

THE EUCLID DEMOCRAT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

January 2021

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Welcome to 2021 Dems!

Let's face it, 2020 was a tough year. We are still in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and we have lacked all leadership at the federal level. The meager leadership coming from the Governor's office has been met with armed protests in front of the Statehouse. There are many reasons to question...well... everything.

Then came November with record voter turnout and the election of a new United States President! Even that has been harder than it should have been. There was a tense vote count, many fruitless challenges from the Trump campaign and tragically, an insurrection at the US Capitol building.

Despite almost constant turmoil, we made it to a new year, a new President, a new Senate and the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you all for getting us here! Now we can begin the work of progress.

Also, let me thank you for joining us in the first of many Euclid Democratic Club Newsletters. In every issue we will have a wide range of contributing columnists, hopefully something for everyone. as well as important information about the club. Please, join us on Zoom for our monthly meetings, too.

– *Chris Ericksen President (Elect) Euclid Dems*

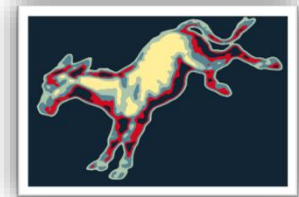
FOLLOW THE EUCLID DEMOCRATIC CLUB ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



Zoom Meetings will be held on the third Thursday every month at 7PM, watch your email for the login info. If we don't have your email address or for registration, email us here-

euclidOHdems@gmail.com

Senate Bill 175-Stand Your Ground is a Very Dangerous Bill



Pamela Gray-Mason, Euclid Democratic Member

Over the holiday, while most Ohioans were concerned with paying their bills and the surge of COVID-19, the Republican Supermajority controlling the Ohio Statehouse passed “Stand Your Ground” bill! On December 17, 2020, The Ohio House passed legislation that would eliminate the duty of people in the state to retreat before using force in self-defense. Why is this bill dangerous to most citizens? Just a few points, for the purpose of space.

Under existing Ohio law, people are justified in using deadly force in self-defense so long as they aren't the aggressor, believe they are in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm, and are in their home or vehicle. The amendment removed the 'home or vehicle' requirement and instead states that defendant need only be in a place where they lawfully have the right to be.



Multiple studies have shown that murder rates will go up. While the appearance of Stand Your Ground laws make communities safer, that assertion is not supported by the facts. It has been proven that these laws make communities less safe! In Florida, there was 32% increase in firearm homicide rates after passing Stand Your Ground laws. Fact: we also know these laws have clear racial bias.

The law also includes licensee to carry a firearm inside a school safety zone, etc. The law makes all schools/districts immune from civil liability for injuries/deaths that occur allegedly as the result of a person carrying a firearm in a school safety zone. Don't we have enough problems within the school system beside bringing a firearm to school? The law has college/university student is permitted to carry a firearm.

The passage of Stand Your Ground, made Ohio, the 35th state in the Union. **Stand Your Ground is not self-defense. It's shoot first, ask questions later! Ohio will now be a "Stand Your Ground" (Kill at Will) state.**

The disappointment is with Governor Michael DeWine. He signed the bill. Organizations and individuals asked the Governor to veto the bill. He caved under pressure from the Republican Supermajority! Did he forgot that on August 4, 2019, a mass murderer killed 9 and injured 17 in the City of Dayton. He offered his apologies to Mayor Nan Whaley and had the flags lowered to half-mask.

Stand Your Ground is a law that should not be taken lightly.

*Information and resources obtained by several sources

End the Guessing Game for Judges



Judge William Vodrey

Ohio, like a majority of states, still elects its judges. And if you're like me, it can be pretty daunting to see those long lists of names towards the bottom of the ballot. Who to vote for? How can you tell them all apart?

It's an important obligation of citizenship in this great republic to vote, and you certainly should, but it should also be an *informed* vote. Nobody should vote for a candidate just because he's left-handed, or has purple hair, or because you think you maybe, just possibly, might have sometime in the distant past voted for someone who happened to have the same last name (who might not even be related to this candidate). That's no proper basis for choosing the judges who will have power over the life, liberty and property of those appearing before a court.

But when looking over lists of candidates for judge, how can you best figure out who's who, and who deserves your vote?

Fortunately, there's Judge4Yourself.com, a useful, nonpartisan resource offering apples-to-apples comparisons of judicial candidates. It's a website with the ratings of all five major Cuyahoga County bar associations. Judge4Yourself ("J4Y") has each candidate who wishes to participate in the ratings process fill out an application, and then participate in a joint interview at which members of each bar association get to ask questions. The bar associations then separately meet to discuss and rate the candidates, and you can then see how they stack up.



Participating groups in J4Y are the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, the Norman S. Minor Bar Association, the Ohio Women's Bar Association, the Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the

Asian American Bar Association of Ohio. They describe their common mission like this: "Our goal is to help Cuyahoga County voters elect good judges. Our ratings tell voters, in simple language, whether we think that a candidate will make a good judge. Our rating page links to a biography for every candidate we rate, and information about the state or municipal court where the candidates seek office. Although our perspectives vary, we agree that knowledgeable, fair and respectful judges are essential for our community."

You can also meet and ask questions of judicial candidates at meetings of the Euclid Democratic Club, look up their websites (many candidates these days have them), and even contact them directly with your questions and concerns. Judicial candidates cannot ethically say they will always rule one way, or never rule another way. But they can answer many of your questions and let you know, in broad terms, what their views are on the important issues before the court to which they hope to be elected.

An informed voter is a better voter. Get the information you need to make a wise decision at the polls, this year and every year. For more information, go to Judge4Yourself.com.

William Vodrey is a judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus

Steve Holecko, Political Director



The [Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus](#) was formed in July of 2016 in the aftermath of the 2016 Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. Our initial mission then and is now is to educate, organize and mobilize around progressive issues and causes. In the last four and a half years we have focused our efforts primarily in five different areas 1) Addressing wealth inequality in our work with the Fight for Fifteen campaign in 2016, the Q Referendum campaign in 2017, our work with CLASH and the passing of a lead safe ordinance in Cleveland in 2019 and our ongoing work with the Medicare for all movement. 2) Help elect progressive



candidates at the local, state and national levels 3) Moving the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party in a more progressive direction 4) Strengthen local activism and organizations by sharing information and opportunities in our weekly newsletter and 5) Provide local resistance to the draconian policies of the Trump administration. Happily, we're done with area #5

Today we are very proud that 1) CCPC has more than 3500 active members with more than twice that number receiving our emails. 2) CLASH successfully forced passage of a lead safe ordinance that is now being implemented in the City of Cleveland. 3) CCPC endorsed candidates who are now elected officials include two state senators, two state representatives, one county council member, three mayors, sixteen city council members and three school board members in Cuyahoga County and 4) 150 CCPC members are Central Committee or Executive Committee members and four are City / Ward Leaders in the

Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. In the middle of the Pandemic we continue to accelerate our work on issues that affect wealth inequality including rent foreclosures, utility shut offs and advocating for stimulus packages that truly help those in need.

If what you read above sounds appealing please go to [Join the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus](#). Membership is free! Also please attend the [CCPC January Membership Meeting](#) on Thursday, January 21 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Agenda items include 1) CCPC Updates 2) Immigration Reform: What to expect from the Biden Administration. Speaker: Deb Kline from the Immigration Working Group of Cleveland 3) Utilities for All: A new and much needed advocacy group for utilities consumers. Speakers: Jacie Jones from Organize Ohio and Anastazia Vanisko from Ohio Citizen Action. 4) CLASH (Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing) Where the Cleveland Lead Safe Ordinance is headed in 2021. CLASH speakers include Milo Korman and Spencer Wells. [Click Here to Register](#) After registering you'll receive an email with Zoom link information.



January 6th – A Date That Will Live in Infamy

Rep. Kent Smith (D) OH-8, Democratic Leader, City of Euclid

The assault on the US Capitol was such a disturbing event for our nation that, in the future, it will be marked simply by its date. January 6th take your place beside December 7th and September 11th.

The threat was judged to be so severe that traditionally non-political, military leaders of The Joint Chiefs of Staff found it necessary to put out a memo to the soldiers they command. The Joint Chiefs emphasized in the letter that President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated on Jan. 20, becoming the 46th commander in chief, and that any acts to disrupt the constitutional process not only violate military values, but the law.

The fallout of the seditious, insurrection attempt on the U.S. Capitol has reached state government in Ohio. Capitol Square in Columbus was reported to be a focus of future Pro-Trump demonstrations during the week of inauguration. The threats have been considered to be serious enough that Governor DeWine has closed the Ohio Statehouse from Sunday, Jan 17th through Wednesday, Jan 20th.

There have also been some disturbing choices made by leaders within Ohio's state government. An elected State School Board Member, Kirsten Hill, organized a bus trip for Trump supporters who attended the rally before the siege on the US Capitol. Hill, a week after the assault on the Capitol, put out a statement saying that she attended the rally but was not a part of the Trump mob insurrection attempt.

A member of the Ohio Arts Council board, Susan Allan Block, posted an inflammatory rant on social media about violent occupation of by the Trump mob. Her rant that began with: "NO PEACE! NO UNITY! NO CONCESSION! NO LEGITIMACY TO A STOLEN ELECTION! ..." It got worse from there. These statements came to my attention Thursday Jan. 7th, I worked through the night on a letter the Governor. My

office sent the letter to Governor DeWine Friday morning (the 8th), and the Governor accepted the resignation of the Ohio Arts Council Board Member that afternoon.

You can read my official comment on this matter here:

<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/kent-smith/news>

You can read my letter to the Governor about Ms. Block's comments here:

<https://ohiohouse.gov/assets/press-releases/105010/files/7108.pdf>

Myself and my Ohio General Assembly Democratic colleagues are committed to doing our part to hold those responsible for this attack on our American democracy. We ask you to remain vigilant also, but do so in a safe manner.

Cuyahoga County Democratic Party

Hayley Johnson



As we tip off a new year we recognize a very significant day in U.S. history, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King is known as the most important voice of the American Civil Rights Movement. He was a driving force in leading the fight for political and social freedom as well as equality for Blacks and People of Color. We continue to honor his service and his lasting impact on our country and what he stood for by participating in a day of service. CCDP encourages you to look for service events happening on Monday, January 18th, 2021. This month has also proven to be an exciting time for Democrats; with Congresswoman Marcia Fudge being chosen by President-Elect Joe Biden to join his cabinet; with control over the House and the Senate; and with President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris being sworn in on January 20th, 2021. CCDP is hopeful this new administration will bring us closer together in a nation divided, honor and enact the civil rights our predecessors once fought so hard for, and create a safer environment for its peoples.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Forward this newsletter, far and wide!

Help us get the word out!

Labor In NEO

Dan O'Malley, Executive Secretary NorthShore AFL-CIO



As the new Executive Secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO, I want to take a moment to offer organized labor's hand as a friend and partner in our shared mission to put the middle class first in our government.



For too long, Republicans at the local, state and federal level have undermined every effort to provide meaningful economic relief to working families, and have prevented workers' efforts to organize unions in our workplaces. If you want to see the importance of unions in America's cities, you need to look no further than the great city of Euclid. You may not know that Euclid has nearly twice the number of union households per capita than the average US city. The right of Euclid's citizens to collectively bargain for their own wages, benefits, and working conditions is essential to maintaining your city's identity as a gateway to the middle class. Just as a rising tide lifts all ships, so too do improved working conditions and wages for union workers raise the standards for our entire economy.

We can all be grateful that American voters had the wisdom to vote Donald Trump out of the White House and elect Joe Biden, a man who has spent his entire career fighting for workers and standing up for the rights of middle class families. As much as the last four years have been a long, national nightmare, we will now have a president who believes that we should put working families first, that black lives do indeed matter, and that decency and character are values that our children can once again see in our leaders.

I hope you all know how eager I am to work with this great club. Your president, Chris Ericksen, is an outstanding labor leader who has distinguished himself in the union movement, and elected officials like Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer-Gail and State Rep Kent Smith are among the most rock-solid labor supporters around. I hope we can continue the proud tradition of collaboration between organized labor and the Euclid Dems. Count on me as a proud ally. Best wishes for a successful 2021!

**The Inauguration of the 46th President of the United States,
Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris-
January 20, 2021, 12:00pm,
on all major networks and news outlets**



Euclid Democratic Club

*ZOOM Agenda for
Thursday, January 21, 2021- 7 p.m.*

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Certification of a Quorum
4. Swearing in of New Officers
5. Speaker(s): _____
6. Approval of Minutes for November 19, 2020
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Correspondence Secretary Report
9. Committee Reports: Review of Audit Committee duties for 2021
10. President's Report
11. 1st Vice President's Report
12. Old Business:
13. New Business: Select volunteers for the 2021 By-laws Committee, convene the newly selected committee for review of the bylaws.
14. Open Forum
15. Announcements: Before the March meeting we will need to convene a Fundraising Committee, please consider stepping up for this year's committee
16. Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting for February 21, 2020 via Zoom

The November minutes are for your review, we will be voting on them at the January meeting.



EUCLID DEMOCRATIC CLUB Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Dave Bielek, Sanza Clark, Schuyler Cook, Chris Ericksen, Maria Ericksen, Carrie Hilif, William Hilif, Kandace Jones, Joy Kennedy, Sue McGinn, Christine McIntosh, Karen Murray, Lynn Radcliffe, Janenell Smith, Donna Sudar, Richard Tolton, Larry Williams

Guest Sign –in: Lisa Forbes, Judge Steven Gall

- I. Call to Order:** 7:07pm, by Janenell Smith
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited
- III. Certification of a Quorum:** Satisfied
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** October 2020 – passed.
- V. Candidate Speaker:**
 - a. Lisa Forbes – newly elected Judge thanked everyone for their support.
 - b. Judge Steven Gall – thanked everyone for the support of democratic candidates
- VI. 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. More treasurer report under Old business regarding proposed 2021 budget.
- VII. Correspondence –**
- VIII. Committee**
- IX. Old business –** Review of the proposed 2021 budget. Numbers from November 2020 will carry over to beginning of 2021. We will not have a holiday party for 2020. Schuyler made motion to accept the proposed 2021 budget, seconded by Christine McIntosh. Motion passed.

X. New business –

- a. Election of Euclid Democratic Club officers for 2021 – 2022 term (beginning January 2021, ending December 2022)
 - i. This is the list the nomination committee presented at the September meeting, no nominations from the floor at prior meetings.
 1. President - Chris Ericksen
 2. 1st Vice President - Joy Kennedy
 3. 2nd Vice President – Janenell Smith
 4. Recording Secretary - Kandace Jones
 5. Corresponding Secretary – Betsey Kamm
 6. Treasurer - Schuyler Cook
 7. Parliamentarian - Elain Murphy
 8. Sargent of Arms - George Howard
 - ii. Motion made by Larry Williams to accept the slate presented for the 2021-2022 EDC officers, seconded by Lynn Radcliffe, motion passed
 - iii. Officers will be sworn in January 21, 2021 meeting (zoom meeting).

XI. Open Forum –

- a. Councilwoman Christine McIntosh – reviewed COVID19 restrictions (Nov. 18th – Dec. 19)
- b. Karen Murry made a suggestion that EDC send a donation to Georgian Democratic candidates running for Senate positions. Schuyler mentioned there is \$500 line item for candidate donations in our existing budget. The two candidates running in the January election are: Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. Can we send \$150 to each candidate. Larry Williams made a motion to send \$150 to each candidate. How do we assure it gets to the candidate campaign? Christine McIntosh suggested we work with Ohio Dems, they sent an email regarding donations. These donations go through Stacey Abrams initiative, not sure how much each candidate will receive. Suggestion was made that EDC also donate to Stacey Abrams initiatives towards the January election. After more discussions Larry Williams amended his motion to donate \$150 to the Jon Ossoff campaign, \$150 to the Rev. Raphael Warnock campaign and \$100 to Stacey Abrams Fair Fight Campaign. Total of \$400. Motion seconded by Schuyler Cook, motion passed. Schuyler will send separate check from EDC to each – from PAC funds and will try to get a confirmation of receipt.

XII. Announcements

Raffle: N/A

XIV. Adjournment: EDC meeting adjourned at: 8:12pm,

Next meeting: Thursday January 21, 2021 –using Zoom.

Rec. Sec. Kandace Jones

*Thanks for reading and thank you to all of our contributors!
See you in next month's
edition and on Zoom.*



-Euclid Democratic Club

PO Box 32432

Euclid, OH 44132

www.eucliddems.com

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