

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

March 2026

Volume 5, Issue 3

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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Deb Parker Resigns



We regret to announce that Deb Parker has resigned as Chair of the Tuscola County Democratic Party.

Deb's resignation was accepted at an Executive Board meeting held on March 6th. At the same meeting, the Board appointed Alex Kirsch as Chair and Lynn Kunze Adams as Vice Chair.

Notice of Our March Meeting

We will get together on Thursday, March 19th, at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive, Caro, MI. for three events — an Appreciation Ceremony in honor of Deb Parker, a County Convention, and our regular monthly meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., we will have an Appreciation Ceremony to thank Deb for her many years of service to our Party and our community.

At 6:30 p.m., we will convene a County Convention to elect individuals to serve on Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention committees and consider resolutions to be forwarded to the State Party.

Immediately following the County Convention, we will have our regular monthly meeting. Brendan Johnson, a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 26th District, will be our guest speaker.

Please join us.

Highlights of Our February Meeting

Vice Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 19th at the Brentwood. Nineteen members and one guest were in attendance. Our guest speakers were Jack Bader, a Democratic candidate for State Representative for Michigan's 97th District, and Colonel John Hall, a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 26th District. The candidates told us about their backgrounds, qualifications, and goals if elected to office. Vice Chair Alex Kirsch then gave us a rundown of current events. April Dicks told us about the recent Abolish ICE protest in Bay City. Chuck Stockwell told us about the activities of the Communication Committee. Sharon Schwab told us about plans for the upcoming No Kings rally and road cleanup. Sherene McCloy told us about plans for an upcoming membership drive and the rental of office space during the November midterm elections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

"No Kings" Day



On Saturday, March 28th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuscola Democrats will be protesting on the sidewalk in front of the Tuscola County Courthouse.

We will join millions of Americans across the nation for another "No Kings" day of protest in response to Trump's continued assault upon our democracy, such as sending masked federal agents into our cities, snatching up immigrants, and abusing citizens who challenge them.

See you there!

Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention

This year's Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention will take place on Sunday, April 19th. Party members will gather at Huntington Place in Detroit to endorse Democratic nominees for Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Supreme Court, State Board of Education, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University Board of Governors, and University of Michigan Board of Regents.

If you wish to vote at the convention, you must have been a member of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) for at least thirty days unless you are a Precinct delegate, a Democratic elected official, or a Democratic nominee to partisan office. If you're not sure whether you're an MDP member or not, give Sherene McCloy a call at (989) 673-4528. She has a list of Tuscola Democrats who are MDP members.

Alex Kirsch is forming a carpool so we can all ride down to the convention in Detroit together. If you wish to join us, give Alex a call at (503) 507-6324. He'll provide details and sign you up.

Democrats on the Ballot



Ray Pooley of Highland Township has filed as a Democratic candidate for US Congress representing Michigan's 9th District, which includes all of Tuscola County except for the southwest corner of Arbella County.

Ray says his campaign is about building a future where jobs pay dignity wages, where healthcare doesn't bankrupt you, where we hold corporations accountable, and where we conserve our planet better.



April Osentoski of Bad Axe has filed as a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 25th District, which includes most of eastern Tuscola County as well as the whole of Huron and Sanilac Counties and parts of St. Clair and Macomb Counties.

April says her main goals as a legislator would be to expand access to healthcare, ensure the security of seniors, ensure transparency of government, secure our Constitutional rights, and protect family farms.



Colonel (Ret.) John Hall of Thetford Township has filed as a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 26th District, which includes southwestern Tuscola County as well as parts Saginaw, Lapeer, and Genessee County.

John says his top priorities are access to affordable quality health care, strengthening family farms, supporting small businesses, fully funding public schools, and bringing integrity to state government.



Brendan Johnson of Bridgeport has also filed as a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 26th District.

Brendan says he will work to defend our manufacturing jobs and skilled trades from automation and cheap imports, raise wages and stop corporate price gouging, help Michiganders start small businesses free of burdensome red tape, build the affordable housing, and ensure that every Michigander has top-quality health care that they can afford.



Jack Bader of Vassar has filed as a Democratic candidate for State Representative for Michigan's 97th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County as well as parts of Bay and Genessee Counties.

Jack says his main goals are addressing the concerns of families, farm owners and small businesses, ensuring that workers receive fair wages, and investing in public infrastructure.

Trump's Federal Work Force Cuts

When Trump took office, the executive branch of the federal government employed roughly 2.3 million civilian workers. Since then, his people have reduced the federal work force by at least 240,000 workers — about 10 percent. They didn't spread out these personnel cuts evenly but instead singled out workers in agencies and programs they dislike.

Here's a rundown:

1. **Department of Education, headed by Linda McMahon** – The ED workforce was cut from 4,275 to 2,496 employees — about 42 percent. Prime targets were employees of agencies overseeing civil rights, special education, student loans, and supplemental funding to schools with high numbers of low-income families.
2. **Department of the Treasury, headed by Scott Bessent** – The DOT workforce was cut from 115,689 to 92,091 employees — nearly 28 percent. Prime targets were IT and technical staff and Internal Revenue Service employees.
3. **Department of Housing and Urban Development, headed by Scott Turner** – The HUD workforce was cut from 8,408 to 6,416 employees — about 24 percent. Prime targets were fair housing investigators and staff overseeing public housing and community development grants.
4. **Department of Agriculture, headed by Brooke Rollins** – The USDA workforce was cut from 92,764 to 73,799 employees — about 22 percent. Prime targets were employees of the Forest Service, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.
5. **Department of State, headed by Marco Rubio** – The DOS workforce was cut from 14,551 to 11,749 employees — about 19 percent. Prime targets were employees working on human rights, refugee assistance, and drug and human trafficking. The US Agency for International Development was totally dismantled.
6. **Department of Health and Human Services, headed by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** – The HHS workforce was cut from 92,856 to 76,287 employees — about 18 percent. Prime targets were employees of the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control, and National Institutes of Health.
7. **Department of Commerce, headed by Howard Lutnick** – The DOC workforce was cut from 48,741 to 41,964 employees — about 14 percent. Prime targets were employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Patent and Trademark Office.
8. **Department of Labor, headed by Lori Chavez-DeRemer** – The DOL workforce was cut from 14,551 to 12,516 employees — about 14 percent. Prime targets were employees in agencies that oversee workplace safety inspections and those that enforce minimum wage, overtime, and child labor laws.

9. **Department of Energy, headed by Chris Wright** – The DOE workforce was cut from 17,551 to 15,022 employees — about 14 percent. Prime targets were employees in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and State and Community Energy Programs.
10. **Department of Interior, headed by Doug Burgum** – The DOI workforce was cut from 65,360 to 58,481 employees — about 11 percent. Prime targets were employees of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
11. **Department of Justice, headed by Pam Bondi** – The DOJ workforce was cut from 117,254 to 107,700 employees — about 8 percent. Prime targets were employees in the Civil Rights Division and those involved in prosecuting January 6th cases.
12. **Department of Defense, headed by Pete Hegseth** – The DOD workforce was cut from roughly 764,000 to 700,000 employees — about 8 percent. Prime targets were IT and telecommunications employees as well as those working on DEI, climate change, and COVID-19 response initiatives.
13. **Department of Transportation, headed by Sean Duffy** – The DOT workforce was cut from 57,289 to 53,407, employees — about 7 percent. Prime targets were employees of the Federal Transit Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
14. **Department of Veterans Affairs, headed by Doug Collins** – The VA workforce was cut from 481,075 to 451,284 employees — about 6 percent. Among those departing were over 3,000 registered nurses, 1,000 physicians, 1,100 custodians, 700 social workers, and nearly 2,000 claims processors.
15. **Department of Homeland Security, headed by Kristi Noem (until recently)** – The DHS workforce was cut from 230,225 to 227,374 employees — about 1 percent. Prime targets were employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services. These cuts were offset by the hiring of 12,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and 7,000 Customs and Border Protection agents.

In addition to these fifteen cabinet-level departments, there were cuts in many independent agencies that report directly to the president, including:

1. **Small Business Administration, headed by Kelly Loeffler** – The SBA workforce was cut from roughly 6500 to 3800 employees — about 43 percent.
2. **Social Security Administration, headed by Frank Bisignano**– The SSA workforce was cut from 58,166 to 50,892 employees — about 13 percent.
3. **National Aeronautics and Space Administration, headed by Jared Isaacman** – The NASA workforce was cut from 18,000 to 14,000 employees — about 20 percent.

Trump's Corruption Scandals

Norman Eisen and Gabriel Lezra of the *Contrarian* recently updated their list of the ten worst corruption scandals by Trump and his cronies.

Here's their new list:

1. **The Epstein Files Cover-Up** – The Number One scandal is still Trump's relationship with one of the most notorious child sex traffickers in history and the failure of his people to turn over all the files about the case. The Attorney General still hasn't disclosed millions of files, despite a law passed by Congress last November requiring their release.
2. **Selling American Residency to the Super-Rich** – Number Two is Trump's so-called "Gold Card," a program that lets wealthy foreigners buy US residency for a \$1 million payment to the Commerce Department. That's bad enough but even worse: Instead of asking Congress to create a new visa category, Trump simply ordered federal agencies to treat these cash payments as proof of eligibility for EB-1 and EB-2 visas — categories that Congress had reserved for Nobel laureates, pioneering scientists, and those whose work serves the national interest. Trump has transformed US residency into a luxury commodity, letting oligarchs buy into our country like they buy Ferraris.
3. **World Liberty Financial** - Trump's crypto company, World Liberty Financial, was already near the top of our list and things have only gotten worse. Recent reports reveal that Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates' national security adviser, has quietly amassed a secret stake in Trump's crypto venture through a web of investment vehicles designed to obscure his involvement. Already it seems to be paying off for him. The UAE has secured a deal for millions of the most advanced computer chips from the American company NVidia.
4. **The Meme Coin Grift** - Trump's meme coin represents perhaps his most brash self-enrichment scheme. According to the website, the token is "intended to function as an expression of support for the ideals and beliefs embodied by the symbol \$TRUMP and not as an investment. However, this token was listed on various crypto exchanges and immediately surged in price. The president even hosted an exclusive dinner for meme coin "investors" who spent tens of thousands to buy the digital token.
5. **Tom Homan's \$50,000** - Trump's Border Czar Tom Homan allegedly accepted a \$50,000 payment from undercover federal agents posing as business executives. A tape of the alleged payoff reportedly exists. Let's see it.
6. **The USD1 Binance-UAE Deal** - Less than two months after Trump's crypto company, World Liberty Financial, launched its stable coin, USD1, a UAE investment firm announced that it would use the coin to finance a \$2 billion investment in crypto exchange Binance, which was then under investigation by the SEC. In May, Binance listed USD1 and, a few days later, Trump's SEC dropped its securities case against the exchange. There's also Trump's treatment of Binance's head, Changpeng Zhao, who pleaded guilty to money laundering in 2023 and got a Trump pardon this past October.

7. **Trump's Qatari Jet** -Last May, Qatar gave Trump a \$400 million Boeing 747, ostensibly to use as Air Force One. Trump's people then apparently transferred nearly \$1 billion from the Defense Department's nuclear weapons program to retrofit the jet, which will barely have time in the air before Trump's term ends, and it gets "donated" to Trump's presidential library for his continued use. After giving the jet to Trump, Qatar got a guarantee that the United States will defend Qatar through "diplomatic, economic, and, if necessary, military" measures plus a new "military facility" for Qatar's air force at the Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.
8. **Melania's Flop** – Last month, Amazon's *Melania* film had a lavish Washington DC premier. Black carpets, media spectacle, and exclusive distribution through Amazon's Prime Video platform were deployed to transform Melania Trump's story into something worth the \$40 million Bezos paid for the rights. Unfortunately for him, the movie scored a dismal 6 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.
9. **Trump's Foreign Real Estate Deals** - Real estate developers are working on at least 23 Trump-branded projects. To take a few examples, Trump is building a hotel, golf course, and residences in Oman on property owned by the government. A Saudi real estate firm is the Trump Organization's partner in various real estate deals, including a new Trump Hotel in Dubai and a residential tower in Jeddah. Last November, the Trump Organization announced a project in the Maldives with the same Saudi firm. On the next day, Trump met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and announced an "Economic and Defense Partnership" with the kingdom.
10. **Trump's DC Renovations** – Last fall, Trump ordered the destruction of the historic East Wing to build a massive \$300 million-plus ballroom. He also renamed the Kennedy Center after himself, and when that backfired, announced plans to close the center for renovations. Trump says he's raised private money for both projects, but the ballroom donors include corporations that have received billions in federal contracts — and about a dozen of them are facing federal enforcement actions.

Tuscola Democrats 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.

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly. It is sent by email to members of the Tuscola County Democratic Party and is posted on our website, <https://www.tuscoladems.com>. Party members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. Please limit your submission to 800 words or less and email it by the first of the month to Chuck Stockwell at cwstockwell@gmail.com.

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