

Greetings Fellow Democrats,

Democratic Engagement and Upcoming Events in Ohio

Reflections and Outlook for 2026

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and wish you all the best for the new year. The year 2025 presented significant challenges for democracy, the rule of law, and truth and justice, particularly with the end of Affordable Care Act subsidies and the revelations from the Epstein files. As we move into 2026, it is an especially critical year for Democrats, offering an opportunity to reverse these setbacks and advance positive change.

Strategic Goals for Democratic Success

This year, it is imperative for Democrats to regain control of both the U.S. House and Senate. In Ohio, Senator Sherrod Brown is committed to doing his part, as is Jerrad Christian in the 12th district. Additionally, Ohio Democrats are fielding a strong and diverse group of candidates for state offices, from the Governor's race to local down-ballot positions and issues. The party is energized, with many individuals stepping up to run, working collectively to help make Ohio a competitive, purple state.

Candidate Petitions and Community Engagement

I am collecting signatures for the petitions of Dr. Amy Acton and David Pepper, who are running for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. I will be available at the Millersburg library parking lot on January 11th, 18th, and 25th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm for those interested in signing. If these times do not work, please contact me to make alternative arrangements. To be eligible to sign, you must reside in Holmes County and be a registered Democratic voter during the 2024-2025 primary election, having not voted in another party's primary.

Defending Democracy and Local Activism

Defending Democracy is an active group in Wayne County that organizes rallies on the Wooster square. You can follow their activities on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/352759838099950/. Their next rally is scheduled for Saturday, January 10th, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to bring signs and join in this peaceful gathering to express concerns about the current government and ongoing events. In addition to the rally, the group is collecting canned and boxed food donations for a food drive.

Holmes County Board of Elections Update

The staff and board members of the Holmes County Board of Elections will attend the Ohio Association of Election Officials conference in Columbus this month, which spans two and a half days. Holmes County is fortunate to have such a dedicated team representing its interests at the state level.

Upcoming HCDP Meeting

The next Holmes County Democratic Party (HCDP) meeting is scheduled for March. Further details will be shared as the date approaches.

Take care,

Ramona Stoner

HCDP Chair