



# THE EUCLID DEMOCRAT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

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[eucliddems.org](http://eucliddems.org)

## *Saving the Soul of Ohio*

Ohio's history as a bellwether state is widely known and historically documented. It went with the winner of every presidential election from 1960 until, thankfully, 2020. It is also well known to those of us who live here, Ohio has lost its way over the last decade. It is no longer a good indicator of the nation's political climate. Gerrymandering has turned red waves into a beach full of conspiracy theorists and fringe names. (See article on redistricting, linked on page 8)

Yet somehow Ohio has elected Senator Sherrod Brown twice, both times by considerable margins. This has been the lone glimmer of hope is statewide elections in recent years. Now, we are in a position to elect a new senator from Ohio. Brown's counterpart, Rob Portman, certainly no friend of the middle class, has seemingly been embarrassed into retirement by the terrifying antics and criminal behavior of his party and its supporters.

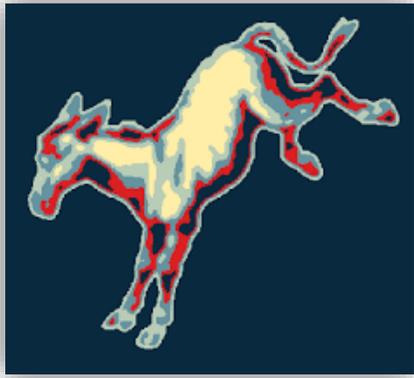
This is a pivotal election for Ohio's heart and soul. Electing Tim Ryan, like Brown a strong advocate for the middle class, will be the first step in restoring the reputation of Ohio on a national stage. Ryan who is from the industrial Mahoning Valley has always been a voice for workers and common sense in Congress. Please see his recent remarks on the January 6th commission-  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/05/20/tim-ryan-capitol-insurrection-commission/>

Generally, we don't get into the specifics of supporting individual candidates here. However, it is unlikely another Democrat with Ryan's electability will enter the race. This race is too important for this not to be said early and often.

*Chris Ericksen, President EDC*

**[EucliddemsOH@gmail.com](mailto:EucliddemsOH@gmail.com)**

**Email us for any questions,  
requests or for  
information on the Club**



Save the  
date!

**Euclid Democratic  
Club Virtual  
Brunch, 2021**

**August 29, 2021- on Zoom, please stay tuned for more information. Details to follow.**

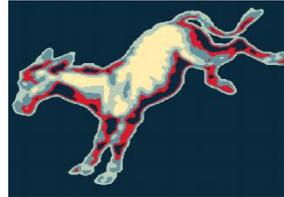
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**Follow the Euclid Dems on Social Media,  
It's a great way to get Brunch updates.**



# *Juneteenth, Celebrating Freedom*

Pamela Gray-Mason, Euclid Democratic Club Member



For many black Americans, Juneteenth is a celebration to commemorate the end of slavery. For many white Americans, recent protests over police brutality have driven their awareness of Juneteenth's significance. Presently, in some states Juneteenth celebrations are week long. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, (June 19) in the aftermath of the Civil War, enslaved people were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation.

Is Juneteenth a national holiday? It is not yet a federal holiday, but discussions are ongoing throughout the nation. On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas. Today, it's recognized in 47 states and the District of Columbia, according to the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota are the only states without an official recognition.



So many celebrations are being planned in the Cleveland Cuyahoga County area. Here are a few: African American Cultural Gardens (on East Blvd) will have a caravan through the Cultural Gardens (900Am-100Pm). Come walk and enjoy the Gardens.

Downtown Cleveland: Freedom Fest is set to become an annual destination event the heart of Downtown Cleveland in the heart of Downtown Cleveland, Saturday, June 19 from 12:00 pm – 10:00pm on Mall C city-wide, family-friendly,” a mainstage performance by Karamu House, the country’s oldest Black producing theatre; and a fireworks finale made possible by #CL3Alliance, the Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Browns, and Cleveland Indians.

No matter where you end up on Juneteenth, celebrate the END of slavery and opposition. It is HISTORY! For more events, Goggle Juneteenth Events or contact Eventbrite.

# Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus

Steve Holecko, Political Director



## The NFL Draft and the Cleveland Mayor's Race

In April our community hosted a wonderful national showcase event, the NFL draft. Before the draft



those of us who follow the sport were deluged by numerous scouting reports about the best players who might be drafted. These scouting reports included statistics, projections and evaluations by scouting experts about how the player's would best fit in with the team's that might draft them. Some of the scouting reports were objective but most were very subjective.

On November 2 a far more important event will occur in northeast Ohio. That event is an election that will determine who the next mayor of the City of Cleveland is going to be. As we've approached the June 14 filing deadline we've been in what can best be characterized as the " candidate announcement season ". The major candidates have all held a press conference to formally announce that they are running for mayor. After these announcements the local media has covered the event's with a scouting report on the candidates capabilities. Included in these scouting reports are positions on various issues, how voters might perceive these positions and prior experience as an elected official and / or in other areas. However, the most important part of each scouting report is always how much money each candidate has raised along with how much more they are likely to raise. The candidates with the large corporate contributions of course are heavily favored over the populist candidates who may have better positions on the issues but don't have the money to get their message out.

Candidates and elected officials often get caught with a particularly bad look corporate contribution that preceded a particularly bad look vote in favor of that corporation's interests. We saw this most recently with the HB 6 scandal and the legislators who voted for the bill after receiving huge contributions from First Energy. Candidates and elected officials often explain these votes by saying that the money they received had nothing to do with how they voted. Really? Then why did they give you that money in the first place?

The term " Fair Elections" is usually used to refer to making sure that everyone who wants to vote can do so as easily as possible. Imagine for a moment that we had completely publicly financed campaigns with all candidates having an equal amount of money to get their message out. Imagine if the scouting reports on each candidate's capabilities only included the candidates positions on the issues and prior experiences. Imagine if we actually had " Fair Elections".



[CCPC May Membership Meeting on Youtube](#)

[Join the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus](#) Membership is free!

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## *Cuyahoga County's Diversion Center*

Sunny Simon, County Councilwoman, Ward 11

As Cuyahoga County studies the need for a new County Jail, much attention has been focused on the need for innovative strategies to address jail population. Studies have shown that many inmates in our County Jail suffer from underlying issues such as drug addiction and/or mental health diagnoses.

Last month, Cuyahoga County opened the first Diversion Center in the State of Ohio. Working collaboratively with law enforcement, addiction specialists, and mental health experts, the Diversion Center will provide treatment options for low-level offenders, rather than simply housing them at our County Jail. This facility, temporarily located on East 55th Street in Cleveland, will provide treatment beds for up to 50 individuals. The residents will receive needed medical assessments, detox services, and connections to other treatment options. Services will be provided



around the clock and outreach to our local law enforcement entities has already begun by the County to assist in identifying which inmates would be ideal candidates for the services provided at the Diversion Center.

This facility will not just reduce the population of our County Jail, but also will address the root issues faced by numerous County inmates.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about the Diversion Center, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## **Cuyahoga County Democratic Party**

Helen Sheehan, Interim Executive Director



On June 10, 2021, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chairwoman, Shontel Brown, welcomed speakers Congressman Tim Ryan, Mayor John Cranley and Mayor Nan Whaley to its Annual Event. Ms. Brown focused on the success of President Biden’s American Jobs Plan and discussed working with Democratic Party members, partners and others to register and turn out voters and elect Democrats throughout the county.

“We are the Party of protecting Americans and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, building a stronger fairer economy, creating a sustainable infrastructure, and more. We are united in our commitment to keeping this nation moving forward and ensuring every vote counts. We stand with working families; we stand on the right side of important issues like quality health care, jobs, and education. Our nation and our democracy are being challenged in ways we have not yet endured. We are being tested as a nation and as a Party, and we stand with unified voices for a better county, state and country,” said Chairwoman Brown.

“We will mobilize our supporters and continue moving our Party forward because as we know firsthand, elections have consequences. This is OUR time to take back Ohio, one voter at a time,” Ms. Brown continued. Congressman Tim Ryan [D-OH 13th District], candidate for Senate, Cincinnati Mayor, John Cranley, who is running for Governor and Dayton Mayor, Nan Whaley, also running for Governor, outlined key factors leading them to launch their campaigns and their plans to win Ohio.

Democratic members and supporters attended the annual event via Zoom Webinar.

## More information about the speakers:

### Mayor Nan Whaley

Nan Whaley grew up in a small town in Indiana and moved to Ohio to attend the University of Dayton, becoming the first person in her family to graduate college. She learned the values of hard work, strength, and resilience from her dad, a union autoworker who lost his job but never lost his dignity, and her mom, who went to work at the laundromat behind their house to help make ends meet. She was first elected mayor in 2013 and since then has faced down some of the toughest challenges, including a KKK rally, a series of devastating tornadoes, and a senseless mass shooting that left 9 people dead. Each time, Nan stepped up and led her city through its hardest moments.



### Mayor John Cranley



Since taking office in 2013, Mayor Cranley has helped lead Cincinnati's comeback by prioritizing inclusion and investing in people. As Mayor, John oversaw Cincinnati becoming the first city in America to offer two years of high-quality universal preschool and helped lead the doubling of funding for public transportation and infrastructure. Recently, Mayor Cranley broke ground on the largest municipally-led solar project in the country, which will make Cincinnati carbon neutral by 2022. During his time as mayor, Cincinnati's poverty rate has decreased more than twice as much as any city in Ohio.

Before being elected Mayor, John co-founded the Ohio Innocence Project which has helped release nearly three dozen people who have been wrongfully convicted.

Growing up in a family filled with people who dedicated their lives to public service, Mayor John Cranley learned at an early age that putting the needs of others ahead of your own is how you lead a meaningful life. He learned to value social justice and care for those who are in need. Those are the values that John and his wife Dena are passing on to their son Joseph, and those are the values that guide John as mayor.

## Congressman Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan is running for the U.S. Senate to cut Ohio workers in on the deal.

A lifelong Ohioan who lives just a few miles from the house where he grew up in Niles, Tim has spent his career fighting for Ohio workers. He's seen in his own community what happens when our politics and our economy aren't working for working people. And he understands that there's nothing more patriotic than investing in our team, bringing good-paying jobs to Ohio, and making sure our workers can compete with countries around the world — and win.

In Congress, Tim has fought for working families in his district and across the country — opposing unfair trade deals that would ship jobs overseas, pushing to raise wages, and working to protect the promise of a secure retirement by strengthening Medicare and Social Security.

He has taken on the challenges facing Ohio communities, working across the aisle to combat the opioid crisis, and investing in clean water infrastructure for Lake Erie. He's also worked hand-in-hand with businesses to revitalize American manufacturing and bring good-paying jobs and opportunities home to Ohio.

In the Senate, Tim will fight to raise wages, make healthcare more affordable, invest in education, rebuild our public infrastructure, and revitalize manufacturing so we can make things in Ohio again — and he'll make sure we're cutting workers in on the deal every step of the way.

Tim currently lives in Howland with his wife Andrea, their three children, and two dogs.



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## ***You can file the linked article under “Non-Representational Democracy”***

Please see the attached link to The Ohio Capital Journal:

<https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2021/06/14/ohio-gop-leaders-may-have-sole-power-to-intervene-in-gerrymandering-cases/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=a4bcd0ab-490f-4fed-9145-66a910697c2f>



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**Help us get  
the word  
out!**

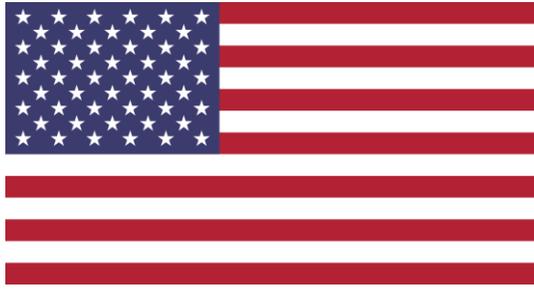
**Thank you all for your  
support so far this year.**



Euclid Democratic Club  
ZOOM Agenda  
Thursday, June 17, 2021- 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Certification of a Quorum
4. Certification of Minutes from the May Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Correspondence Secretary Report
7. Committee Reports- Final discussion and voting on the changes to the EDC Bylaws
8. President's Report
9. 1st Vice President's Report
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Open Forum
13. Announcements- Euclid Democratic Club BYO Brunch time and details
14. Adjournment

Next regular membership meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., September 16, 2021, in person at the  
Euclid Library (if meeting rooms are made available) and/or via Zoom (in person and via zoom if the  
changes to the Bylaws are adopted)



EUCLID DEMOCRATIC CLUB Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021  
Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

Schuyler Cook, Phil DiBianca, Chris Ericksen, Maria Ericksen, Jake Ericksen, Mayor Kirsten Gail, Carrie Hilf, Kandace Jones, Betsey Kamm, Sue McGinn, Lynn Radcliffe, Sunny Simon, Janenell Smith, Kent Smith, Larry Williams

**Guest:** Jeannine Johnson-Hogan, Meryl Johnson, Tariq K. Shabazz

**I. Call to Order:** 7:01pm by President Chris Ericksen

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited

**III. Certification of a Quorum:** Satisfied

**IV. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept the April 2021 meeting minutes by Kent Smith, seconded by Kirsten Gail. Motion passed. April 2021 minutes – approved.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer sent out PDF of the treasurer report to club members in good standing. He reviewed the club and PAC account activities. If you have not received a membership packet, please let Schuyler know. Warnock campaign still have not cashed the PAC check donation to their campaign. Chris asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer report, Motion by Kent Smith, seconded by Kandace Jones. Motion approved.

**VI. Correspondence:** Betsey - None

**VII. Committee:**

a. By-Laws Committee – By Laws Committee Review of proposed changes. Each page of the By Laws were reviewed and the changes read and discussed. All changes were discussed, there are 2 updates that will be made based on the discussions

i. Article VI, Section 10, letter D – wording changes

ii. Article VI, Section 13, letter D – wording changes

b. A copy of the proposed By Laws with the 2 changes mentioned above will be sent to club members prior to the June meeting. Proposed By Laws Tabled until the June meeting. Members will get updated version to review and hopefully we can vote if these changes should be accepted.

c. Presidents Report – Chris Ericksen – hopefully, we can return to live meeting in September at the library. The library will let us know if that is possible. The brunch this year will be a virtual event. Shared information about The Franklin Project

### **VIII. Guest Speakers:**

a. Candidate running for 11th Congressional District Congressperson, to replace Marcia Fudge for her remaining term. There will be a special election in 2021 to fill this position

i. Tariq K. Shabazz

b. Meryl Johnson – Ohio State Board of Education Representative

i. shared information regarding “Critical Race Theory” – teaching the truth (good and bad) about our country. A legislative bill that may be introduced soon that would make it illegal for teachers to teach about race during class. Meryl wanted people to know this is not a good bill to move forward.

ii. Shared information about HB298 – proposed to change the composition of the State Board of Education. Currently there are 11 elected, 8 appointed by the governor. The current appointed members have made it possible to support equity and social justice. It would not be good to get rid of appointed members and have all elected members.

iii. State Board of Education has been sued – Meryl shared information about this issue.

iv. Fair School Funding Plan – it is in the budget.

c. Sunny Simon –

i. County opened the Diversion Center (E.55th) working with Oriana House. Setting up a mental health clinic at Metro Health at Severance.

ii. Central Booking – County Council has approved the build out of the bottom of the Justice Center to have comprehensive services available before the arrestee gets booked for low level crimes.

iii. Looking to get back on track with the plastic bag removal in January.

iv. County to establish its own utility – a microgrid – a way to attract economic development. The first County in the country to lead this effort.

**IX. Old business:** None

**X. New business:** None

**XI. Open Forum:**

a. Kent Smith – possible brunch dates August 22nd or August 29th. Kent is working on getting keynote speakers lined up.

**XII. Announcements:**

a. Mayor Gail shared in the meeting chat regarding the COVID vaccines that will be administered in Euclid

i. Imani Church – Saturday May 22nd – 1505 E260th

ii. The River of Life Church – Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> -24600 LDB

iii. Cathedral Worship Center – June 5th – 21601 Euclid Ave

Raffle: N/A

**XIV. Adjournment:** EDC meeting adjourned at: 9:14pm,

Next meeting: Thursday June 17, 2021 –using Zoom.

*Rec. Sec. Kandace Jones*



*Thanks for reading and thank you to  
all of our contributors!  
See you at the **BRUNCH** and in  
September's edition*

**-Euclid Democratic Club**

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