

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

October 2024

Volume 3, Issue 10

Our Goals

- Ensure honest and transparent government.
- Restore and protect our environment.
- Support strong economic growth and opportunity.
- Strengthen voter access and turnout.
- Promote affordable education and health care for all.

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Notice of Our October Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, October 17, 2024**, at our campaign headquarters located at 224 State Street in Caro, MI. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

We hope you will join us.

Highlights of Our September Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19. Nineteen members and three guests were in attendance. Caro's mayor, Karen Snider, told us about her qualifications, her record as mayor, and her plans if elected for a second term. Vice Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events, including the fallout from the Harris/Trump debate, expectations for the upcoming Walz/Vance debate, and the many lies coming out of the Republican presidential campaign. Alex also urged us to vote for Kyra Bolden and Kimberly Thomas for Michigan Supreme Court. Chair Deb Parker reminded us to check out Alex's podcast on the Tuscola Dems Facebook page, sign up to staff our headquarters office, sign up to work on our float and march with us in the Pumpkin Festival Parade, and bring in candy for marchers to hand out along the parade route. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Tuscola Dems Welcome Your Donations



To donate, simply aim the camera on your smart phone at the QR image shown here, and it will take you directly to ActBlue, where you can donate whatever amount you desire.

Thank you!

Vice Presidential Debate



On October 1, Tim Walz squared off against J.D. Vance in the first (and only) vice presidential debate. Vance's presentation was slick and well-rehearsed. Obviously, he had been coached to highlight areas of agreement with Walz so he could appear reasonable, and the absence of fact-checking during the debate meant he was able to get away with untrue claims about issues, such as never calling for a national abortion ban and supporting the Affordable Care Act.

Vance spent much of the night trying to make Trump's plans for a second term appear reasonable, but he also knew he couldn't be saying anything that would upset his boss. Walz nailed him several times, such as when he refused to say whether rounding up undocumented immigrants would mean separating parents from their children and when he pretended that Trump and his followers would be shaking hands and "coming back together" if they lost in November. The big moment came when Walz asked Vance if Trump lost the 2020 election. Vance said, "Tim, I'm focused on the future." Walz replied, "That's a damning non-answer."

At the end of the debate, the question is: Will it move the needle? We'll see.

Pumpkin Festival Parade



On October 6, Tuscola Dems proudly marched in the Pumpkin Festival Parade alongside our new float — our best one ever. Marching with us were Clinton St. Mosley, Democratic candidate for Representative in the U.S. Congress for Michigan's 9th District, Mark Putnam, Democratic candidate for Representative in the Michigan Legislature for the 97th District, April Osentoski, Democratic candidate for Representative in the Michigan Legislature for the 98th District, and Jack Adams, Democratic candidate for Tuscola County Commissioner for the 3rd District. The wind was brisk, but the sun was shining, and we got plenty of thumbs up from folks along the parade route.

Here we are getting ready to roll.

Democrats on the Ballot in November

These Democrats are on the November 5th ballot in Tuscola County:

- **United States President/Vice President:** Kamala Harris/Tim Walz

Note that when you cast your vote for President/Vice President, you are not voting directly for your candidate, but rather for an elector who is pledged to cast his/her ballot for your candidate in the Electoral College. Michigan has fifteen votes in the Electoral College. The candidate who wins the most votes in Michigan gets all of Michigan's Electoral College votes.

- **United States Senator:** Elissa Slotkin
- **Representative in the United States Congress (9th District):** Clinton St. Mosley
- **Representative in the Michigan Legislature (97th District):** Mark Putnam
- **Representative in the Michigan Legislature (98th District):** April Osentoski
- **Tuscola County Commissioner (3rd District):** Jack Adams
- **Tuscola County Sheriff:** Miles Breinager
- **Fairgrove Township Supervisor:** Michael Day
- **Fairgrove Township Treasurer:** Sarah Donovan
- **Kingston Township Supervisor:** Wm. Jesse Zimba
- **Kingston Township Treasurer:** Mary Lou Wolak
- **Vassar Township Trustee:** Cheryl Kusma
- **Watertown Township Treasurer:** Tina TerBush
- **Wisner Township Clerk:** Pamela Shook
- **Wisner Township Treasurer:** Norine Weiler
- **Wisner Township Trustee:** Bradley Barnes
- **Member of the State Board of Education:** Theodore Jones & Adam Zemke
- **Regent of the University of Michigan:** Denise Ilitch & Shauna Ryder-Diggs
- **Trustee of Michigan State University:** Rebecca Bahar-Cook & Thomas Stallworth
- **Governor of Wayne State University:** Rasha Demashkieh & Mark Gaffhey

Note that some candidates for township office list themselves as having "no party affiliation."

Also note that the offices of justice, judge, school board member, library board member, city mayor, city council member, village president, and village trustee are regarded as nonpartisan, so no party affiliation is listed for candidates for those offices.

These millage proposals are also on the ballot:

- **Dayton Township Road Millage Increase Proposal**
- **Denmark Township Operating Expenses Millage Increase Proposal**
- **Reese Unity District Library Millage Renewal Proposal**
- **Elmwood Township Fire Millage Renewal Proposal**
- **Owendale-Gagetown Area School District Operating Millage Renewal Proposal**
- **Juniata Township Road Millage Renewal Proposal**
- **Koylton Township Road Improvement and Maintenance Millage Proposal**

One Hundred Republicans Endorse Harris

More than one hundred former Republican officials and members of Congress recently signed a letter endorsing Kamala Harris for President.

Here's what the letter says:

We are former national security and foreign policy officials who served in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and/or Donald Trump, or as Republican Members of Congress. We have served in the White House, the Departments of Defense, Treasury, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Commerce, and other agencies and in Congress.

We believe that the President of the United States must be a principled, serious, and steady leader who can advance and defend American security and values, strengthen our alliances and protect our democracy. We expect to disagree with Kamala Harris on many domestic and foreign policy issues, but we believe that she possesses the essential qualities to serve as President and Donald Trump does not. We therefore support her election to be President.

We firmly oppose the election of Donald Trump. As President, he promoted daily chaos in government, praised our enemies and undermined our allies, politicized the military and disparaged our veterans, prioritized his personal interest above American interests, and betrayed our values, democracy, and this country's founding documents. In our view, by inciting the violent attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and defending those who committed it, he has violated his oath of office and brought danger to our country. As former Vice President Pence has said, "anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States."

Donald Trump's susceptibility to flattery and manipulation by Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, unusual affinity for other authoritarian leaders, contempt for the norms of decent, ethical and lawful behavior, and chaotic national security decision-making are dangerous qualities — as many honorable Republican colleagues and military officers who served in senior national security positions in his administration have frequently testified. He is unfit to serve again as President, or indeed in any office of public trust.

Vice President Harris has demonstrated a commitment to upholding the ideals that define our nation — freedom, democracy, and rule of law. Her experience as Attorney General of California and her leadership on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and as Vice President have helped prepare her to be President.

We are prepared to support her as President because she has:

- *Consistently championed the rule of law, democracy, and our constitutional Principles,*

- *Pledged to “ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world” and to honor and respect those who wear the uniform,*
- *Committed to sign the bipartisan Border Security package, drafted under the leadership of Republican Senator James Lankford and other Republicans, which would hire 1,500 new Customs and Border Protection personnel and provide more resources for law enforcement but was opposed by Donald Trump to avoid giving President Biden any political advantage,*
- *Supported a strong NATO to stand up to Russia and protect European and American security and been firm in her support of Ukraine,*
- *Declared her intention to ensure that the United States will meet the economic and military competition with China,*
- *Declared her intention to “always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself” and “to take whatever action is necessary to defend our forces and our interests against Iran and Iran-backed terrorists,”*
- *Demonstrated that she can engage in orderly national security decision-making, without the constant drama and Cabinet turnover of the Trump Administration, and*
- *Committed to appoint a Republican to her Cabinet in order to encourage a diversity of views and restore a measure of bipartisanship and comity to our domestic politics.*

We appreciate that many Republicans prefer Donald Trump to Kamala Harris, for a variety of reasons. We recognize and do not disparage their potential concerns, including about some of the positions advocated by the left wing of the Democratic party. But any potential concerns pale in comparison to Donald Trump's demonstrated chaotic and unethical behavior and disregard for our Republic's time-tested principles of constitutional governance. His unpredictable nature is not the negotiating virtue he extols. To the contrary, in matters of national security, his demeanor invites equally erratic behavior from our adversaries, which irresponsibly threatens reckless and dangerous global consequences.

In short, Donald Trump cannot be trusted “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic . . . and bear true faith and allegiance to the same.” We believe that Kamala Harris can, and we urge other Americans to join us in supporting her.



Yay!

Seven Hundred National Security Officials Endorse Harris

More than seven hundred current and former national security and military officials recently signed a letter endorsing Kamala Harris for President.

Here's what the letter says:

We are former public servants who swore an oath to the Constitution. Many of us risked our lives for it. We are retired generals, admirals, senior noncommissioned officers, ambassadors, and senior civilian national security leaders. We are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. We are loyal to the ideals of our nation—like freedom, democracy, and the rule of law—not to any one individual or party.

We do not agree on everything, but we all adhere to two fundamental principles. First, we believe America's national security requires a serious and capable Commander-in-Chief. Second, we believe American democracy is invaluable. Each generation has a responsibility to defend it. That is why we, the undersigned, proudly endorse Kamala Harris to be the next President of the United States.

This election is a choice between serious leadership and vengeful impulsiveness. It is a choice between democracy and authoritarianism. Vice President Harris defends America's democratic ideals, while former President Donald Trump endangers them.

We do not make such an assessment lightly. We are trained to make sober, rational decisions. That is how we know Vice President Harris would make an excellent Commander-in-Chief, while Mr. Trump has proven he is not up to the job. As leaders, we know effective leadership requires in-depth knowledge, careful deliberation, understanding of your adversaries, and empathy for those you lead. It requires listening to those with expertise and not firing them when they disagree with you.

Vice President Harris has proven she is an effective leader able to advance American national security interests. Her relentless diplomacy with allies around the globe preserved a united front in support of Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression. She grasps the reality of American military deterrence, promising to preserve the American military's status as the most "lethal" force in the world.

The contrast with Mr. Trump is clear: where Vice President Harris is prepared and strategic, he is impulsive and ill-informed. He has heaped praise on adversarial dictators like China's Xi Jinping, North Korea's Kim Jung Un, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, as well as the terrorist leaders of Hezbollah. Conversely, he has publicly and privately excoriated the leaders of our most steadfast allies, including the United Kingdom, Israel, Australia, Canada, and Germany. He abandoned our Kurdish allies while ceding influence in the Middle East to Russia, Iran, and China.

Further, Mr. Trump denigrates our great country and does not believe in the American ideal that our leaders should reflect the will of the people. While Vice President Harris follows the democratic norms we expect of any political leader—including promising to abide by the outcome of the pending election and respecting the rule of law—Mr. Trump is the first president in American history to actively undermine the peaceful transfer of power, the bedrock of American democracy.

Mr. Trump threatens our democratic system; he has said so himself. He has called for the "termination" of parts of the Constitution. He said he wants to be a "dictator," and his clarification that he would only be a dictator for a day is not reassuring. He has undermined faith in our elections by repeating lies, without evidence, of "millions" of fraudulent votes.


He has shown no remorse for trying to overturn the 2020 election on January 6th, promises to pardon the convicted perpetrators, and has made clear he will not respect the results of the 2024 election should he lose again.

That alone proves Mr. Trump is unfit to be Commander-in-Chief.

We believe, as President Ronald Reagan said, that "America is a shining city on a hill." Yet in this election, one of President Reagan's more ominous warnings is equally relevant. "Freedom," he said, "is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Our endorsement of Vice President Harris is an endorsement of freedom and an act of patriotism. It is an endorsement of democratic ideals, of competence, and of relentless optimism in America's future. We hope you will join us in voting for her.

One more thing. For Trump, there's more at stake in November than winning a second term. If he loses, he faces the prospect of going to trial on the multiple criminal charges filed against him. Last year, *Politico* calculated that if Trump were given the maximum sentence on every charge, he would face a whopping 641 years in prison. It's unlikely that the judges would give him the maximum sentence on every charge but it's clearly possible that Trump, who is seventy-eight, could spend the rest of his life — or at least a major part of it — behind bars.



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a better place
to live.

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Elect Democrats