

## Republicans Independents Democrats United

### Meeting Notes

August 26, 2026 – 7:00PM

Eaton Youth Center

Our **Mission** as Republicans, Independents, and Democrats is to Empower individuals, Educate communities, and Energize a movement for truth, accountability, and integrity in our government. We seek to rise above partisanship to defend the values that strengthen our nation because real change starts when informed voices take united action.

Welcome - Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

Introduction of Committee of Six

Bev Brubaker and Jon Smith – co-conveners

Janet Crelin – treasurer

Jean Bussell – secretary

Harold Bussell – email coordinator

Kathy Stevens – at-large

Introductions around the table included guests Rebecca Liebschutz (Ohio Democratic Party), Joy Rosebury and Bill Coppess (Drake County Democratic Party), and Jane Parke (Jean Bussell's sister from Houston).

Presentation of the Mission Statement – Kathy

Follow-up Report from Committee of Six – Bev – Most items are listed for discussion on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report + New Post Cards Available on Taxes! – Janet

Focus your personal mailings on independent voters!

Current balance of the treasury is \$346 after the \$79 spent on the postcard and taxes.

Campaign Updates/Opportunities: Hornbacker, Brown, Acton and the rest of the anti-MAGA ticket! – Jean

Tim Hornbacker is running a rigorous campaign with the goal of helping all the candidates from the bottom to the top of the ticket. Giving voters a choice makes a difference. Listening and responding in small group settings and participating in parades and other events is important, too. Please sign up for yard signs and be ready for the "absentee chase" when we start sending out Tim's information to voters who request mail-in ballots. Harold adds that financial contributions large and small can be made via credit card at ActBlue or on the web site [www.CitizensforHornbacker.com](http://www.CitizensforHornbacker.com) or via check or cash (cash limit \$100) sent to Citizens for Hornbacker at 386 Foos Road - West Manchester OH 45382.

Sherrod Brown's campaign is vital in many areas of the state though it has been rather quiet in Preble County to date. Hopefully that will change as additional opportunities for events are developed over the next two months.

Amy Acton has been recruiting friends to recruit other friends in every county of the state. If you are interested in helping this friend-to-friend campaign, just let Jean know and she will connect you to the state campaign.

Program – Lisa Boggs, Director of the Preble County Board of Elections

How to register to vote! How to vote early in person! How to vote by mail! Where to vote on election day! And other details of the 2026 general election cycle!

Lisa provided the history and background of Boards of Elections in Ohio as truly bipartisan entities. The Board contains four members – two republicans and two democrats. The most senior staff (Lisa currently) becomes the executive director regardless of party and the deputy director is the other party. The Board Chair is the opposite party of the director. This pattern follows with all other staffing. The only difference is that whichever party the

governor is, that party determines the party of the voting location manager with the deputy manager being the opposite party.

Lisa reviewed the schedule for the November 2026 election as recorded on the fans commemorating the nation's 250 birthday as distributed throughout the county and at the meeting.

Lisa described the ballot building process as well as the deadlines for early voting in person and by mail-in ballot. She also listed the names of the individuals and parties who are running for each statewide office as well as US Senate, state senate, state house of representatives, and the various courts.

Lisa described several issues on the statewide ballot as well as the potential impact of the US Supreme Court's decision on Trump's mail-in ballot opposition. The Ohio Secretary of State has not changed the instructions to boards of elections yet, so it is unlikely that the Supreme Court's decision will make any difference at least this year.

Lisa also described the safeguards in place to protect the ballot including machine security checks and public observers to the counting process.

The group applauded Lisa's presentation and thanked her heartily for the work she is doing for Preble County.

#### Other Announcements/Updates –

Plan for a 9/11 remembrance event – Bev Brubaker

This event is scheduled for 3:00PM on Friday, September 11 at the southwest corner of Barron and Main Street in Eaton. Posters will be available to commemorate those lost and to recognize the families left behind. Several RIDU members reported on their personal experiences with loss on that dreadful day. Please contact Joan Smith-Reese at [jsmithreese@gmail.com](mailto:jsmithreese@gmail.com) if you can help and/or if you have any personal experience with friends or family with the event.

Plan for a GOTV Rally at the usual location in Eaton – date to be determined – Jean Bussell

After exploring several options for an event to invite people to get registered to vote prior to the October 5 cutoff date for the November 3, 2026, election, it appears that there are no good options. This idea will be dropped.

Helping staff the Preble County Democratic Party campaign office

The campaign office is located at 212 North Barron Street in Eaton. It will be an ideal location for the headquarters with lots of space and parking on cross streets fairly accessible. The grand opening will be on Wednesday September 16 at 6:00PM. The Party is inviting statewide and area candidates to join us for the evening. Staffing the office is underway and volunteers are welcome to contact Lisa Bruns to indicate their interest.

Handout – The “Greatest” Country on Earth – or not! – Bev and Jon – No discussion.

#### Open Discussion – All

What else is on your mind?

Nick Wilson announced that he has been able to update the RIDU web site and it is current. He is moving to Piqua but still will try to keep the site as updated as possible! Thanks, Nick!

Speaker Suggestions for future meetings are needed. We expect that Steve Bruns will be able to present the program at the September meeting.

Final Remarks and Adjourn – Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

***Take care of yourself!!***

*Future RIDU meetings schedule – all at the Eaton Youth Center:*

- September 23 at 1 PM – Speaker: TBD
- October 28 at 7 PM – Speaker: TBD
- November 11 at 1 PM – Election Results Discussion
  - (Second Wednesday, not fourth, because of the Thanksgiving holiday and unavailability of the Youth Center on the usual alternative of the third Wednesday, so we will celebrate Veterans Day together!)
- December 16 at 7 PM (third Wednesday, not fourth because of holiday) – Celebrating our Second Year together

*Other dates of interest:*

Friday September 11 – 3:00PM – Memorial service for 9/11 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at William Bruce Park in downtown Eaton. Appropriate signage will be provided. Please contact Joan Smith-Reese at [jsmithreese@gmail.com](mailto:jsmithreese@gmail.com) if you can help and/or if you have any personal experience with the event.

Saturday September 19 – Sunday September 20 – Pork Festival  
Plus, lots of other parade and festivals throughout the late summer and autumn

**October 6, 2026 – Early Voting Starts**  
**November 3, 2026 – ELECTION DAY!!!**

*Follow the news at* **WEBSITE: RIDUnited.org**  
Facebook at **RID United**  
Instagram at **rid\_united**  
TikTok at **@rid.united**  
Join the Email list at [RIDUnited@yahoo.com](mailto:RIDUnited@yahoo.com)

*Interesting Data on PC Voter Registration – This data will be included on RIDU agendas.*

Democrats: 1112 (620 households) – 4%  
Independents: 18,600 – 67%  
Republicans: about 8000 – 29%  
Total: about 28,000

For Your Convenience, contact information for our state and federal representatives:

*State Representative Rodney Creech – District 40. 77 South High Street. 12th Floor Columbus, OH 43215. Phone. (614) 466-2960.*

*State Senator Stephen A. Huffman – District 5. State Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor 040. Columbus OH 43215. (614)466-6247*

*U. S. Congressman Warren Davidson – District 8. 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.*

*U. S. Senator Bernie Moreno - 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.*

*U. S. Senator John Husted - 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202)224-3353*