

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

April 2024

Volume 3, Issue 4

## 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 April Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 2024**. 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 March Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. Twenty members and two guests were in attendance. Vice-chair Alex Kirsch gave us a run-down of current events. Patrick Wood told us about his work as President of the Millington Downtown Development Authority and his strategy for getting things done in his community. Then we heard from individuals running for office in the Michigan Primary on August 6 — Mark Putnam of Caro, who has filed as a candidate for State Representative in the 97<sup>th</sup> District, and April Osentoski of Bad Axe, who has filed as a candidate for State Representative in the 98<sup>th</sup> District. Mona DeQuis told us that Clinton St. Mosley of Lake Orion has filed as a Democratic candidate for U. S. Congress in Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District and asked for signatures on his nominating petition. 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!

## Bowling Event



On March 21, the Tuscola County Democratic Party held a bowling event at the Brentwood in Caro. The event was organized by Mark Putnam. Party members and new volunteers were invited to come and throw a few strikes for Biden. Two bowling lanes had been reserved for us, and we began bowling at 4:30 p.m. Lots of people showed up and everyone had a great time.

Afterwards, we adjourned to our meeting room at the Brentwood for a social hour followed by our regular monthly meeting.

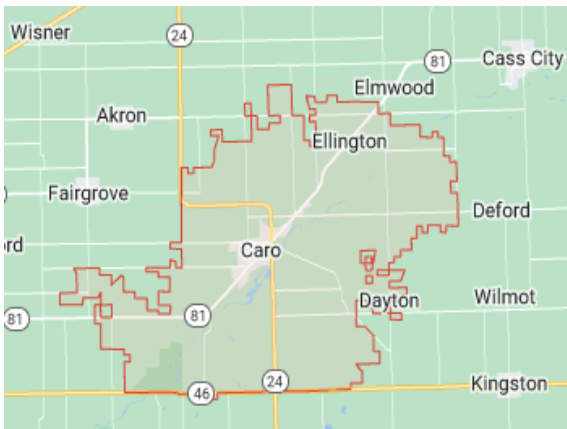
## Happy Easter!



As part of a community service project, members of the Tuscola County Democratic Party made up more than 120 candy-filled Easter bags and delivered them to the residents and staff of the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility on March 29. We did the same thing last year and heard a number of residents say it was good to see Democrats come around again.

## Election on May 7

On Tuesday, May 7, there will be an election for voters who live within the Caro Community School District (see map below). There will be two proposals on the ballot:



1. Renewal for six more years of a millage that provides about \$1.9 million annually for the school district's operating budget. This is not a tax on homesteads. It applies only to non-homestead property (e.g., businesses, second homes, vacant land, and rental property).

2. A \$39.6 million bond proposal to update school facilities. If approved by voters, this bond proposal would increase taxes by 1.40 mill on all property within the school district (e.g., \$140 per year for property with a \$100,000 taxable value).

## Democrats on the Ballot



**Clinton St. Mosley**, has filed as a Democratic candidate for U. S. Congress in Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District, which includes all of Tuscola County, except for the southwest corner of Arbella Township.

Clint is the owner of Clint St.Mosley State Farm Insurance Agency in Sterling Heights. He and his wife Susan, a nurse anesthetist, live in Lake Orion. They are parents to Spencer and Oliver, seven-year-old twin boys. Clint says he was brought up to cherish family, freedom, and fairness. He's for strong unions, healthcare for everyone, combatting climate change, humane immigration reform, and school safety.



**Mark Putnam**, has filed as a Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 97<sup>th</sup> District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County as well as southern Bay County and northwestern Genessee County.

Mark was born and raised in Tuscola County. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State College of Pharmacy. For many years, Mark has been an active participant in a number of community service and advocacy groups. He has been Chair of the City of Caro Historical Commission, Vice-chair of Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems, and has served on the board of Mid-state Health Network. Mark says that if elected, he will work tirelessly to improve the lives of his constituents.



**April Osentoski**, has filed as a Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 98<sup>th</sup> District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County (except Watertown Township), the whole of Huron County, and part of northern Lapeer County.

April and her husband, Brad, live in Bax Axe. They have five children and three grandchildren. April has worked as a culinary professional for over 25 years. She says that as a legislator, her main goals would be to expand mental health services, including those for substance abuse, increase economically viable futures for our young people, and ensure the safety and security of seniors.



## A Democrat Wins in Alabama

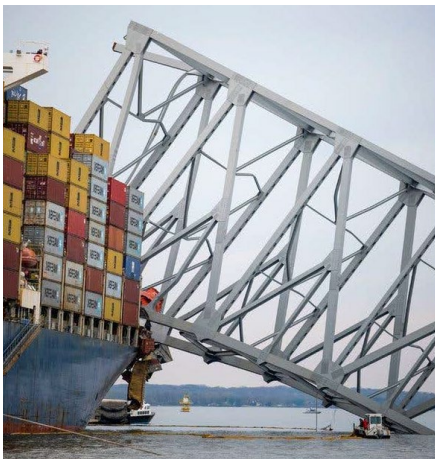


In a special election on March 7, Democrat **Marilyn Lands** flipped a seat in the Alabama House that had long been held by a Republican. She won by a landslide — 25 percentage points. That’s a big deal in a state where no Democrat holds a single statewide office and Republicans hold a supermajority in both houses of the legislature.

In Alabama, the prevailing wisdom says that Democratic candidates should run as independents or even as closet Republicans, but Marilyn Lands ignored that advice. She came out strongly against Alabama’s total abortion ban and in strong support for IVF. Her Republican opponent avoided those issues and talked mostly about fixing the roads.

Marilyn Lands’ victory should give Democrats everywhere a shot in the arm. If a Democrat can win in Alabama, then a Democrat can win anywhere, even in Michigan’s Thumb.

## Immigrants

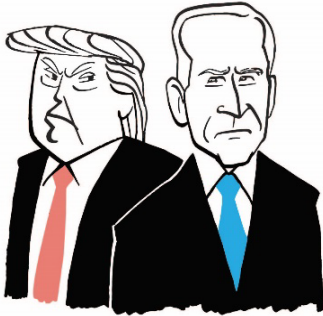


At 1:28 a.m. on March 26, a giant container ship slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and it collapsed. No one was on the bridge at the time except for eight maintenance workers filling potholes in the roadway. All eight men were thrown into the water and six of them drowned. They were all immigrants — **Miguel Luna**, age 49, father of three children who came from El Salvador 19 years ago, **Hernandez Fuentes**, age 35, father of four children who came from Mexico, **Suazo Sandoval**, age 38, father of two children who came from Honduras, **Mynor Lopez**, in his 30s, father of four children who came from Guatemala 19 years ago, **Castillo Cabrera**, age 26, who came from Guatemala, and **Carlos Hernandez**, age unknown, who came from Mexico.

The United States had always been a nation of immigrants. About 46 million people now living in the U.S. were born in another country. Many of them (especially those from Mexico and Latin America) are poorly educated, and they end up doing the jobs that native-born Americans don’t want to do — jobs with the lowest wages and the worst conditions, like fixing potholes on the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the middle of the night.

Trump often claims that foreign countries are sending their “worst people” to the US. He says that “other countries are emptying out their prisons, insane asylums, mental institutions, dumping everyone including mass numbers of terrorists into our country.” He claims these immigrants are “poisoning the blood” of the country. Of course, that’s not true. Most immigrants are like the men who drowned in the water beneath the Francis Scott Key Bridge — hard-working people who came to this country seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

## More About the Electoral College



As we all know, Americans do not elect presidents by popular vote, but rather by vote of the Electoral College. This year in Michigan, each political party at its fall state convention will choose fifteen electors (equal to the number of Michigan's senators and representatives in Congress). State law mandates that the winner of the plurality of the statewide popular vote receives all of Michigan's Electoral College votes. The procedure for certifying votes in Michigan is strict and complicated.

After every presidential election, a Board of Canvassers in each of Michigan's 83 counties certifies election results for that county, and the certified results are forwarded by the county clerk to Michigan's Secretary of State. Then the Michigan Board of State Canvassers certifies election results statewide and forwards them to the Governor, who designates the official slate of Michigan electors. The electors designated by the governor convene in the senate chamber in Lansing on the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December to cast their votes, and the results are sent to the U. S. Congress, where they are tabulated in the first week of January before a joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, presided over by the vice president.

Two terms you should know:

A "faithless elector" is a person who does not vote for the presidential candidate for whom that elector had pledged to vote and instead votes for another person or abstains from voting. There is no federal law that binds an elector to vote for any particular candidate, so pledging rules are left up to the states. Michigan law says that electors must vote for the presidential candidate to whom the elector is pledged. A vote to the contrary is voided and the elector casting that vote is replaced, but otherwise faces no penalty.

A "fake elector" is a person whose name appears on a slate created by the political party whose candidate lost the election. This happened in Michigan in 2020. In that year, Michigan had sixteen Electoral College votes and sixteen Republican activists signed legal documents falsely claiming to be Michigan electors for Donald Trump, despite the fact that Trump lost the state by 154,000 votes. These individuals were "fake electors" and subject to criminal prosecution under Michigan law. All sixteen of them were arraigned in District Court in Ingham County on charges of forgery with intent to defraud.

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Tuscola County  
a better place  
to live.



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P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

**Elect Democrats**