

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.

Officers

Chair: Alex Kirsch

Vice Chair: Lynn Kunze Adams

Secretary: Chuck Stockwell

Treasurer: Lisa Bertsch

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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 16th**, 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.

Please join us.

Highlights of Our March Meeting

On Thursday, March 19th, at the Brentwood, Tuscola Democrats held an Appreciation Ceremony for Deb Parker, who has stepped down as our Chair. Following the Ceremony, we convened a County Convention, and following the Convention, we held our regular monthly meeting. Twenty-two members and three guests attended.



At our Appreciation Ceremony, our newly appointed Chair, Alex Kirsch, presented Deb with a plaque commemorating her many years of service to our party, and wordsmith Mark Putnam recited a poem of tribute that he had composed.

At our County Convention, we elected Lisa Bertsch to serve as an alternate member of the Rules Committee at the Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention in Detroit. We submitted no resolutions to the state party.

At our regular monthly meeting, we welcomed guest speaker Brendan Johnson, a Democratic candidate for State Senator representing Michigan's 26th District. He told us about his background, qualifications, and goals if elected to office. Newly appointed Vice Chair Lynn Kunze Adams then gave us a rundown of current events. Chair Alex Kirsch announced that he has rented a van for transporting members to the Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention in Detroit on April 19th and sent around a signup sheet for those who wanted a ride. Sherene McCloy handed out letters requesting donations as part of our party's March Madness Membership Drive. Mona DeQuis urged everyone to sign and distribute petitions supporting Ray Pooley's candidacy for US Congress representing Michigan's 9th District. Margo Hahn invited everyone to attend a reception at her home on March 25th to meet Suzanna Shkreli, a candidate for Secretary of State of Michigan. Chuck Stockwell told us about the activities of the Communication Committee. Sharon Schwab urged everyone to attend the upcoming No Kings rally in Caro on March 28th and road cleanup on April 18th. April Osentoski Dicks urged everyone to attend the Blue Wave Dinner and Comedy Show in Kinde, Michigan, on April 30th. April Dicks told us about her plan to protest on the sidewalk in front of the Courthouse every Saturday and invited everyone to join her. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

“No Kings” Day of Protest



On Saturday, March 28th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuscola Democrats protested on the sidewalk in front of the Tuscola County Courthouse in Caro. More than two hundred local citizens joined more than eight million Americans across the nation who took to the streets on the third “No Kings” Day of Protest in response to Trump’s assault upon our democracy. It was the largest single day of protest in American history.

“In America, we don’t have kings,” said Alex Kirsch, spokesperson for the local protest. “Our president is acting like an emperor — sending masked federal agents into American cities and towns to terrorize immigrants and menace citizens who challenge them, handing out massive giveaways to billionaires while gutting healthcare for ordinary Americans, endangering our troops and spending our tax dollars on a war we didn’t ask for. We’ll never back down.”

Roadside Cleanup



Every year, Tuscola Democrats participate in MDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program. Our members pick up roadside trash on a two-mile stretch of M-81 between Caro and Cass City. This year, we are planning to do road cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 18th.

We hope you will join us.

Chair Alex Kirsch has offered to transport members from the Brentwood parking lot to the road cleanup site and back again. If you would like a ride, please give Alex a call at (503) 507-6324 and let him know.

Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention

As you probably already know, 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.

Chair Alex Kirsch has rented a van to transport Tuscola Democrats down to the Convention and back again. No charge. There's still room in the van, so if you plan to attend but wish to avoid Detroit traffic and haven't signed up already, please give Alex a call at (503) 507-6324 and he will sign you up.

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.

Operation Metro Surge



Beginning in December 2025, Trump sent more than 3,000 masked and armed federal immigration agents to Minnesota for a massive deportation campaign called "Operation Metro Surge." They set up roadblocks and dragged people from their cars. They rammed vehicles and smashed car windows. They broke down doors and snatched people from their homes without warrants. They arrested citizens and asylum seekers at gunpoint. They fired flash-bang grenades and pepper spray at protesters. And they murdered two American citizens — Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

Operation Metro Surge didn't work out quite the way the feds expected. The people of Minnesota refused to turn a blind eye and instead responded with remarkable courage and selflessness. They held candlelight vigils on nearly every corner in the frozen dark. The temperature was minus ten degrees with wind chills reaching the negative twenties. Moms volunteered to donate their breast milk to strangers and dads volunteered to drive someone else's kids to school because the parents were afraid to go out outdoors. Neighbors sat by the locked doors of restaurants to screen for federal agents and let only customers in. They volunteered to hit ATMs to help out restaurants deciding not to open for fear that masked ICE agents might drag away their cooks or dishwashers. They volunteered to drive workers to their jobs, watch for ICE agents at school drop-off and pickup sites, and deliver groceries to people too scared to leave their homes. Many groups set up mutual aid networks to deliver groceries and supplies straight to their doors. Grannies served hot chocolate to college kids protesting in the streets. Restaurateurs stocked miniature food banks in their basements. An immigration lawyer spent his days filing habeas petitions. A plumber offered his services free to immigrants. A network of doctors offered free medical care to immigrants. Volunteers stood on street corners and patrolled the blocks, phones and whistles ready. Neighbors started putting up rent for people afraid to leave their apartments.

This spontaneous uprising of the citizens of Minnesota was propelled by an old idea — I am my neighbor's keeper, whoever he or she is and however he or she got here. Minnesotans have a strong tradition of helping others in times of need, often called "Minnesota Nice." They went out to protect their neighbors next door or down the block not because they favored illegal immigration, but because they were outraged at the attempt of Donald Trump's goons to fulfill daily quotas by arresting their neighbors, most of whom work hard, pay taxes, go to church or mosque, and help them dig out their cars out of the snow.

In the end, Trump's goons were sent packing by this bunch of moms and dads, armed only with cellphone cameras and whistles, willing to walk out on freezing mornings in bathrobes to defend their neighbors, some of whom they barely knew. And afterwards, there was the satisfaction of watching Trump pull the plug on Gregory Bovino and Kristy Noem.

Operation Epic Fury



For four decades, Benjamin Netanyahu has dreamed of joining with the US to strike Iran and topple its ruling regime. He has pitched his dream to every US president, but all of them either ignored or rejected him. Until now. Netanyahu finally found a willing accomplice in Trump, who said, “Let’s do it,” so together they launched strikes against Iran (called Operation Epic Fury in the US and Operation Roaring Lion in Israel), which quickly killed much of Iran’s senior leadership, destroyed its air force, sunk much of its navy, severely damaged its nuclear program, and impaired its ability to deploy ballistic missiles.

So, what went wrong? Iran’s regime did not collapse. Instead, it closed the Strait of Hormuz. The attacks rendered Iran unable to seriously damage Israel with its missiles or sink American ships, but it was still capable of cutting off roughly twenty percent of the world’s oil supplies and sending global financial markets into a spin.

The goal of Iran’s regime is simple: Survive. If the regime is still standing at the end of this war, then Iran lives to fight again. If it survives by closing the Strait of Hormuz, then it knows exactly how to fight next time.

An assessment by US intelligence, completed shortly before Operation Epic Fury began, had determined that American and Israeli strikes on Iran were unlikely to lead to regime change. And that’s the way it turned out. Trump’s “gut feeling” that he and Bibi could pull it off was simply wrong. The many reasons why successive US presidents had chosen to avoid war against Iran — the cost to US taxpayers, bombardment of our Gulf allies, closure of the Strait of Hormuz and soaring oil prices, a vengeful regime still in place but more determined than ever, and Russia’s economic bonanza — apparently came as a surprise to Trump and his chorus of sycophants.

Trump’s reckless attack on Iran has left the United States with few good options. He should have taken his case for war to the Congress and the American people before he fired the first missile. Had he bothered to do so, Trump could have prepared the people for the possibility of higher prices. He could have clearly defined his war goals and his exit plan if those goals were not met. If he had not alienated our allies, he might have been able to assemble, in advance, a multi-national force ready to protect the Strait of Hormuz.

This is not how we should have gone to war. Trump put American troops in harm’s way on a mission that lacked public support or clearly defined objectives. So now, dismayed that his strikes have failed to topple Iran’s regime, Trump is flailing about, begging former allies to come and bail him out from a war they did not start and did not ask for.



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