



Summit County  
**Progressive  
Democrats**

## SCPD NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Val McKittrick



Friends,

As I write this, we are 29 days from the General Election; I am both eager and anxious. Like you, I'm waiting to exhale. I need this President to be a one-term President. I need a commander-in-chief who knows how to command, and not just for personal gain. I need to replace my apprehension with optimism. Never have I felt the weight of an election more; the myriad implications of another term with Trump or a first term with Biden are staggering indeed.

As Progressive Democrats, I'm sure you're all registered voters and have requested your absentee ballots. Now, encourage everyone you know to request theirs. Please don't assume they already have. Call, text, or email them. Offer them a Democratic sample ballot, offer to drive them to the Board of Elections, or offer them postage to return it via USPS. If they're voting in person, encourage them to have voting day plans—just in case.

Whatever it takes, we must make our voices heard! This President and his ilk need to know that they do NOT represent the majority of Americans and that we are taking our county back.

Stay well and wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands!

## SCPD FUNDRAISING IN THE PANDEMIC

By Bob Gippin (Fundraising Committee Chair) & Sherrie Weitzenhof (Fundraiser Chair)



Covid-19 is good for at least one thing: SCPD Fundraising! Forced to cancel the annual fundraiser, we raised very nearly the same net amount [\$14,060 compared to \$15,400 in 2019] with almost no logistical work needed, other than persistent follow up with potential sponsors by Fundies. Many people donated without being harangued because they knew what an important election year this is. And we even increased the number of donors (59)! But of course, we lost all the camaraderie -- next year we'll hopefully have that again and we'll raise even more. We have penciled in May 6, 2021 with Greystone for our fundraiser event.

And actually, we raised very substantially more than usual, thanks to a recent \$20,000 (in addition to the above amount) one-time contribution from a longtime friend of Frank and Ingrid Kunstel. \$16,000 of the new money will go to candidates this year and in the future, \$4000 is being reserved for issues, at the contributor's request.

The Fundies will continue to do their wonderful work, but Bob Gippin also plans to try to raise additional money through direct appeals to potential contributors (individuals and groups). We tried it in 2016 with no luck, but we were so busy with the campaign that not much time and energy was available for the effort. And contributors may be even more eager to help us elect a progressive slate in Ohio in 2022 -- and push the Biden/Harris Administration to the left, starting 1/20/21!

We still have the lists of potential contributors from then, that just need to be updated, to save some work now. And next year we should have time to devote more fully to the effort. Edna Borders and Jan Oakley have already volunteered to help, but there's enough to do that any help will be welcome.

And a special note to those considering a run for office: This will be great fundraising practice for you. We'll be doing essentially what a candidate's campaign does. So, you can accomplish both goals!

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

At our fundraiser we have a standard on every table that contains a list of all our generous donors. Here are the ones for 2020

### DONORS TO SCPD 2020 FUNDRAISER

#### PLATINUM PLUS

Carl Haefling & Pam Johnson

#### PLATINUM

Mary Lohman

#### GOLD

Ingrid & Frank Kunstel  
Marcia Kunstel

#### SILVER

Sean D'Arcy  
Congresswoman Marcia Fudge  
Bob & Susan Gippin  
Judge Elinor Marsh Stormer  
David Worhatch

## **BRONZE**

Tom Bevan  
Nancy Clem  
Representative Tavia & John Galonski  
Eileen & George Goldman  
Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt  
Valerie & Brad McKittrick  
Mary Louise & Bill McMahon  
Laura & Chuck Monroe  
Sharon & Chuck Pervo  
County Executive Ilene Shapiro

Senator Vernon Sykes  
Pat Simons  
Judge Thomas Teodosio &  
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio  
Kathryn Thomas  
Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters  
Representative Casey Weinstein  
Sherrie & Dave Weitzenhoff  
Phill Wiland

## **PATRON**

N.J. Akbar  
Carol Allen  
Russ Balthis  
Adele & Steve Blazey  
Carol Button  
Diana Colavecchio  
Susan Dean & Diane Millett  
Kani Hightower  
Ardith & Bill Keck  
Richard & Mary King  
Barbara & Thomas Kuby  
Greg Kunstel  
Steve Kutnick  
Sandra Laurenson

Steve Lederer  
Shammas Malik  
Brenda McShaffrey  
Richard Melecki  
Jan Oakley  
Connie Rebich  
Tom Schmida  
Sarah Scott  
Alison Seefeldt  
Nancy Tondy &  
Donna Mazzola  
Carolyn Varner  
Kelley Wagner

# **CAMPAIGN SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Brad McKittrick, (CSC Chair)

SCPD was able to raise over \$14,000 even without an in-person event this year thanks to many generous donations. Plus, we received a one-time \$20,000 donation. Here are the candidates we endorsed and the amounts allocated.

<b>Kani Hightower Summit County Domestic Relations Court</b>	<b>\$3800</b>
<b>Betty Sutton 9<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals</b>	<b>\$3800</b>
<b>Jennifer Brunner State Supreme Court</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Matt Shaughnessy Rep. 36<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>\$3400</b>
<b>Kandy Fatheree Summit County Sheriff</b>	<b>\$3400</b>
<b>Paula Prentice District 8 Summit County Council</b>	<b>\$1800</b>
<b>Marcia Fudge Ohio 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Aaron Godfrey Ohio 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Sandra Kurt Summit County Clerk of Courts</b>	<b>\$2400</b>
<b>Casey Weinstein Rep. 37<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>\$2400</b>
<b>Vernon Sykes Ohio Senate 28<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Emilia Sykes Rep. 34<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Rita Darrow District 1 Summit County Council</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Joe Campbell Rep. 38<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>\$1800</b>
<b>Dr. Christina Collins State School Board</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Tavia Galonski Rep. 35<sup>th</sup> District Endorsed, did not request a donation.</b>	
<b>Sherri Bevan Walsh Summit County Prosecutor</b>	<b>Endorsed, did not request a donation.</b>
<b>Veronica Sims District 5 Summit County Council</b>	<b>Pending approval of board and body.</b>

# THE OHIO SUPREME COURT—WHO CARES?

By Frank Kunstel

Sure the U.S. Supreme Court is important. It decides cases about gun rights, abortion rights, free speech, and lots of other important stuff. But what does the Ohio Supreme Court do? Actually, it impacts our lives in lots of ways.

## EXAMPLES OF COURT DECISIONS

Remember when Governor DeWine and Amy Action wanted to postpone the March primary election due to the pandemic? Some state legislators and some candidates fought that decision and the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the governor had the authority to delay the election.

In 2018, the state Supreme Court ruled in one abortion-related case that an abortion clinic could not sue over abortion restrictions in a state budget, and in another case upheld the requirement that a Toledo clinic had to have a transfer agreement with a local hospital in order to continue services.

Remember the ECOT scandal? An on-line private education system received funds from the state based not on how many students actually participated, but on how many were enrolled, even if they never participated in any of the classes. The state court ruled that state government could claw back \$80 million in undeserved state funds.

## THE 2020 ELECTION—HOW TO WIN

This year there are two seats up for election on the court. If the Democrats win the two seats, we will have a majority on the court. What makes these so critical is that the next state legislature will redraw both state legislative districts and

Congressional districts under a new law which supposedly will provide more participation by the minority party and therefore reduce gerrymandering. The application of that law has the potential to be contested in court by whichever party does not like the outcome.



Candidate Judge John P.  
O'Donnell,



Candidate Judge Jennifer Brunner

The biggest obstacle to Democrats winning Ohio Supreme Court seats is simply low voting. Generally, in Ohio there is a deep fall-off of the number of voters who vote Democrat at the top of the ticket compared to the number who vote at the bottom, where the judicial races are. Part of this is because judicial candidates do not have their party affiliation next to their name on the ballot.

For the years 2006 to 2014, the statewide average drop-off for Democrats was 40% and for Republicans it was 10%. Those aren't typos, Democrats abandoned voting for judges at four times the rate that Republicans did.

But the good news is it doesn't have to be that way. In 2018, the two Democratic candidates for the Supreme Court saw a drop-off of only -5% (actually got more votes than the top of the ticket) and 10%, while the two Republican candidates saw drop-offs of 38% and 25%. And guess who won? So, we have a real chance to win the two seats this year. Which is one more reason why getting sample ballots to Democratic voters is so important.

## SCPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**VOTE NOW! REMIND  
EVERYONE YOU KNOW**