

Michael K. Wager (born May 17, 1951 in Cleveland, Ohio) is a [U.S.](#) Lawyer and a Democratic Party activist. He announced in February 2009 that he would likely seek the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House in the 14th District of Ohio. In May 2009, he advised the Ohio Democratic Party leadership that he would not run in 2010. <sup>[1]</sup> He has subsequently been mentioned as a likely candidate in the 14<sup>th</sup> district. [\[2\]](#)

## Early life, Education and Academic Career

Michael Wager is the son of Albert Wager, a small businessman, and Shirley Wager (née Horwitz). His father served in the [U.S. Navy](#) during [World War II](#).

He received a [Bachelor of Arts](#) degree in Political Science from [The American University](#) in 1973. At AU, he was in the School of Government and Public Administration (now part of the College of Public Affairs). He went on to receive a [Master of Arts](#) degree in Political Science (with studies in American political history) from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University, where he earned President's Fellowship. Wager also earned his Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, where he served as Editor-in Chief of the N.Y.U. Journal of International Law and Politics and received the Benjamin F. Butler Memorial Award for unusual distinction in scholarship, character and professional activities.

He is a member of the adjunct faculty in the Department of Political Science at Case Western Reserve University, teaching courses on urban policy and the American judiciary. [\[3\]](#)

## Legal, Civic and Political Career

Wager, a member of the bar of the State of Ohio, is a partner with the Ohio-based law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP. His practice includes mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, corporate governance and global trade matters. [\[4\]](#) He is also a member of the bar of the State of New York, having practiced in New York City from 1981 to 1989.

Wager a past chair of the board of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and has served on the board of the Clean Ohio Council - Ohio's \$400 million Brownfield Revitalization Fund. He also served as chair of the Cleveland selection committee for the American Marshall Memorial Fellowship. Wager also served on the Northeast Ohio Development Fund ( new market tax credit investor), Cuyahoga County Renewable Energy Task Force, Gateway Economic Development Corporation of Greater Cleveland (owner of Progressive Field and Quicken Loans Arena), Convention Center Task Force (City of Cleveland) and the White House Business Council. [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

During his tenure as Chairman of the Port Authority, Wager advocated for increased public and private investment in infrastructure, including the development of a new port for the City of Cleveland. [7] [8]

He is active Democratic politics in Ohio and nationally. He was delegate to Democratic National Conventions in 2008 and 2012.

## References

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4. <http://www.taftlaw.com/attorneys/616-michael-wager>
5. <http://www.taftlaw.com/attorneys/616-michael-wager>
6. [http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local/article\\_90e72d9e-7432-11e1-99b2-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local/article_90e72d9e-7432-11e1-99b2-0019bb2963f4.html)
7. <http://www.cleveland.com/business/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/business-11/123281102364110.xml&coll=2>
8. “Port move called key to a vital lakefront”, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* (November 26, 2008)