

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

October, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 7

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 20th, 2022**, at our campaign headquarters, 852 Hooper Street, 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 monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party to order at 6:30 p.m. on September 15th. At the last minute, we had to change the meeting from in-person to Zoom because Chair Deb Parker and Vice-chair Bob DeCoe both had COVID. Sixteen members were in attendance via Zoom. Vicki Leland and Sharon Schwab discussed plans for our float and our booth at the Pumpkin Festival and appealed for volunteers. Mary Smith raised questions about our phone banking strategy. Bob DeCoe urged members to comment on social media. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival

Tuscola Dems went big at the Pumpkin Festival again this year!

On Saturday, October 8th, we had a booth in the Merchant's Building, handing out bags of our legendary Democratic popcorn and telling everyone who walked by about the importance of voting for Democrats on November 8th.

On Sunday, October 9th, we marched in the Pumpkin Parade behind this year's truly awesome Democratic float proudly wearing Democratic T-shirts.

Here we are!



Our Campaign Headquarters

From now until the November 8th election, our campaign headquarters at 852 Hooper Street in Caro will be open Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from noon until 6:00 p.m. We have the newly-drawn precinct maps available so you can find out exactly which candidates will be on your ballot in November. Please stop by, take a look at the precinct maps, pick up yard signs, donate to your favorite candidate, and talk politics with fellow Democrats who are always hanging out there.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to staff our headquarters. If you are willing to help out, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4AE28A4FA7-demoffice> to sign up.

The November 8th Election



This time around, it's more important than ever to get out and vote. Republican candidates are against everything we stand for—gun control, women's reproductive rights, voting rights, environment protection, humane treatment of immigrants, affordable education for everyone, affordable health care for everyone. They are fighting tooth and nail against ballot proposals that we strongly support—Proposition 22-2 (Promote the Vote 2022) and Proposition 22-3 (Reproductive Freedom for All). As if that isn't enough, Republican candidates for the top three state offices—governor, secretary of state, and attorney general—are Trump-endorsed election deniers pledged to undermine our democratic institutions.

Here's a rundown of the Democratic candidates on the ballot in Tuscola County:



Gretchen Whitmer is seeking reelection to a second term. During her first term, she fixed the damned roads; she passed three balanced budgets and turned a projected \$3 billion deficit into a \$7 billion surplus; she put \$500 million into Michigan's rainy-day fund; she did not raise taxes on working families by one cent.

Governor Whitmer is running against Tudor Dixon, a Grand Rapids conservative media personality who has never held public office. Dixon has pledged to enact an abortion ban with no exceptions for rape, incest, or health of the mother. She has said she would implement a DeVos-style school voucher plan that would send taxpayer dollars to private schools. She has received Donald Trump's endorsement.



Joslyn Benson is seeking reelection to a second term. During her first term, she oversaw Michigan's 2020 presidential election and more than 250 audits after the election, every one of which affirmed its integrity and accuracy, and she transformed the customer service operations of the Secretary of State's office, ending take-a-ticket-and-wait system that had resulted in hours-long lines at offices for years.

Secretary of State Benson is running against Kristina Karamo, an instructor at Wayne County Community College who has never held public office. At first, Kamaro was dismissed as just another conspiracy kook, but last spring the Michigan Republican Party chose her as its nominee for Secretary of State. She has received Trump's endorsement.



Dana Nessel is seeking reelection to a second term. During her first term, she established the Payroll Fraud Enforcement Unit to crack down on those who try to cheat Michigan's workers out of their pay and retirement benefits; she launched Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force to stop the rise of crimes against Michigan's senior citizens; she launched the Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure no one is convicted of a crime they didn't actually commit.

Attorney General Nessel is running against Matt DePerno, a tax lawyer based in Portage who has never held public office. DePerno rose to prominence in Michigan politics in 2020 after he filed a lawsuit in Antrim County claiming that Dominion election machines and software were "corrupted" during the 2020 election. He has received Trump's endorsement.



Brian Jaye is the Democratic candidate for U. S Representative for Michigan’s newly redrawn 9th District, which includes all of Tuscola County, except for the southwest corner of Arbel Township. Brian is an experienced lawyer who lives in Rochester.

Brian is running against Republican Lisa McClain, who has served as U.S. Representative for Michigan’s 10th District since 2021. During her term in office, Representative McClain has consistently voted against bills and resolutions that would improve the lives of her constituents. She is now the Republican candidate for U.S. Representative for Michigan’s newly redrawn 9th District.



Dan Kildee has served as U.S. Representative for Michigan’s 5th District since 2013. He is now the Democratic candidate for U.S. Representative for Michigan’s newly redrawn 8th District, which includes only the southwest corner of Arbel Township in Tuscola County. Representative Kildee currently serves as Chief Deputy Whip for the Democrats in Congress. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

Representative Kildee is running against Republican Paul Junge, a lawyer, businessman, and Fox47 television news anchor. Junge says that, if elected, he will work to ban sanctuary cities and stop illegal immigration, and serve as a pro-life, pro-Second Amendment conservative leader.



Bert Van Dyke is the Democratic candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 25th Senate District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County as well as the whole of Huron and Sanilac Counties, most of St. Clair County, and the northeastern Macomb County. Bert grew up on a farm in Sanilac County and has worked for 30 years as a teacher at Marine City High School.

Bert is running against Republican Dan Lauwers, who represented Michigan’s 81st House District between 2013 and 2019. Since 2019, he has served as State Senator for the 25th District. Lauwers is an avid hunter and gun owner, and a strong supporter of 2nd Amendment rights. He says he firmly believes in the sacredness of life at conception.



Charles Stadler is the Democratic candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 26th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County, eastern Saginaw County, northern Lapeer County, and northwestern Genesee County. Charles lives in Vassar. He is co-owner of Stadler Bookkeeping & Tax Service and has been a Vassar Township Trustee for 4 years.

Charles is running against Kevin Daley, who was State Representative for Michigan’s 82nd House District from 2009 to 2014 and has been State Senator for Michigan’s 31st Senate District since 2019. Daley is now the Republican candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 26th District. He opposes mandates from Lansing, supports reforms to “restore faith in our election process”, and strongly defends of our 2nd Amendment Rights.



Paul Whitney is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 97th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County as well as southern Bay County and northwestern Genesee County. Paul is a life-long resident of Vassar. He has served as Vice-president of Wolverine Human Services and has been a police officer for the City of Vassar for thirty-one years. He has been named Vassar Citizen of the Year.

Paul is running against Republican Matthew Bierlein, a Vassar businessman who served as Tuscola County Commissioner for 6 years. Bierlein believes that life starts at conception. He believes that “we must restore the people’s trust in our election process.” He wants no more one-sided radical decrees from Lansing. He’s a life-time member of the NRA.



Bob Mroczek is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 98th District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County (except Watertown Township), the whole of Huron County, and part of northern Lapeer County. Bob lives in Sandusky. He has been in business and education for more than 30 years and is currently self-employed in the tax and accounting field.

He is running against Republican Gregory Alexander, a dairy farmer who lives in Carsonville. Alexander has said that, if elected, he will introduce legislation to defund prosecutors who refuse to prosecute “all of our laws” and will call on the Attorney General to enforce them. He will work to “reduce class sizes and advocate for parents to have a voice in their child’s education.”

NO PICTURE

Brian LaJoie is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 67th District, which includes Watertown Township in Tuscola County as well as parts of Lapeer and Genessee Counties. Brian lives in Lapeer.

Brian is running against Republican Phil Green, who has served as State Representative for Michigan's 84th District since 2019. Green is now the Republican candidate for State Representative for Michigan's newly redrawn 67th District.



Richard Bernstein is a Democratic nominee seeking a second term on the Michigan Supreme Court. He was the first blind justice elected to the Court by voters in 2015. He is an attorney, an educator, and a former Wayne State University Board of Governors Chair. Prior to being elected, Justice Bernstein headed the public service division for the Sam Bernstein Law Firm. Blind since birth, he is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan and earned his Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law.



Kyra Harris Bolden is a Democratic nominee seeking her first term on the Michigan Supreme Court. Currently she is serving a second term as Democratic Representative for Michigan's 35th House District. A graduate of Southfield Public Schools, Bolden received her bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University and went on to attend the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. After receiving her Juris Doctorate, Representative Bolden became a civil litigation attorney.

Ballot Proposals

Tuscola County ballots will contain three proposals to amend the Michigan constitution and a proposal to borrow money for a new county jail and sheriff's facility. There will also be local proposals on the ballot in some precincts.

Proposal 22-1: Transparency and Term Limits

A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- *Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports after 2023, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.*
- *Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements.*
- *Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate.*

Proposal 22-2: Promote the Vote 2022

A proposal to amend the state constitution to add provisions regarding elections.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- *Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;*
- *Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;*
- *Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;*
- *Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;*
- *Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;*
- *Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;*
- *Require 9 days of early in-person voting;*
- *Allow donations to fund elections, which must be disclosed;*
- *Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.*

Proposal 22-3: Reproductive Freedom for All

A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- *Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;*
- *Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health;*
- *Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;*
- *invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment.*

Tuscola County New County Jail and Sheriff's Facility Bond Proposition

Shall the County of Tuscola, State of Michigan borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-Four Million Dollars (44,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor in one or more series for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping a new Tuscola County Jail and Sheriff's Facility located at 420 Court Street, Caro, Michigan, including parking, landscaping, access roadways and other appurtenances?

The maximum number of years that a series of bonds may be outstanding is not more than thirty (30) years. The estimated millage in the first year of levy to repay the bonds is 0.9829 Mills.

If approved in full, this bond issue will raise an estimated \$2,033,240 in the first calendar year of the levy based on taxable value.