

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

December 2024

Volume 3, Issue 12

## 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.

## Contact Us

Chair: Deb Parker

Vice Chair: Alex Kirsch

Secretary: Chuck Stockwell

Treasurer: Lisa Bertsch

(989) 262-9883

[tuscolademocrats@gmail.com](mailto:tuscolademocrats@gmail.com)

Tuscola County Democratic Party  
P.O. Box 605  
Caro, MI 48723

## Follow Us

<https://www.tuscoladems.com>

<http://facebook.com/tuscoladems>



## Notice of Our December Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, December 19, 2024**. We vacated our campaign headquarters at the end of November, so our December meeting will take place 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.

## Tuscola Dems Welcome Your Donations



Tuscola Dems have lots of work to do in the coming months, and we need your support now more than ever. 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!

## Our November Meeting



We didn't have a regular meeting in November. Instead, we gathered together and talked about what happened on November 5<sup>th</sup> and where do we go from here. There was pizza.

At the end of the evening, we reelected Deb Parker as Chair, Alex Kirsch as Vice Chair, and Chuck Stockwell as Secretary, and elected Mike Furgerson as Treasurer, each to serve a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2025.

## Trump's Cabinet Picks

In 2016, Donald Trump entered the White House with a Cabinet full of seasoned insiders he barely knew who helped him learn his way around Washington. This time, it's different. Now he favors loyalty over expertise and has nominated some people with extreme views and/or little experience in the areas they will oversee. Trump's picks must be confirmed by the Senate. Knowing that some of his nominees might lack the votes needed for Senate confirmation, Trump has talked about sidestepping the confirmation process. The US Constitution says that when the Senate is in recess, the president can make "recess appointments," that is, appointments without Senate approval. So, Trump may try to engineer a Senate recess. If the senators agree, he's all set. If they don't, he's got another trick up his sleeve. If he could convince House Speaker Johnson to force a disagreement with the Senate regarding the time of recess, he could use that as a pretext for adjourning both chambers, and then he would be free to make "recess appointments." Trump's problem is that such a maneuver would likely be challenged as unconstitutional, almost certainly landing the question before the Supreme Court, and there's a good chance the justices would rule against him. We'll see what happens.

Anyway, here's a rundown of Trump's Cabinet picks. All of them must be confirmed by the Senate unless Trump gets away with his scheme for making "recess appointments."



The **Secretary of State** oversees our country's relationships with other nations. Trump has nominated **Marco Rubio**, a Florida senator and foreign policy hawk who echoes Trump's tough talk on trade with China, his staunch support for Israel in its attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah, and his view that a negotiated settlement is the only realistic way to end the war between Russia and Ukraine.



The **Secretary of Treasury** is the nation's chief economic steward responsible for issuing debt to fund the government's operations and pay its bills and setting policy on taxation, trade, and financial regulation. Trump has nominated **Scott Bessent**, a billionaire hedge fund manager who has called for rolling back government subsidies, deregulating the economy, raising tariffs, and cutting taxes.



The **Secretary of Defense** heads a federal government department with 1.3 million active-duty soldiers and another 1.4 million in the National Guard, the Army Reserve, and civilian employees. Trump has nominated **Pete Hegseth**, a hard-drinking Fox News commentator with strong views and no experience in government. Hegseth was forced to leave leadership positions in two veterans groups because of financial mismanagement and sexual misconduct.



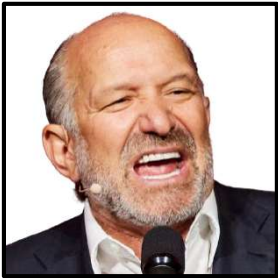
The **Attorney General** is the federal government's chief law enforcement officer. After Matt Gaetz withdrew from consideration, Trump nominated **Pam Bondi**, former Florida attorney general and longtime Trump loyalist. She served on Trump's defense team during his first impeachment trial and played a leading role in his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. Bondi has vowed to investigate what she calls "out-of-control federal prosecutors and FBI agents."



The **Secretary of Interior** runs a federal government department that oversees hundreds of millions of acres of federal land and other natural resources. Trump has nominated **Doug Burgum**, governor of North Dakota and a staunch advocate of expanded fossil fuel production. Burgum is expected to implement Trump's plan to open more federal land for oil exploration.



The **Secretary of Agriculture** is responsible for overseeing farm, ranching, and forestry industries as well as regulating food quality, safety, and nutrition labeling. Trump has nominated **Brooke Rollins**, a conservative lawyer who ran domestic policy in the final year of the Trump's first term. Rollins is expected to make big cuts to the SNAP program and help to shape Trump's plan for sweeping tariffs.



The **Secretary of Commerce** runs a sprawling agency involved in funding new computer chip factories, imposing trade restrictions, releasing economic data, and monitoring the weather. Trump has nominated **Howard Lutnick**, a billionaire who is head of an investment firm and a cryptocurrency enthusiast. Lutnick is currently co-chair of Trump's transition team and a big supporter of his tariff plan.



The **Secretary of Labor** oversees issues impacting American workers and employers, such as artificial intelligence, workplace safety, child labor, and overtime regulations. Trump has nominated **Lori Chavez-DeRemer**, a former Oregon congresswoman. Chavez-DeRemer is expected to promote Trump's pro-business agenda and unwind many of Biden's labor-friendly policies.



The **Secretary of Health and Human Services** runs a federal agency that oversees drug regulation, public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health insurance for more than 140 million people, as well as Medicare and Medicaid. Trump has nominated **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, who opposes fluoride in drinking water, claims that cellphone towers cause cancer and childhood vaccines cause autism, and promotes raw milk and unproven therapies for Covid-19.



The **Secretary of Housing and Urban Development** helps to direct and steer fair housing policies, which include promoting homeownership, protecting the supply of affordable rental units, and eliminating discriminatory housing practices. Trump has nominated **Scott Turner**, a former professional football player who is expected to slash the department's funding, reverse Biden-era fair housing policies, and overhaul homelessness programs.



The **Secretary of Transportation** oversees the complex US system of pipelines, railroads, cars, trucks, airlines and mass transit systems, as well as funding for highways. Trump has nominated **Sean Duffy**, a former Wisconsin congressman and Fox Business host, who is expected to undo the Biden administration's stringent emissions regulations and ease rules for self-driving cars. Duffy will oversee major federal contracts involving companies owned by Elon Musk.



The **Secretary of Energy** oversees energy production in the United States. Trump has nominated **Chris Wright**, an oil executive who runs a fracking company. Wright argues that the "climate crisis" is a myth, that the transition to green energy and things like electric cars are a waste of resources, and that the Paris climate accords are impractical. He is expected to promote Trump's plans to boost domestic oil and gas output.



The **Secretary of Education** is responsible for enforcing civil rights laws that bar discrimination in schools, subsidizing the cost of educating students with disabilities, and administering the \$1.6 trillion student loan program. Trump has nominated **Linda McMahon**, a former World Wrestling Entertainment executive and a major GOP donor. McMahon is expected to spearhead Trump's plans to shrink and possibly eliminate the Department of Education.



The **Secretary of Veterans Affairs** runs the government's second-largest agency with more than 450,000 employees and oversees health care, disability, and other benefits for millions of former service members. Trump has picked **Douglas A. Collins**, an Iraq War veteran and former congressman who is expected to implement Trump's plan to increase the agency's reliance on private medical care for veterans.



The **Secretary of Homeland Security** oversees a sprawling federal bureaucracy with a \$60 billion budget and more than 230,000 employees. Trump has nominated **Kristi Noem**, governor of South Dakota and an active Trump supporter on the 2024 campaign trail. Noem is expected to implement Trump's promise of a harsh crackdown at the US-Mexico border and his pledge to deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

Make  
Tuscola County  
a better place  
to live.



*Paid for with regulated funds  
by the Tuscola County Democratic Party  
P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

**Elect Democrats**