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The Lima News

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Breaking news at limaohio.com

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The words they tweet

The messaging behind federal politicians in 2020

By Josh Ellerbrock
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LIMA — Sen. Rob Portman sure likes to talk about “Ohio.” Sen. Sherrod Brown seems to be always focusing on “workers,” and Rep. Jim Jordan really likes to mention the “president.”

Not convinced? Just ask Twitter.

The Lima News, partnering with the Data II Equity project, scraped and analyzed the Twitter feeds of the region’s federal representatives to get a data-backed understanding of what they’ve been talking about over the last year.

The results only confirm a well-known trend. If politicians want to get ahead, the best way is to be controversial.

The politics of messaging

To analyze word choice, the overall methodology was relatively simple. Using the programming language R, data scientist Dr. Marin Harbur — who heads up the Data II Equity project — pulled 3,200 tweets from Rep. Bob Latta, R-Bowling Green; Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Urbana; Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio; and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, to create a data set of tweets spanning from mid-September 2019 to today.

Only “organic” tweets, or those originating from each account, were used for the analysis. Additional data on retweets and favorites was also recorded to gauge social engagement.

The goal was to find out: What were the big topics that each member of Congress liked to revisit? What drove engagement? And what were some of the larger patterns?

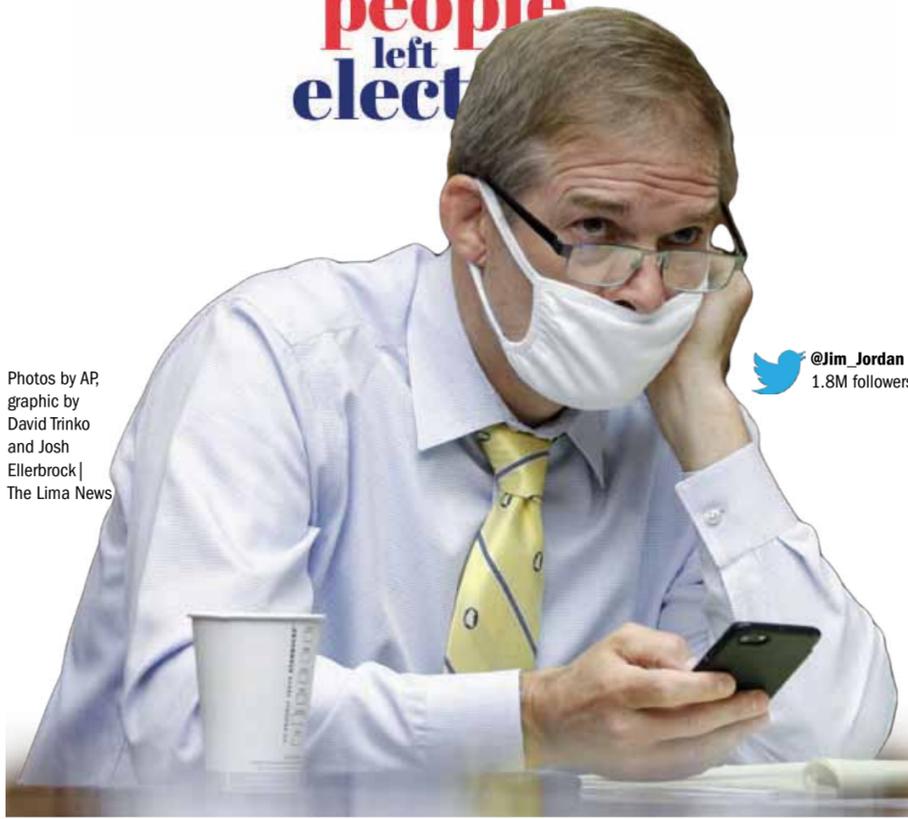
Dr. Jennifer Walton, communication and media studies professor at Ohio Northern University, noted a few trends.

“Latta and Portman have a more thoughtful approach. They’re not trying to stir the pot

See WORDS | 3A



Photos by AP, graphic by David Trinko and Josh Ellerbrock | The Lima News



@Jim_Jordan
1.8M followers



@senrobportman
159.8K followers

@SenSherrodBrown
86.3K followers

@boblatta
37.9K followers

Inside Biden's 1st days in charge

By Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Inside the White House, President Joe Biden presided over a focused launch of his administration, using his first days in office to break sharply with his predecessor while signing executive orders meant as a showy display of action to address the historic challenges he inherited.

But outside the gates at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., there are signs everywhere that those crises are as deep and intractable as ever. The coronavirus pandemic surges, the economy teeters and Republicans in Congress have signaled objections to many of Biden's plans.

Biden is looking to jump-start his first 100 days in office with action and symbolism to reassure a divided and weary public that help is in the offing. He also knows that what a president can do on his own is limited so he is calling for Congress to act while he is being candid with Americans that dark days are ahead.

“The crisis is not getting better. It’s deepening,” Biden said Friday about the impact of pandemic. “A lot of America is hurting. The virus is surging. Families are going hungry. People are at risk of being evicted again. Job losses are mounting. We need to act.”

“The bottom line is this: We’re in a national emergency. We need to act like we’re in a national emergency,” he said.

Biden's first moments as president were meant to steady American democracy itself.

He took the oath just before noon Wednesday in front of a Capitol that still bore scars from the insurrection that took place precisely two weeks earlier and was aimed at stopping Biden's ascension to power. The violence underscored the fragile nature of the peaceful transfer of power and led to the historic

See BIDEN | 3A

LATEST UPDATES

The Lima News

• Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health will extend Ohio's 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew until Jan. 30. The curfew does not apply to those going to and from work, those who have an emergency or those who need medical care. The curfew is not intended to stop anyone from getting groceries or going to the pharmacy. Picking up carry-out or a drive-thru meal and ordering for delivery is permitted, but serving food and drink within an establishment must cease at 10 p.m.

ONLY ON LIMA.OHIO.COM
See more local coverage about COVID-19 at LimaOhio.com/tag/coronavirus.

COVID-19 IN PAST DAY

County	Cases	Deaths	Recovered	Change
Allan County	9,897	126	8,566	+71, +0, +45
Auglaize County	4,222	64	3,715	+11, +0, +28
Hardin County	2,130	33	1,790	+17, +0, +8
Putnam County	3,749	75	3,308	+14, +0, +21
Van Wert County	2,022	45	1,769	+11, +0, +13
Ohio	859,841	10,680	724,135	+5,859, +81, +3,964

Updated 2 p.m. 1/23/21
Recovered defined as symptom onset more than 21 days prior, not deceased.
Source: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Virus cases slowly trending down locally

By Mackenzi Klemann
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LIMA — The holiday season, once feared as a potential super-spreader event, did not usher in a major resurgence of coronavirus cases in the Lima region.

New cases and hospitalizations plateaued at a high rate for much of December and

are slowly trending downward in January, a trend that still puts the region at risk for a repeat of last fall's surge that threatened hospital capacity in the days before Thanksgiving.

Allen County reported 265 new coronavirus cases between Jan. 14 and Jan. 20,

See CASES | 4A

OHIO LOTTERY
DAILY (Saturday)
Pick 3: 7-6-5 day, 1-4-1 night
Pick 4: 1-1-1-7 day, 6-2-6-2 night
Pick 5: 6-4-7-7-4 day, 1-8-2-7-7 night
Rolling Cash 5: 8-9-11-14-39

CLASSIC (Saturday): 1-7-14-22-34-46
KICKER: 327734
Jackpot: \$3.6 million
POWERBALL (Wednesday): 40-53-60-68-69
Powerball: 22

Power Play: 3
Jackpot: \$20 million
MEGA MILLIONS (Friday): 4-26-42-50-60
Mega Ball: 24
Megaplier: 2
Jackpot: \$20 million

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Z COMICS

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