

# CINCY\*WFP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4  
MAY 2026

Cincy Wolf Pack Members Tabling at No Kings 2026



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### Who are we?

We are the Cincinnati Working Families Party Wolf Pack! A Wolf Pack is an intimate group of hardworking volunteers under the WFP name that is dedicated to transforming local politics, much like a party chapter. Our Wolf Pack was founded July 2025. We're new in town, but we've accomplished so much already! Keep an eye out for this newsletter and follow us on our social media accounts for regular updates!

[JOIN THE WOLF PACK](#)

### What is WFP?

WFP is working people coming together to build a better country, state, and community. We believe that the interests of the people should come before those of the rich and influential that have bought their way into politics.

While our government strips us of our working rights, defunds our schools, and arrests our neighbors without due process, we know the root of the problem: politicians have been bought by billionaires and super PACs. They have chosen to serve corporate profits over their communities' needs. We know that strength in our community will win.

Working Families Party is a national third party established in over 20 states. We have two main goals: to get progressives to win primary elections (we never spoil the general), and to connect local progressive coalitions together under one roof. [Learn more...](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Gerrymandering Protest</b>	<b>Time:</b> 11:00 AM-1:00 PM EST <b>Location:</b> 5325 Ridge Ave.
<b>MAY</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Protest Against CPS Budget Downsizing</b>	<b>Time:</b> 5:30 PM EST <b>Location:</b> 2651 Burnet Ave.
<b>MAY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Welcome Gathering</b>	<b>Time:</b> 1-3 PM EST <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="#">Click Here!</a>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Cincy Wolf Pack Fundraiser</b>	<b>Time:</b> 5:30-9:00 PM EST <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="#">Click Here!</a>

Wolf Pack meeting times\*: Electoral Committee: Thursdays 6-7 | Social Committee: Mondays 5-6  
 Communications Committee: Sundays 6-7 | \*See "Welcome Gathering" on pg. 3 for more details

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>MAY</b>						1	2
	3 <small>Comms Committee</small>	4 <small>Social Committee</small>	5 <b>ELECTION DAY!</b>	6	7 <small>Electoral Committee</small>	8	9
	10 <small>Comms Committee</small>	11 <small>Social Committee</small>	12	13	14 <small>Electoral Committee</small>	15	16 Gerrymandering Protest
	17 <small>Comms Committee</small>	18 CPS Protest <small>Social Committee</small>	19	20	21 <small>Electoral Committee</small>	22	23
	24 <small>Comms Committee</small>	25 <small>Social Committee</small>	26	27	28 <small>Electoral Committee</small>	29	30 Welcome Gathering
	31 <small>Comms Committee</small>						

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Gerrymandering Protest | May 16th

Protest organizing group 50501 is joining the “Tesla Takedown” national protest movement. The movement is targeting Tesla dealerships and charging stations in an effort to rally against Elon Musk’s role in DOGE and its budget cuts. 50501 is specifically hosting this protest in response to the recent Supreme Court rulings revolving around redistricting efforts, such as in Louisiana and Virginia. The protest is taking place at 5325 Ridge Ave from 11:00 to 1:00 pm EST.



## Welcome Gathering | May 30th

Not a member of the Working Families Party yet? Have friends or family who might be interested in joining? Come and meet us at our Welcome Gathering! Here, you’ll learn all about what we do with likeminded progressive individuals. We’ll show you how you can help get progressives elected in Cincinnati, as well as what roles we offer in our Wolf Pack.

Want to conduct political research and work with candidates? Join our electoral committee. Want to table at events and connect with other progressive organizations in the city? Check out our social committee. Want to design political artwork, tackle social media, or develop lit like this newsletter? Then the communications committee is a good fit for you. Don’t feel like joining a committee? There are other ways to volunteer!

Come and learn how to volunteer with us! [RSVP](#). Want to join the Pack right now? Click [here!](#)



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CPS Downsizing Protest | May 18th

Cincinnati Public Schools is downsizing their budget, and as a result, there will be cuts to the STEM/CS/Tech curriculum. Public schools are already poorly funded, and children are already lacking in many basic educational areas. These cuts would further restrict their ability to learn important skills and navigate the modern landscape. This budget issue is multifaceted, but many of the root problems stem from state funding, or lack thereof. Join teachers in a protest against these downsizing measures to help secure our children's future! The protest will take place at the CPS Board of Education, 2651 Burnet Ave at 5:30 pm EST.

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

**CPS BUDGET DOWNSIZING  
FIRST TECH,  
WHAT'S NEXT?**

OUR DEMANDS:

- Without STEM, Computer Science and Technology, our students are **not** capable of navigating modern landscapes. All students deserve a background in computers. **STEM/CS/Tech curriculum must remain in place as it stands!**
- Teachers require tech support (IT) in an age of digital and blended learning. Cutting ITM services will have major tack-on effects on learners when technology breaks down. **ITM services and supports, including access to student applications, teacher training, and building technicians must not be downsized!**
- This school board needs to fight back against the Ohio Government's privatization agenda and **push for pro-public school policies!**

PROTEST AND SPEAK ON BEHALF OF OUR CHILDREN

**CPS BOARD OF ED,  
2651 BURNET AVE**

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AT 5:30**

## Cincy Wolf Pack Fundraiser | June 20th

The Cincinnati Wolf Pack is putting on its very first official fundraiser potluck! Join us for a few hours and socialize, eat, drink, dance, and learn more about WFP and Cincy politics! We will also be selling swag for those interested in repping the WFP name. We'll be using the funds that we raise to purchase tools, literature, advertising, stationary, and other items necessary to continue our work in the city. We ask that you make a minimum contribution of \$25 if you decide to attend. The fundraiser will take place at 4144 Saint Martin's Place 5:30-9:00 pm EST. See you there!

[RSVP HERE](#)



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# RECAP

## 2026 Hear America Listening Canvasses

So far in 2026, we've conducted many listening canvasses directed at targeted audiences. We're not door knocking to ask people if they'll do something for us or to give a pitch. Instead, we're asking everyday voters what's going on in their lives: what they're struggling with and what they want to see changed. We also held two canvasses to campaign for Bryan Hambley for the Ohio Secretary of State primary election.

Unfortunately, Bryan lost his election, but several other WFP-endorsed candidates won their elections in Ohio this year, such as Davida Russell, Charity Martin King, and Brian Poindexter. Here's what we've found out from our listening canvasses so far:

- Both the traditional Democratic core and disaffected liberal voters are looking for a new, progressive direction for America. Overall, they desire:
  - Universal healthcare
  - Fully funded public schools
  - Access to affordable housing
  - An end to foreign wars
  - Better public infrastructure and transportation in the US
- Unaffiliated and apathetic voters are scared and tired of division, and they are afraid of what's going on in the country. Many are desiring of more connection and community, and many feel that social media has divided and isolated the people. Those who didn't know much about politics were asked their position issue-by-issue, and the majority agreed overall with progressive solutions.
- Ultimately, when asked the question, "If you could change one thing about the city of Cincinnati that would make your life better what would it be?", the overwhelming majority of answers boiled down to "better access to public transportation." Other answers included free child care, more queer spaces, free parking, more affordable housing, and better rental conditions from landlords. Stay tuned for more opportunities to canvass with us in the future!



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# OP-ED

## 3CDC: The Good, the Bad, & the Balancing Act

By Ali Pollard

As a fairly recent transplant from Atlanta, Georgia, (I moved to Cincinnati in May 2022) it wasn't long before I heard of 3CDC. Their logo is everywhere in Over-the-Rhine (OTR) and downtown, often accompanied by construction equipment. For newbies like myself, 3CDC is the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp., a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2003 with the mission to revitalize the OTR and the Central Business District downtown. Then Mayor Charlie Luken and community business members determined that the future of Cincinnati depended on a redeveloped downtown to attract more investment and visitors.

3CDC is funded by both private and public money and boasts 30 corporate leaders on their Board of Directors who work closely with the City of Cincinnati and the State of Ohio. There's no question 3CDC has been very successful on a number of projects (they have 92 listed on their site) from redeveloping public spaces, mixed-use residential, commercial spaces, parking structures/lots, and housing for low-income residents. 3CDC partnered with other organizations on the [Homeless to Homes](#) initiative which created 3 residential and service facilities for Cincinnati's homeless population. Below are a few project highlights:

- Fountain Square
- Washington Park
- Ziegler Park
- Music Hall
- Imagination Alley
- Cincinnati Convention Center
- Court & Walnut
- Willkommen
- City Gospel Mission
- [and many more](#)

There's no doubt 3CDC has done amazing work on many neighborhoods, even being recognized in a [Politico article](#) for their development of OTR which was once labeled as the most dangerous neighborhood in America for several years after the riots in 2001. If you're unaware like I was, OTR was the site of the April 2001 protests that turned into riots over the inadequate response to the police shooting of an unarmed, black 19-year-old Timothy Thomas. That had been the 15th police shooting of a Black person in five years. With 3CDC's investment, the southern part of OTR has drastically changed. In [20 years](#), they've invested over \$2 billion overall and in OTR alone, they've renovated and constructed over 200 buildings, over 1100 apartments with 460 of them at below market value, and 345 shelter beds/permanent supportive housing.

The downtown Central Business District has had 30 buildings restored or built as well as over 1100 apartments, though noticeably none are below market value for lower-income families. Most recently, 3CDC finished the development of the Convention Center which they tout as a huge draw to national organizations and conventions.



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# OP-ED

## 3CDC: The Good, the Bad, & the Balancing Act continued...

So with all this progress, what's the issue?

As with any revitalization initiative, it almost inevitably results in the gentrification of predominantly black and brown neighborhoods as well as the displacement of long-time residents. One of the first things 3CDC did in the OTR was buy out and close many corner stores as those were found to be the epicenters of crime in the area. Additionally, residents found their local hardware stores and laundromats bought out and closed to make way for bars and upscale boutiques. Long time residents found the corner stores they bought their milk from and the laundromat they cleaned their clothes out gone and with the new businesses coming in, rents went up and they were priced out of their homes. For the first decade of development, 3CDC didn't account or plan for the displacement of residents and only started after many residents had already been forced out of the homes their families had lived in for generations. Since 3CDC is a private organization, they have full control over how the funds will be spent, and the number of properties they've bought up with sweetheart deals is enormous. More ownership gives them more power. Those 200+ buildings they bought in OTR alone are still owned by 3CDC so they can collect rent on them. That sort of control gives them a lot of power, not only over the residents but also over the city government. The rent money is then invested in other projects, but as a private entity those funds can be invested wherever 3CDC wants with no guarantee of them benefitting the local neighborhood. This holds true for the public assets they have been granted leases over as well.

Many public parks and infrastructure has now been leased to 3CDC to collect the profits on and dictate what can and can't be done in those places now. Then when a picture of food being distributed to the homeless, labeled as "persistent misuse of the park," ([Swartsell, 2026](#)) was shown in a presentation from 3CDC at a public meeting, it sparked outrage from the organizations who distribute food to the homeless. Every weekend for several years now, approximately 150-200 people visit Piatt Park to get food, hygiene items, and clothing. Part of the success of these organizations is that they've managed to be in the same place each weekend for years since it can be difficult to get the word out if the location changes. Despite this outcry, the City of Cincinnati approved the lease of Piatt Park to 3CDC without allowing much feedback from the public, even after a series of emails from 3CDC members were leaked bemoaning the "do-gooderness" of food distribution organizations. It proved again that public sentiment has no bearing on the decisions of the city government and 3CDC.

Their [Board of Directors](#) is a who's-who of Cincinnati's business elites, with individuals from Kroger, Proctor & Gamble, Fifth Third Bank, altafiber, Western and Southern Financial Group, GE Aerospace, and Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky to name a few. You won't find any local residents who live in the targeted neighborhoods in their board meetings. Joe Rudemiller, former 3CDC VP and spokesman, stated "they work hard to incorporate public feedback" but community members are not the big funders and stakeholders that 3CDC reports to, so the needs of locals will always be the first on the chopping block if there is a



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# OP-ED

## 3CDC: The Good, the Bad, & the Balancing Act continued...

conflict. Too often, corporate interests don't align with public and community interests and even replacing a [beloved roller rink](#) at the request of residents isn't enough to assure people of their good intentions. And as much as 3CDC says they listen and try to incorporate feedback from the local community, they have no impetus to follow through since Cincinnati's elected officials always approve and support their projects, no matter what public sentiment is.

Ultimately, many residents see the creation of 3CDC as the City of Cincinnati's way of developing properties and neighborhoods without having to convince their constituents it is a benefit for them. This is a larger issue of the state and federal government pushing to privatize in order to save on costs to them. This is how the government gets around unions since state and federal workers have some of the strongest unions in the country backing them. The extra scrutiny and fair wages that unions demand can be bypassed by private corporations.

As the saying goes, "no good deed goes unpunished," and 3CDC has done good things like restoring historic buildings and revitalizing once run-down and dangerous neighborhoods, but they've also caused the displacement of low-income, black and brown families and the loss of ownership of public assets. Cincinnati and 3CDC is not unique in this struggle. Other cities have similar organizations. Erie, PA has their [Erie Downtown Development Corporation](#) or EDDC was greatly influenced by Cincinnati's 3CDC and they have faced similar dissatisfaction among local communities. However, the [Kensington Corridor Trust](#) in Philadelphia went a different direction. Their model was more resident-centered from the beginning. This ensures the local community has a significant say in how their neighborhoods are developed and they focus on diminishing the impact of gentrification. "Unlike 3CDC, that board and the nonprofit's governing body are overseen by people who live in Kensington." ([Swartsell, 2025](#))

There are alternative ways of revitalizing communities, and one size doesn't fit all. But if 3CDC and the City of Cincinnati truly want to gain the trust of local residents, they first need to acknowledge the lack of local oversight and work to rectify it by having more permanent inclusion of local community leaders in the decision-making process. Elected officials and corporate leaders won't cut it; they must include the voices of local residents from the neighborhoods most affected by 3CDC's projects.



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# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Cincinnati Precinct Project

By Alex Bauman

Have you ever been frustrated with the choices given to you in the ballot box? Do you feel like the Democratic Party prioritizes the interests of corporations and the establishment over your own? The people have grown tired of liberal politicians constantly straying towards the right in an effort to reach the mythical moderate voter. So, in true democratic fashion, progressives from across Hamilton County have come together in a grassroots effort to recruit progressives to run for Precinct Executive positions in the Hamilton County Democratic Central Committee.

What is the Democratic Central Committee? Hamilton County is divided into 562 precincts, and both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party hold elections every four years to elect a Precinct Executive to represent each precinct within each respective party. These Precinct Executives vote on many internal party matters, such as which candidates the party will endorse in elections, which policies the party will pursue, and the general direction of the party in the future. Granted, many precinct positions tend to go unfilled via election, as some precincts lack candidates who are interested in running. Or more accurately, the Central Committee position is not widely known, and the Democratic Party has not made much effort in the past to advertise its availability to its voter base. As such, any unfilled seats are appointed to unelected individuals by those in the committee who were elected, although those who are appointed in this case are not granted any voting rights within the committee in Ohio.

Over the course of the past year, progressive voters who wish to push the Democratic Party left and reform it in the name of working class people have formed and grown the Cincinnati Precinct Project (CPP), a political organization with the sole purpose of spreading awareness of the Central Committee and recruiting fellow progressives to run for the party office in their precincts. The election took place on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> on the same ballot as the statewide primary elections, and the CPP succeeded in getting 80 of their members elected (one election resulted in a tie, so a potential 81<sup>st</sup> member may be elected if they win the coin flip).

Unfortunately, leading up to the election, it was discovered that there was an effort by an unknown dark money group to influence the election. \$100,000 was dedicated via a PAC named "Citizens for Cincinnati's Future" to developing and distributing political literature to support opponents of CPP members. Endorsements for these candidates by prominent elected officials such as Mayor Aftab, State Rep Cecil Thomas, and Commissioner Denise Driehaus were included in this literature, and it has been discovered that signatures were forged on many of the flyers. It is currently unknown who contributed to the effort, but it has been speculated that currently elected officials are involved. This has not been substantiated as of yet, and investigations are still underway, but the HCDP maintains that it was not a party effort.

Next steps involve attending the Central Committee reorganization meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup> where Executive positions will be elected by the Precinct Executives. The CPP hopes to cooperate and collaborate with the rest of the HCDP moving forward as they plan to strengthen the electoral power of the people.



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