

# **Republicans Independents Democrats United – Meeting Notes**

**January 28, 2026 – 1:00PM**

**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

Bev indicated that it was important to have the meeting today so long as people who attended could do so safely. 15 brave souls were in attendance! Thanks for coming!

Introduction of Committee of Six

Bev Brubaker and Jon Smith – co-conveners

Janet Crelin – treasurer

Jean Bussell – secretary – Absent due to weather

Harold Bussell – Email coordinator – Absent due to weather

Kathy Stevens – at-large – Absent due to work obligations

Treasurer's Report + Materials available – Janet Crelin

Janet indicated that the cost of the website domain name for two years is \$398.97. During the meeting attendees donated \$166.00 which will help meet that expense. Thank you!

This month's post card focuses on the impact of tariffs on farmers. Janet also mentioned that Trump has given Argentina \$20 billion and now China is buying Argentina's soybeans and corn instead of American farmers' soybeans and corn. Of course, Trump has "said" he will "give" American farmers \$16 billion – out of our taxes, of course!

Announcements on behalf of the Committee of Six– Bev

Policy on partisan candidates – No partisan candidates will appear as guest speakers of RIDU. Elected officials regardless of political party may be invited as the group desires.

Policy on photos from meetings – RIDU meetings will not be open for photographs for publication. Public events such as our protests may include photographs for publication.

Website is live! [www.RIDUUnited.org](http://www.RIDUUnited.org)

Revised Resources list was distributed. (Also attached.)

Presentations

The value of protests – Cathy Clift – Thanks, Cathy. Attached are her notes for the presentation.

The Ills of Trump – Jon Smith – Primary source was *The Atlantic* – brief presentation. Jon read a paragraph from an *Atlantic* article, "MAGA's Foundational Lie," that talked about the indecency fundamental to Trump and the whole MAGA movement. He also talked about how that has invaded our culture and become commonplace. (Following the meeting, he read another article entitled "MAGA's War on Empathy" that expressed similar and clarifying consequences of Trump and MAGA's behaviors and beliefs.)

Open Discussion – All

How are you doing? How were the holidays? What support do you need/want? Other! – Indeed, this topic was the most appreciated by attendees. Everyone participated in conversation about their special concerns at this time, including:

Risks of losing our democracy and its deterioration under the MAGA influence

Importance of putting our money into small and local businesses rather than the big businesses that are aligned with and supporting Trump and the right-wing agenda. Resources to help before you purchase include “Little Blue Cart” and [www.goodsUniteUs.com](http://www.goodsUniteUs.com).

Risks to the Haitian community and the Springfield community at large in the months ahead.

Prospect of Rodney Creech now running for re-election as state representative.

List of resources in Preble County for people with human services-type needs should be available. A half page list from BluSky Café was distributed.

Final Remarks and Adjourn – Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

## Information:

Future meetings schedule:

February 25 – 7:00PM at Eaton Youth Center

March 25 – 1:00PM at Eaton Youth Center

April 22 – 7:00PM at the Eaton Youth Center

Other dates of interest:

January 28 – 5:00PM at the Dover in Camden – Allison Russo, Democratic Candidate for Ohio Secretary of State – Meet and Greet

March 12 – John Kulewicz, Democratic Candidate for Ohio Attorney General – Meet and Greet  
Time and location TBD

March 28 – Preliminary schedule for the 2026 No Kings Protest – Keep watching for announcement!

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*

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Instagram at **rid\_united**

TikTok at **@rid.united**

Join the Email list at [RIDUnited@yahoo.com](mailto:RIDUnited@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.RIDUnited.org](http://www.RIDUnited.org)

## *Highlights of Presentation about The Value of Protests - presented by Cathy Clift 1-28-2026*

- Protest has led to the passage of legislation that gave women the right to vote, banned segregation, and legalized same-sex marriage.
- The Women’s March proved that millions will rise up when democracy and human rights are at stake.” It directly prompted an unprecedented surge in female candidates for elected office.
- If 3.5% of a population protests against a regime, the regime will fail. The number refers to peak, not cumulative participation.
- Protests foster lifelong civic engagement.
- “This dynamic can be especially critical in smaller towns and close-knit communities, scholars say, where people may fear voicing an opinion that goes against the grain. In a Trump-leaning county, for instance, a person may not feel comfortable vocalizing a position considered progressive, according to Omar Wasow, assistant professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley. However, if that same individual sees an anti-Trump protest, they might feel encouraged by the thought that they have neighbors who see things the way they do. “That allows me to know I’m not alone.” ESPECIALLY key to me!
- Nonviolence is key. “When the state is perceived as engaging in excess use of force, that tends to generate very sympathetic coverage, and that drives concern.” “People react very negatively to protest tactics that they view as risking harm to people.”
- Protests help people feel more effective and hopeful in their own lives. Protesting can improve emotional wellbeing: greater focus on whether a movement’s participants feel effective, hopeful, and like they are part of a larger community.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/25/protests-effective-history-impact>  
(Article)

## RID United News Resources – Sorting the Spin from the News! – Updated 1-28-2026

### Easy and Quick Form

AP Alerts

Axios AM – Mike Allen

DIFA District 10 Indivisible For All Facebook

<https://difa.us/> (Dayton area)

<https://indivisible.org> (national)

The Hill – middle of the road perspectives

Morning Brew – financial information

MS NOW (formerly MSNBC)

RIDUnited.org Web Site

RID United Facebook Page

RID United Instagram Page

Vox – an explainer

1440 Daily Digest

New York Times

Washington Post

NPR – also helps with critical thinking.

PBS – also helps with critical thinking.

### Longer in-depth Form – available via email (Most have Substack subscriptions, too.)

Heather Cox Richardson – Daily blog with history applied to current events.

(Also, a daily U-Tube presentation and Facebook page)

David Pepper – “Pepperspectives” – Daily Blog – state (Ohio) and national

Sharon McMahan – “The Preamble” – Email and Substack

The American Prospect

The Contrarians

Robert Reich

### Subscriptions

The Atlantic – middle of the road but leaning progressive.

The Bulwark – lots of previously conservative writers!

Mother Jones – very progressive

The Nation – very progressive

New Republic – very progressive

### Books

Lakoff, George – “Don’t Think of an Elephant – Know Your Values and Frame the Debate”

Maddow, Rachel – “Prequel” – the influences on Nazism from American culture (Native American Reservations and Slavery, especially)

McMahan, Sharon - “The Small and the Mighty – Twelve Unsung American Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement”

Snyder, Timothy – “On Tyranny”

Snyder, Timothy – “On Freedom”

### Fact Checkers

FactCheck.org

Check Your Fact

Reuters Fact Check

PolitiFact

Snopes

## FAMILY SUPPORTS

4C for Children (Childcare referrals) .....	800-256-1296
Diversion/Mediation .....	937-456-2754
Early Head Start Home Base .....	513-785-6850
Help Me Grow .....	513-434-3322
Preble County Council on Aging .....	937-456-4947
S.A.F.E. (family preservation) .....	937-336-6494
Veteran Services .....	937-456-6111
Wraparound program .....	937-456-3443
Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS).....	988
Strong Families Program.....	937-723-0125
YMCA various programs .....	937-472-2010

## FOOD & NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

The Common Good .....	937-456-6560
St. Paul Food Pantry (New Paris).....	937-437-8484
Go Ministries Food Pantry (New Paris) .....	937-533-0044
Ware's Chapel (Monroe Township).....	937-248-5728
Lewisburg Area Food Pantry.....	937-414-4739
St. John Food Pantry (West Alexandria).....	937-839-1615
FISH Food Pantry (Camden) .....	937-336-6028
First Southern Baptist (Camden & Gratis) .....	937-452-7291
PCPH WIC .....	937-472-0087
Preble County Council on Aging (Seniors).....	937-456-4947
Job & Family Services .....	937-456-6205
United Way .....	Call 2-1-1 or 937-225-3000

## INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT

PC Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	937-456-5891
CMH -Children with Medical Handicaps.....	937-472-0087
L&M Products.....	937-456-7141
Triangle Therapy-OT/PT/SLP Services .....	937-456-6505
Your Happy Place, Inc.....	937-533-6929
CLW.....	937-437-0146
Free To Be You.....	937-683-8154

## HEALTH CARE & MEDICAL INSURANCE

CMH- Children with Medical Handicaps .....	614-466-1700
Job & Family Services.....	937-456-6205
Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline.....	800-324-8680
Preble Co. Public Health.....	937-472-0087

## SCHOOL-BASED SUPPORT

Head Start .....	513-785-6850
Gebhart Counseling at National Trail, TC North, Preble Shawnee Preble Co. Success Liaisons available at each Preble Co. schools Recovery & Wellness services available at TV South, National Trail South Community available at Eaton Community Schools and Twin Valley South	

## TRANSPORTATION

Preble Transit .....	937-456-9272
Community Action Partnership.....	937-456-2800
Job & Family Services .....	937-456-6205

## EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Goodwill Easter seals Miami Valley .....	937-528-6540
OhioMeansJobs/Preble County .....	937-456-6205
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.....	937-331-5000

# Preble County Community Resources

## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

### National Suicide & Crisis Line ..... 988

24/7 Crisis Text Line .....	Text "4HOPE" to 741741
Trevor Project 24/7 Crisis Hotline.....	1-866-488-7386
Birthright Call Center .....	1-800-550-4900
National Human Trafficking Hotline .....	1-888-373-7888
Veterans Crisis Line .....	988 (Press #1)
HIT Shelters—Emergency Homeless & Cold Shelters .....	937-472-0500
Preble County Domestic Violence Shelter.....	937-456-6891
National Domestic Violence 24/7 Hotline.....	1-800-799-7233
National Maternal Mental Health Hotline.....	1-833-852-6262

## ABUSE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Preble County Domestic Violence Shelter.....	937-456-6891
Children & Adult Protective Services .....	937-456-6205
Victim Witness Program .....	937-456-9110

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE

HIT Foundation .....	937-472-0500
Community Action Partnership .....	937-456-2800
Habitat for Humanity .....	937-472-0002

## EMERGENCY/UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Community Action Partnership .....	937-456-2800
Job & Family Services.....	937-456-6205
United Way .....	Call 2-1-1 or 937-456-7174

## CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

The Common Good .....	937-456-6560
Adorn (New Paris).....	937-336-0625
Community Clothes Closet (Lewisburg) .....	937-962-2741
The Clothes Closet (Eaton).....	937-456-3810
Giving Grace Free Store (Lewisburg).....	937-459-2008
Habitat Re-Store (Eaton).....	937-472-0002
Goodwill (Eaton).....	937-528-7717
Little Shoppe of Sharing (Camden).....	937-533-0287

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORTS

Recovery & Wellness .....	937-456-7694
Samaritan Behavioral Health .....	937-456-1915
Gebhart Counseling Solutions, LLC .....	937-456-2805
My Neighbor's House .....	937-336-5052
Thrive Therapeutics, LLC.....	937-405-5672
Preble County Adult TASC .....	937-456-3443
Sojourner Recovery Services .....	937-336-5414
333 Therapeutics Consulting LLC.....	937-336-5094
Bravada Counseling.....	513-341-5501
DeCoach Recovery Center.....	937-792-4673
J&L Brighter Horizons.....	937-880-3624

*Sponsored by Preble Co. Mental Health & Recovery Board*

**PH: 937-456-6827 Website: [www.pcmhrb.org](http://www.pcmhrb.org)**