

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

September, 2023

Volume 2, Issue 9

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 September Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, September 21**. The meeting will be held at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive, 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 August Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 17. Fifteen members and one guest were in attendance. Vice-Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a run-down of current events. Sharene McCloy and Sharon Schwab urged us to participate in the Caro Exchange Club Trail Walk on August 19 and asked for volunteers to staff our booth at the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival on October 7 and march or ride on our float in the parade on October 8. Mark Putnam outlined strategies to recruit Democrats for local elective office. Deb Parker informed us of the passing of David Sierocki and proposed that we dedicate this year's Pumpkin Festival parade float to his memory. Mona DeQuis reviewed plans for a text bank to young Tuscola County voters and asked for volunteers. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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.

Top Priorities

Currently the two top priorities of the Tuscola County Democratic Party are: (1) recruiting Democratic candidates for local elected office and (2) reaching out to young voters.

Our Candidate and Campaign Committee met on August 26 to review township and state representative offices that are up for election in 2024. The committee discussed ways to identify possible Democratic candidates for those positions and increase their prospects of winning.

Last month, we sent out text messages to young Tuscola County voters, aged 18 to 35, asking them what their major concerns were. Those who replied told us that reproductive rights and health care are among their top concerns. We are following up with these young people and have invited them to our monthly meetings.

Remember?

Tuscola Dems participated in the Cass River Clean-up on September 21, 2019. We started at Kappen Tree Service headquarters on Hurds Corner Road and waded a mile downstream, picking up trash as we went. The water was deep, the current was swift, and the footing was precarious. Everyone fell down at least once. Here are Mike Furgerson (in the straw hat), two friends (names unknown), Sue Kirby, Mark Putnam, and Bob DeCoe standing beside a canoe full of old tires that we pulled from the river.



Bidenomics



The economic numbers for the Biden administration are remarkable. They demonstrate the strength of an idea under which the government operated from 1933 to 1981 — the idea that investing in ordinary Americans is the best way to build the economy. In 1981, this idea was abandoned by Reagan Republicans in favor of so-called “supply-side economics” — the idea that cutting regulations and concentrating wealth at the top would enable business leaders to invest in the economy, thereby driving economic growth. While supply-side economics certainly succeeded in cutting regulations and concentrating wealth at the top, it failed to produce the promised economic growth.

Bidenomics is a rejection of supply-side economics and a return to the economic idea that built the country in the fifty years before it. Bideconomics invests in infrastructure and programs that help ordinary Americans put money and the power of innovation into their hands, driving the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, as Biden puts it.

Bidenomics has five cornerstones:

Run the economy hot

One of Biden’s first acts was to sign the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package aimed at pushing past the recession caused by the pandemic. Biden argued that “the biggest risk is not going too big ... it’s if we go too small.” The result has been the fastest-growing economy in decades. The nation’s gross domestic product surged by roughly 6 percent — a level not seen since the 1980s. The president is fond of saying that the United States has had the fastest recovery among the Group of Seven industrialized Western economies, which he (and many economists) attribute to the rescue plan.

Make unions stronger

Biden has taken a number of pro-union actions, such as appointing staunch labor advocates to the National Labor Relations Board and Labor Department, tying infrastructure grants and other federal funds to unionized labor, and meeting publicly with leaders trying to unionize their workplaces. Jennifer Abruzzo, the Biden-appointed general counsel at the NLRB, has directed her staff to ensure that union supporters can return to work after retaliatory firings, pushed for tougher penalties on firms that violate labor laws, and tried to ban mandatory captive audience meetings, in which employers force workers to listen to anti-union messages.

Revive domestic manufacturing

Biden has signed three sweeping economic laws aimed at reviving U.S. manufacturing — one to bolster the domestic semiconductor industry, another to repair the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, and a third to spur the clean energy industry. These bills also had other goals — the Inflation Reduction Act took aim at climate change, for instance, and the infrastructure law was primarily intended to improve decaying public works. But these laws are linked by the belief that the United States should bring back supply chains sent overseas during decades of globalization through a mixture of new tax incentives, trade restrictions, and domestic subsidies.

Spending on manufacturing plants in the U.S. has exploded, particularly in electronics and computers. Taking advantage of the generous new credits, clean energy firms are spreading billions in new investment across the country.

Rein in corporate power

Another cornerstone of Bidenomics has been to restrain the power of large corporations. Biden’s antitrust agenda has been met by opposition in Congress and has largely fallen to Lina Khan, whom the president selected to lead the Federal Trade Commission. Khan has transformed the agency, pushing it to be far more aggressive in blocking large corporate mergers, and the Department of Justice has stepped up similar efforts.

Biden has also taken aim at “junk fees.” The administration has moved to eliminate credit card late fees, require airlines to disclose full prices for tickets, and force cable providers to list service prices. He is also pushing new rules to ban corporations from requiring workers to sign overly broad agreements not to work for competitors.

Expand the safety net

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 included several new health care provisions, such as lowering prescription drug costs for people on Medicare, a new cap on insulin payments, and a two-year extension of bigger subsidies for families who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act’s exchanges. The Biden administration has taken other actions to expand the safety net, including making food stamps more generous for millions of Americans and making it easier for children to stay on Medicaid.

Biden’s plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in student debt per borrower was struck down by the Supreme Court. But the administration is searching for other ways to cancel large amounts of student debt, such as expanding a program that allows borrowers to pay what they can afford.

Governor Whitmer's "What's Next" Address



In January, Democrats took control of the Michigan House and Senate and reelected Governor Whitmer, achieving a Democratic trifecta for the first time in 40 years. Since then, Democrats have passed a number of measures, including anti-gun violence legislation, repealing the state's retirement tax, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, axing the state's 1931 ban on abortion, and expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976 to include LGBTQ+ people.

On August 30, Governor Whitmer delivered her "What's Next" address, outlining past accomplishments and priorities for the rest of this year.

She listed accomplishments and priorities in four different categories:

Health of our People

- Last November, Michiganders voted to protect abortion rights in the state constitution. In April, Governor Whitmer signed legislation repealing the 1931 abortion ban. However, there are still many bad laws that put unnecessary restrictions on abortion.

What's next: Pass the Reproductive Health Act and roll back these restrictions. Allow private insurance companies to include coverage for all pregnancy-related health care and prevent criminal punishment for miscarriages and stillbirths.

- In 2017, Republicans and Democrats came together to establish a healthier Michigan thanks to the Affordable Care Act. It expanded medical care to over 1 million people, lowered costs, and improved health outcomes.

What's next: Codify the measures of the Affordable Care Act, including protections for pre-existing conditions, permitting children to remain on their parent's insurance until age 26, banning annual or lifetime caps on care, and requiring insurance plans to cover essential services like ambulance services, birth control, mental health treatment, and preventative care.

- In 2020, Governor Whitmer established a bipartisan Prescription Drugs Task Force to drive down costs. Since then, she has signed legislation implementing some of their recommendations to lower costs by increasing transparency and accountability.

What's next: Establish an independent, nonpartisan Prescription Drug Affordability Board to tackle the cost of prescription drugs. They will hold bad actors in the supply chain accountable for irrationally skyrocketing prices while also encouraging R&D to help find new treatments and cures.

Health of our Planet

- In the decades ahead, Michigan will be a destination for people seeking safe water, clean air, and two pleasant peninsulas. We must face climate change head-on and grow the economy. To get it done we need bold goals, stronger tools, and tangible investments that make a real difference in people's lives.

What's next: Enact a 100% clean energy standard for Michigan so future generations have clean air to breathe and safe water to drink. Improve energy efficiency programs to drive down costs for families and small businesses. Empower the Michigan Public Service Commission to build clean energy at scale faster.

Health of our Economy

- Many Michiganders have to choose between earning a paycheck or spending time with their newborn, recovering from a health problem, or caring for an aging or sick parent or spouse. Around 77% of Michigan workers do not have access to paid family or medical leave. They deserve better.

What's next: Enact paid family and medical leave. Make sure Michiganders can provide for their families without sacrificing their ability to pay the bills or put food on the table. Level the playing field of small businesses, which often cannot afford to provide paid leave like larger companies can.

- We are living through a manufacturing boom the likes of which we have not seen since the 1960s. Construction spending by American manufacturers more than doubled over the past year. We're seeing it in Michigan with new battery, chip, and electric vehicle factories. We are building a heck of lot. But we need to pick up the pace.

What's next: Streamline our permitting process for advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, housing, and so much more. Getting this done will help us harness the full power of our economic development toolkit. Governor Whitmer has issued executive directives to improve our permitting process, but we need both executive action and legislation to make long overdue strides.

Health of our Democracy

- Last November, Michiganders voted to pass Proposal 2, which requires nine days of early, in-person voting, ensures overseas service members get their votes counted, and ensures absentee ballots are free to mail in. However, threats against the integrity of our elections are alive and well.

What's next: Shore up election security. We cannot allow the will of the people to be tossed out or overturned, and we can't allow politicians to stay in office despite getting voted out. We must ensure that Michigan voters are heard and respected.

More Republican Woes



On August 14, Fani Willis, the district attorney of Fulton County, Georgia, charged Trump with leading a criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 presidential election loss in that state. The Fulton County grand jury cited 161 separate acts in the conspiracy, from false tweets to major violations like trying to get Georgia Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger, to decertify the state's election. The indictment contains 41 criminal charges against Trump and eighteen other people, including one count of racketeering against each individual.

The nineteen indicted co-conspirators are:

- Donald Trump himself.
- Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's lawyers.
- Sidney Powell, one of Trump's lawyers.
- Mark Meadows, Trump's former White House chief of staff.
- Jenna Ellis, one of Trump's lawyers.
- John Eastman, one of Trump's lawyers.
- Kenneth Chesebro, one of Trump's lawyers.
- Scott Hall, a Georgia bail bondsman and Trump operative.
- David Shafer, a former state senator and chair of the Georgia Republican Party.
- Ray Smith, a Georgia lawyer.
- Cathy Latham, former head of the Republican Party in Coffee County, Georgia.
- Harrison Floyd, executive director of Black Voices for Trump.
- Jeffrey Clark, a former senior Justice Department official.
- Robert Cheeley, a Georgia plaintiff's attorney.
- Mike Roman, a Trump campaign official.
- Shawn Still, a Georgia state senator.
- Trevian Kutti, former publicist for Kanye West.
- Stephen Lee, a Lutheran pastor from Illinois.
- Misty Hampton, former election supervisor of Coffee County, Georgia.

To read an annotated copy of the 98-page indictment, go to

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/15/us/politics/trump-georgia-indictment-annotated.html>.

Make
Tuscola County
a better place
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Elect Democrats