



## Exciting News: Candidate Forum

**PROGRESS  
GROVE CITY**



# STATE SENATE & CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FORUM

## State Senate

Natasha Wheatley-Caffrey

Stacie Baker

## Congressional

Don Leonard

Adam Miller (Invited)

**MARCH 18 • 6:00 PM**

Because Democratic voters deserve  
to hear the candidates side by side.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Big news for folks in our State Senate and Congressional districts.

The Franklin County Democratic Party has officially chosen not to endorse in this primary. That means this is a true voter-decided race. No insiders picking favorites. No smoke-filled rooms. Just you, your ballot, and the candidates earning it.

And in a voter-decided race, something matters more than anything else:

Democratic primary voters deserve the opportunity to see and hear from the candidates side by side before making their decision. That's how informed choices happen. That's how trust is built.

So we're doing what we do.

On March 18th at 6pm, Progress Grove City will host a Democratic Primary Forum featuring:

### *State Senate*

- Natasha Wheatley-Caffrey (confirmed)
- Stacie Baker (confirmed)

### *U.S. Congress*

- Don Leonard (confirmed)
- Adam Miller (invited)

This won't be a circus.

It won't be a shouting match.

It will be a structured, fair, substantive forum where real voters get real answers.

We've also reached out to Pickaway County Democratic groups since these districts represent both of our communities. One organization declined to partner, but we're continuing conversations and would absolutely welcome collaboration. If you're part of a Pickaway group that believes voters deserve access and transparency, let's build something together.

Logistics:

Logistics.

Capacity is limited to around 200 in-person attendees.

- Paid Progress Grove City members will receive first access to tickets

- Partnering organizations will receive reserved ticket allocations

- Remaining tickets will then open to the general public

We expect strong interest. Our goal is to make sure the people who invest in this work — and the communities represented — have meaningful access.

**Primaries matter.**

**Showing up matters.**

**Informed voters matter.**

**March 18. 6pm. Let's do this right.**

— *Progress Grove City*

Visit Our Website

Become a Member

Donate to the Cause

## No Kings 3.0

That's right...we're back at it again!

Join us on Saturday, March 28 from 2-3pm in front of Grove City's City Hall (and up and down Broadway wherever you can find space) to let our voices be heard!

Find more info [here!](#)



## New Members Meet and Greet



**PROGRESS  
GROVE CITY**

**Our Mission is  
to Inspire our  
Community  
towards  
Positive Change**

**Progress Grove City**

*Welcome*

Friday, March 27th, 2026

*Night*

**7:30pm at Local Cantina, Grove City**

**Event for New Members!**

### Join Us: Welcome Night

We are excited to launch something new this spring — quarterly small-group gatherings designed especially for our newer members.

Our first Welcome Night will be **Friday, March 27 at 7:30 PM at Local Cantina - Grove City.**

These gatherings are intentionally relaxed and welcoming. Instead of a large formal meeting or sit-down dinner, this is a chance to simply pull up a chair, grab a drink, and connect.

Several of our core members will be there, along with representatives from our Kindness Crew — bringing stickers, group swag, and examples of our shirts — to share more about what we do and how to get involved.

We'll also have members from Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the nonprofit that grew directly out of our group's heart for service, to share how they are supporting families in our community and how you can plug in.

Each new attendee will go home with a Community Bingo card which will be filled with simple but meaningful ways to engage locally. From attending a city council meeting to emailing a representative, volunteering, or joining a service project, the goal is to make civic engagement feel accessible and achievable.

This night is about connection without pressure. It's about meeting the people who make up the depth and diversity of our group, asking questions, sharing ideas, and finding your place in a way that feels natural — not overwhelming.

If you've been looking for a smaller, more personal way to get involved, this is it. We can't wait to see you there.

RSVP [here](#) on Facebook!



## Five Minute Activism



In a busy month, it can feel like meaningful civic engagement requires hours we don't always have. But in truth, democracy is sustained by small, consistent actions taken by everyday people — especially at the local level here in Grove City.

If you have five minutes this week, consider choosing just one of these:

- 1. Check your voter registration.** Make sure your information is current and accurate. Encourage a friend or family member to do the same. Local elections are often decided by slim margins, and every vote shapes the direction of our schools, city leadership, and county priorities.
- 2. Follow a local official.** Whether it's Grove City Council or another local officeholder, staying informed helps you understand what decisions are being made in your name — and when your voice is needed.
- 3. Send one email.** Thank an official when they make a decision you support. Or respectfully share your perspective on an issue you care about. Elected leaders hear most often from people who are upset, but positive and thoughtful engagement matters, too.
- 4. Invite someone to participate.** Democracy grows when we bring others in. Forward this newsletter. Share an event. Ask a neighbor to join you.

And if you're able to go beyond five minutes this month, we have a few opportunities to show up in community:

**Support the Local Library Levy** - This May voters will decide on a \*\*1.0-mill levy for the **Support the Southwest Public Libraries Levy** so our Grove City and Westland Area libraries can restore vital services and expand access. This levy means:

- Bringing back morning, evening, and weekend hours at both locations.
- Restoring programs and classes for children, adults, and seniors.
- Upgrading resources like technology and books so community members don't face long wait times.

Our libraries are more than just books — they're community hubs where neighbors connect, kids learn, people look for jobs, and residents of all backgrounds come together. Passage of this levy will help maintain and improve that vital community infrastructure. Follow along and support the library [here](#).

Progress Grove City will be hosting a **Candidate Forum** to help voters hear directly from those seeking to represent us. In a time of division and noise, informed civic dialogue is powerful. Your presence signals that voters care about transparency, accountability, and thoughtful leadership.

We will also be gathering for a **No Kings protest**, standing for democratic norms, equal representation, and the principle that leadership should answer to the people — not the other way around. Peaceful civic engagement is part of our American tradition, and showing up matters.

Our group includes people from varied backgrounds and affiliations, but we are united in our belief that democracy works best when people participate. Five minutes is enough to start. Consistency is what creates change.

Let's keep showing up — for Grove City, and for each other.

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## Monthly Meeting Recap - February

At our February meeting, we were honored to welcome several powerful and informative guest speakers who reminded us why education, advocacy, and community engagement matter so deeply.

**Dr. Anthony Wilson**, CEO of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, led an interactive presentation in recognition of Black History Month that challenged us to rethink the stories we were — and were not — taught in school. He walked us through the Reconstruction era beginning in 1870, when formerly enslaved African Americans were elected to public office, including Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first Black U.S. Senator. Yet by 1896, Jim Crow laws reshaped the nation's trajectory, undoing much of that early progress. Dr. Wilson highlighted key milestones such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, while asking us to consider the broader arc of history: What does early progress followed by setback teach us about resiliency? Who decides which stories are remembered? He also spotlighted innovators like Garrett Morgan, inventor of the modern traffic light and a gas mask used during World War I, prompting us to reflect on what happens when contributions are forgotten — and who shapes the narrative of our culture.

We also heard from Addie Vasquez of **mOBiNurses and Copper**, sister organizations providing completely free doula services to families all around the Columbus area. Founded by a nurse with 13 years of experience who witnessed stark disparities in treatment and outcomes between patients of color and white patients, the organizations' missions are to reduce infant mortality rates, especially among Black and Brown families. Their services include prenatal support, labor and delivery care alongside medical professionals, postpartum care, and 24/7 access to a registered nurse. They accept Medicaid, but also provide unpaid assistance to families when their insurance does not cover services, despite a massive loss of grant funding. They also assist families with applying for WIC and other support programs and counsel Black fathers on how to confidently navigate medical systems and advocate for their families. Referrals are their primary source of clientele, and they are actively seeking partnerships with organizations that serve pregnant individuals. Their work is a powerful example of community-based care addressing real and urgent needs.

Finally, **SMILE** (**S**tay alert, **M**onitor responsibly, **I**nformation and resource, **L**og and report, **E**nsure safety) founders shared about Smile Patrol, a volunteer-led safety and ice watch patrol serving schools within the South-Western City Schools district. While not endorsed by or formally partnered with the district, Smile Patrol maintains communication with schools and ensures that all volunteers complete full training before serving. Volunteers work in teams of two during drop-off and dismissal times, but additional shifts may be offered during after-hours events. Volunteers serve as watchful eyes — not rapid responders. They do not engage or intervene but instead report concerns to patrol leadership, who then communicate with the appropriate contacts. Patrol members never enter school property and focus solely on monitoring from public areas. The group was formed in response to safety concerns, including reports of students and their families having been detained. Their goal is simple but vital: to observe, report, and help keep students safe.

We are grateful to all of our February speakers for equipping us with knowledge, perspective,

and tangible ways to strengthen our community.



Next Up...



Stay tuned for more information on March's monthly meeting!

Join Our Partners In Action

If you're eager to make a significant impact in your community, consider taking action now. It's time to address the issues that matter to you and express your concerns about leadership. Our friends with Indivisible Central Ohio are planning in person visit's to Senator Moreno's office. Please consider joining them to share your thoughts and help drive meaningful change! You can find the sign up sheet at [this link](#).

Thanks everyone!!



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