

RIDU News Release – February 14, 20206

Presidents' Day 2026 marks the first anniversary of Preble County Republicans Independents Democrats for Democracy!

On Presidents' Day in 2025 a small group of protesters marched through downtown Eaton declaring their opposition to actions underway by the newly inaugurated President Trump. Inside the Blu Skye Café another group of advocates were meeting to declare their oppositions as well. By the time the two groups came together in March, their numbers had swelled to 65 attendees.

Over the next ten months, the loose association of advocates became Republicans Independents Democrats United for Democracy (RIDU). They committed themselves to the following mission:

Together we seek to:

**Empower** individuals! Every voice matters!

**Educate** our communities! Meetings, postcards, speakers, protests!

**Energize** a movement for truth, accountability, and integrity in our government!

Rise above partisanship to defend our democracy!

Support informed voices to act together!

RIDUnited holds monthly membership meetings that frequently include guest speakers on topics of interest to the members.

RIDUnited has participated in six nationally organized protests in downtown Eaton with protesters numbers ranging from twenty to 120 on various occasions.

Members have distributed postcards to friends and neighbors on topics of concern including:

- (1) funding and services cuts to veterans;
- (2) reducing funding and adding bureaucracy for individuals (including nursing home residents) and families and children and people with disabilities receiving Medicaid benefits;
- (3) defunding of children's programs and other community-focused programming on NPR and PBS;
- (4) cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly known as food stamps) that affect nearly 9% of Preble County's residents; and
- (5) threats to Preble County's family farmers because of Trump's tariffs.

RIDUnited has a network of over two hundred individuals and families working together in Preble County to protect our democracy. If you agree with our mission and principles, we welcome you to join us for meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eaton Youth Center. Note that the November meeting date is November 11 to celebrate Veterans' Day and reduce conflict with Thanksgiving observances. Likewise, the December meeting date is December 16 to avoid Christmas holiday scheduling conflicts. Otherwise, meetings are held as

follows: Odd months (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 1:00PM. Even months (February, April, June, August, October, December) at 7:00PM.

Learn more at:

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