive strike resolution will be presented for discussion.

Anti-Torture Resolution

The Portage Democratic Coalition of Portage County, Ohio, unconditionally opposes the use of torture against any person, in any form, by any means, for any reason, by an entity.

Anti-Preemptive Strike Resolution

The Portage Democratic Coalition of Portage County, Ohio, opposes the use of preemptive strikes or preventive war against any country. No country should ever use preemption as a pretext for aggression.

Ted Voneida will present the anti-torture resolution, adapted from one previously adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. There will be discussion before a vote is taken.

Frank Kendrick will present the anti-preemptive strike resolution; then open the meeting for discussion prior to finalizing the resolution for a vote at a future date.

Volunteers Needed for Kent Heritage Fest

If you are willing to work a two or three hour shift at the PDC booth during the Kent Heritage Fest on Saturday, July 1, please call **Barb Gaskins** at 330-422-0559.

We'll have petitions to sign, voter registration forms, anti-war literature and campaign material. Help spread the word!

Every Little Bit Helps

Whenever anyone expresses interest, I want to move them one step beyond where they are. If leaning, I want them to commit. If curious, I want them leaning. If committed, I want them to give money, and/or talk to their friends, and/or volunteer.

Every encounter is a chance to pick up another vote, a contribution, a volunteer.

Let's keep at it.

Wear your candidate gear - a shirt when shopping, a button at other times. Have a lawn sign. Not only use bumper stickers, but have a sign in the car window, highly visible, when parked in high traffic areas. Have literature with you. Know how to direct people to the website.

This is viral marketing, and lays the groundwork for a successful campaign.

by: teacherken

How to Fight the Right

Excerpts from: *50 Simple Things You Can Do To Fight the Right*

Edited by: Earth-Works Action Network

Four Ground Rules (pages 16-19)

- #1 Values Come First: Don't forget what you're fighting for; your values are traditional American values.
- #2 Stick to Your Message: Take control of the debate
- #3 Think Strategically: Remember, you're building a movement.
- #4 Think Long-Term: Remember don't overdo it. Don't let yourself get burned out.



You're Part of the Majority (page 33)

- 62% of Americans say they would prefer a universal health care system. (ABC News poll.)
- 66% of Americans don't want *Roe v. Wade* overturned. (Wall Street Journal)
- 83% of Americans support raising the minimum wage. (Gallup)
- 77% of Americans say that "the country should do whatever it takes to protect the environment." (Pew Research)
- 76% of Americans approve of Social Security. (Harris)

Be a "Blue" Consumer (pages 42-43)

Visit the Buy Blue website: www.buyblue.org

Write On: Send a letter to the editor or write an op-ed piece (pages 77-78)

- You can influence your neighbors.
- You can influence local, state, even national policy.
- You can influence editorial decisions...even if your letter's not printed.
- You make other voices stronger.

The book will be for sale in the PDC office for a nominal charge of \$10. All proceeds will be devoted to fighting the right! Please email Fred Mendiola(MENDI368@aol.com) or call the PDC office for more information.

Website Links:

www.summitprogdems.org

www.afsc.org

www.truthout.org

www.alternet.org

www.commondreams.org

www.motherjones.com

www.thenation.com

www.airamericaradio.com

www.democracynow.org

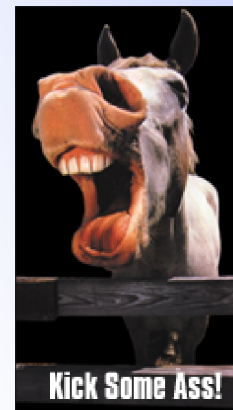
www.truemajority.org

www.wellstone.org

www.pdamerica.org

www.buyblue.org

www.democracyforamerica.com



Come check out the PDC website. We now have a blog, a calendar, and much more. www.pdcOhio.us

Local PDA Members Journey to Grassroots Weekend in D.C.

PDC member **Fred Mendiola** joined Summit County PDA members **Patrick and Michael Carano, Lisa Zeno Carano** and **Mary Nichols-Rhodes** for a PDA organizing and lobbying weekend in Washington, D.C. on May 22-25

Sponsored by Progressive Democrats of America, participants from across the country gathered to organize and strengthen the Progressive movement inside the Democratic Party and strategize to deliver electoral victories in November.

After a Sunday morning filled with panels designed to inform and energize PDA activists, participants joined with activists from United for Peace and Justice to plan a day of lobbying on Monday. That day, representatives visited congressional offices to discuss important legislation to extricate US forces from Iraq and end the occupation.



Mary Nichols-Rhodes of Summit County Progressive Democrats and Ohio Co-Coordinator Michael Carano met with Rep. Sherrod Brown's assistant for International Relations, Christine Lamberti. Their presentation focused on key Out of Iraq Resolutions and Bush's policies toward Iran. Ms. Lamberti stressed that Rep. Brown strongly opposes any use of nuclear weapons against Iran and supports direct negotiations instead of military action; and he insists that the 2002 resolution allowing use of force against Iraq which he opposed did not allow expansion of the conflict to Iran.

Michael says the highlight of the weekend was "meeting with a diverse group of fellow activists determined to end the death and destruction imposed by this administration."

For Mary, it was seeing "how effective PDA is and how the movement is growing and how it represents hope."

Help Ensure a Democratic Victory in November— VOLUNTEER!

News about the Ohio Coordinated Campaign



Voters in Portage County normally can be relied on to vote 54% Democrat for state candidates, according to Jim Johnston, coordinator for the Ohio Democratic Party in Portage County. But, he emphasizes, in November 2006 our target is 65%!

"We have an 88-county approach this year," he states. No county will be ignored or taken for granted. Volunteers in each county will target Democrats and Independents in every precinct. Victory Squads, headed by volunteer coordinators, will focus on a variety of activities, including grassroots outreach, canvassing, phone banking, early voter contacts, fundraising, and Get Out the Vote.

PDC is working with the County Democratic Party to turn out every possible vote for Ted Strickland, Sherrod Brown and the entire Democratic slate. If you are interested in volunteering, call the PDC office at 330-673-1116 or the Democratic Party office in Ravenna at 330-298-DEMS.