



July 2021

Ashland County Democratic Party Newsletter

Meet City Council Candidate Heather Sample

Heather L. Sample, a native of the City of Ashland and an advocate for civil rights, promises to represent ALL people in Ward 2 after she is elected to City Council this November. She is running for an open seat on the City Council for a term that begins January 1, 2022.

Heather was born and attended school in Ashland. Shortly after graduating from AHS in 1996, Sample moved to Orlando, Florida to fulfill a dream of working for Disney.



She worked in sales, receiving many awards for excellent service while helping guests from around the world.

She returned to Ashland in 1999 to care for her great grandfather and later received her associate's degree in Applied Business Paralegal Studies at North Central State College in 2005.

Sample works as a paralegal and has worked for Ashland and Mansfield attorneys with a great variety of legal work, giving Sample experience with many civic and municipal matters.

Sample and her husband of six years live in Ashland and have two daughters. Their younger daughter is a member of the National Guard, while the elder daughter is pursuing her bachelor's degree at Ashland University.

Sample is particularly committed to making the Ashland Police Department even stronger. She wants each officer to receive the best possible training (especially de-escalation, anti-bias and crisis intervention training) so that they are safe in their jobs and so that can best serve the variety of people they are employed to protect, including those with mental illnesses and disabilities.

“My goal is to fulfill the needs, wants, and concerns of the people in Ward 2 in the City of Ashland,” she said. “I am very personable, and I believe in following through with the projects I have been given,”

Sample, the mother of a biracial child, is a strong supporter of equality for all types of people and has been actively protesting for racial equality and police reform in Downtown Ashland since June 2020.

“I wish to use my knowledge and my skills to represent the citizens of the Second Ward as a public servant and to truly make Ashland a better place for all,” said Sample. “I want to work with the citizens, council and the mayor to make all things possible and to continue to give people in Ashland, Ohio the best place to raise their families or continue to grow their businesses.”

Heather L. Sample

407-687-2365

Hlsample78@outlook.com



Meet Emily Huestis, Candidate for Ashland City Council

Emily Huestis proudly calls Ashland home. She lives here with her husband Aaron and their two young daughters. Emily works as the executive director for the Ashland Center for Nonviolence at Ashland University and as a public health consultant for the Southeast Ohio HIV/HCV Partnership.

She volunteers with her church, the Red Cross, and as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the Juvenile Court system due to abuse, neglect, or dependency.

People must be known in order to be represented, so Emily is going door to door in Ashland's third ward, getting to know more of her neighbors and their concerns. If you would like to support this effort to bring change to Ashland's city council, you can find out more

at www.emilyhuestisforashland.com and send donations to Elect Emily Huestis, 862 Hoover Drive, Ashland, Ohio 44805.



Dems Writing Letters to the Editor

The editorial below, on the topic of social security, written by Dorothy Stratton with the support of the Progressive Writers Group, appeared in a June edition of the Ashland Times Gazette. We encourage our local Dems to speak out. Thank you Dorothy Stratton!

The Progressive Writers Group has formed to assist people with writing good letters. The purpose of the group is to generate topics for letters to the editor and express support for Progressive and Democratic principles in the community. Letters could also be used for our Newsletter or as handouts. The group is willing to provide support to others who may wish to write letters in terms of technical support or do topical background research. Anyone interested in letter writing or finding out more about the group can contact Dennis Dyer at dwd@zoominternet.net. Just put Writers Group in the subject line of the email.

Social Security Helps Everyone

May 30 was my dad's birthday. He served in World War II and was proud to have his birthday designated as a national holiday. I thought about how seriously he took his traditional provider role, and somewhere in that thinking, I was reminded of how much Social Security has helped my family.

My grandmother, widowed young, raised her two children with the help of family members and with her own employment. Fortunately, Social Security was passed in 1935 and she began to contribute to the fund. When it was time to retire, she worked a few more quarters making salads in a hotel restaurant to qualify for Social Security benefits. My dad contributed to her expenses, but she was able to live on her own with dignity and a decent standard of living.

When my parents retired, they received Social Security benefits based on their contributions. Being self-sufficient was so important to my dad; he would never have asked his children for help. With Social Security and a small pension, he did not have to ask.

My sister, who was a nurse, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in her 40's and by her 50's could no longer work. She qualified for Social Security Disability. Today she lives

independently, able to pay for a support person to clean her house and take her shopping two days a week.

I have always felt that I was a beneficiary of Social Security long before I began to receive retirement benefits myself a few years ago. My family never had a lot of money but no generation was impoverished by old age or disability or the need to help an elderly or disabled relative. Social Security benefits went directly into the economy—the local grocery store, pharmacy, restaurants, clothing stores, and transportation systems.

I am proud to have contributed to Social Security during my working years and am grateful for the foresight and compassion of the legislators who enacted the program into law.

Here is another letter to the editor of the Times Gazette, by Dennis Dyer.

Medicare is very important to Americans

As of January 2021, there were 63.8 million people enrolled in Medicare. Medicare was established by the federal government in 1965.

Social Security has kept millions of the elderly out of poverty. As a child I heard my grandparents talk about what they called old age pension. My grandfather and father tried but failed to organize the coal mine they worked in with the hope of having a United Mine Workers pension. My grandfather died of a heart attack while shoveling coal in that same mine. He had worked 46 years in the mines starting at age 14. At least my grandmother did have Social Security to help her after his death. She still had to continue some work for additional income but was able to live independently on her Social Security payments.

In the early 1960s she still lacked medical insurance until Medicare was established in 1965 which provided the opportunity for affordable medical care for older Americans. Medicare coverage allowed my grandmother better access to affordable health care.

Earlier efforts to establish public health care coverage had failed in 1939 and 1945 but Medicare was finally passed in 1965. After the landslide election of Lyndon Johnson, the Democrats held a strong majority in Congress. While the Democrats had championed the bill, some progressive Republicans also voted for it.

Many of us work hard and save for retirement. The onset of a serious illness would quickly bankrupt many of us if it weren't for Medicare. At age 65, Americans are covered by Medicare which is a cornerstone of a secure retirement. As of 2020, [54.5 million older Americans had medical coverage through Medicare](#). An additional 8.3 million receive Medicare due to disabilities.

Medicare has been of great benefit to my family. Serious illness can be very stressful but

without Medicare that stress would be multiplied by medical bills. Many of us would suffer much personal stress and even bankruptcy without Medicare. Social Security and Medicare have truly changed life for the better for older Americans!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Picnic at Honey Haven Farm

Sunday, August 1st

1230 PM-

Save the date, more info to follow



Meetings

Ashland County Democratic Party

Central Committee Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 PM. During the summer months we will be meeting at Honey Haven Farm Picnic Pavilion in Ashland. As a bonus, you may stop by their farm store before 6 PM and shop for fresh produce, baked goods, etc. All Dems are welcome. Next Meetings are July 15, August 19, and September 16.

Ashland County Democratic Women

The Women's Dem group currently meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM at the Ashland Christian Church picnic pavilion on King Road in Ashland. All Dems are welcome! Next meetings are July 27, August 24, and September 28.

New Ashland County Precinct Persons

At their June 17th meeting, the Ashland County Democratic Party swore in two new Precinct People. They are Martha Ross for the Milton 1 precinct and Barbara Lindsay for Ashland 3B. Being the precinct person is an easy first step to become politically active in your community. Thank you Marty and Barb for stepping up!



DONATE NOW

OR SEND YOUR DONATION TO:
Ashland County Democratic Party
C/O 963 Winthrop Lane
Ashland, Ohio 44805



How Can I Help?

We will need volunteers to assist with the Summer Picnic and the Fairs. Back to business as usual!

Please heed the Calls to Action that we email out. The Republican supermajority in Ohio is currently proposing many budget items and laws that are meant to keep them in power and please their rich donors but are not in the best interests of Ohio residents.

If you are writer, please consider assisting with the Progressive Writers group as described in the article in this issue.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) - 216.522.7272 or 614.469.2083

Senator Robert Portman (R) - 216.522.7095 or 614.469.6774

Congressman Bob Gibbs (R) - 419.207.0650

Ohio House Rep. Darrell Kick (R) - 614.466.2994

Ohio Senate Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R) - 614.466.5802

HOW TO CONTACT US

PHONE: 419-685-7326

Ashland Democratic Party

C/O [963 Winthrop Lane](#)

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#):



*Copyright © *|2021|* *|Ashland County Democratic Party|*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

[963 Winthrop Lane](#)

Ashland, OH 44805