

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

July 2022

Volume 1, 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 July meeting

The July meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, July 21st, 2022**, at our new 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. The meeting will be indoors, so please wear a mask to keep everyone safe.

We hope you will join us.

Highlights of June Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on June 16th by Chair Deb Parker. Twenty-four members were in attendance. Three Democratic candidates spoke at the meeting—Brian Jaye, running for Representative of the 9th District in the U.S. House of Representatives, Bob Mroczek, running for Representative of the 98th District in the Michigan House of Representatives, and Charles Stadler, running for Senator of the 26th District in the Michigan Senate. Deb Parker announced that we will be opening a campaign headquarters at 852 Hooper Street in Caro on July 1st and that we will be conducting a fundraiser on July 14th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Please Donate!

Everyone is always welcome at the meetings of the Tuscola County Democratic Party, and membership dues are not required. However, the election season is upon us, and expenses are piling up fast, so any donation you can make right now will be most appreciated. Please make out your check to “Tuscola County Democratic Party” and bring it to one of our meetings or mail it to us at Tuscola County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 605. Caro, MI. To donate using your credit card, go to the Tuscola County Democratic Party’s web site, <https://www.TuscolaDems.com>. Thank you.

Fundraiser



We're having a fundraiser on July 14th from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at our new campaign headquarters, 852 Hooper Street in Caro. This is your chance to try out some paella and grilled corn on the cob, talk politics with fellow Democrats, get to know our Democratic candidates, and donate to our Party—all at the same time!

Maps will be set up so you can find which voting district you are in after redistricting. We will also have a DJ playing Democratic background music (oldies).

Please join us.

We could use some help setting up before the event (from about 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.) and cleaning up afterwards (from 9:00 to about 10:00 p.m.). If you are willing to help, please call Deb Parker at (989) 673-6569 and let her know.

Tuscola County Fair



Tuscola Dems will have a booth at the Tuscola County Fair again this year. We will be telling folks about the great things Democrats are doing and how important it is to vote for Democratic candidates, and of course we'll be serving our famous Democratic popcorn!

The Fair runs from Sunday, July 24th, to Saturday, July 30th. On each day, we will be staffing the booth in two shifts—11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you are available to work any of those shifts, please call Deb Parker at (989) 673-6569 and she will sign you up.

We will also be looking for help setting up the booth on Sunday, July 24th, starting at 10:00 a.m. and taking the booth down either on the evening of Saturday, July 30th, or the morning of Sunday, July 31st. Please let Deb Parker know if you can help.

New Campaign Headquarters

We have opened a new campaign headquarters at 852 Hooper Street in Caro and will be conducting all party activities there until after the November election.

During the month of July, our headquarters will be open to the public several days per week on a schedule yet to be determined. After the August primary election and until the general election in November, we plan to have our headquarters open all day, six days per week.

We will be looking for volunteers to staff the headquarters, informing visitors about Democratic values and candidates, answering their questions, distributing yard signs and other campaign materials, and collecting donations. If you can help out, please call Deb Parker at (989) 673-6569 and she will sign you up.

Gun Legislation



On June 24th, the U.S. Senate passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, written by a small group of Republican and Democratic senators. The bill falls short of the tough gun control measures that Democrats sought, but it still represents a breakthrough after years of stalemate in Congress on addressing gun violence. To win over enough Republicans to pass the bill in the Senate, Democrats had to drop some of the provisions in the bill they passed in the House.

Here's what's in the Senate bill—and what was left out.

- 1. Enhanced background checks for younger gun buyers.* Juvenile records would be included for the first time in criminal background checks for prospective gun buyers under the age of 21, and authorities would have more time to conduct the checks—10 days, up from the current 3 days. The provision falls far short of legislation passed by the House that would ban anyone under the age of 21 from buying a semiautomatic weapon.
- 2. Incentives for states to implement red flag laws.* The bill would provide \$750 million in federal money to states that create so-called red flag laws, which allow guns to be temporarily confiscated from people deemed dangerous by a judge. Democrats wanted to go further and enact a nationwide red flag measure that would allow guns to be taken away from anyone deemed dangerous by a federal judge.
- 3. Closing the 'boyfriend loophole.'* The bill would expand current law that bars people convicted of domestic violence or subject to a domestic violence restraining order from buying a gun. Current law applies only to people who are married to or live with the victim or had a child with that person. The bill would include other intimate partners, closing what has come to be known as the "boyfriend loophole." Democrats wanted a blanket prohibition, but accepted a Republican provision that if a person is a first-time offender and the crime is a violent misdemeanor, the ban would disappear five years after the end of their criminal sentence, so long as they did not commit further violent crimes.

4. *Funding for mental health and school safety.* The bill would allocate \$13.2 billion to schools and communities for expanding mental health programs and boost school safety. Democrats wanted to spend more, but Republicans insisted on keeping the cost low.

5. *Tougher penalties on illegal gun purchases.* The bill would crack down on “straw purchasers”—people who buy guns for those who would not qualify—and would establish a penalty of up to 15 years in prison or 25 years if those guns are used in serious criminal activity like drug trafficking or terrorism. Democrats wanted to impose universal background checks, ban the sale of large-capacity magazines, mandatory waiting period for gun sales, or a license requirement to purchase an assault weapon, but Republicans wouldn’t go along.

Women’s Rights in Michigan



On June 24th, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade*, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion no longer exists. This means that Michigan’s 1931 antiabortion law will once again go into effect.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has said she will not prosecute any cases using the 1931 law. However, Nessel is up for election in November and her GOP challenger, Matt DePerno, said that he would prosecute all abortions.

On April 7th, Planned Parenthood of Michigan filed a lawsuit to block enforcement of the 1931 antiabortion law. On May 17th, Chief Judge Elizabeth Gleicher of the Michigan State Court of Claims issued an injunction that restrains the Attorney General and all state and local officials under her supervision from enforcing the 1931 law.

Judge Gleicher’s injunction applies only to the Attorney General and those under her supervision. It doesn’t apply to county prosecutors, who may decide to prosecute under Michigan’s 1931 law. Governor Whitmer has filed a lawsuit to block county prosecutors of the 13 Michigan counties in which abortion providers are located from enforcing the 1931 law. The state Supreme Court has yet to rule on the Governor’s lawsuit.

A coalition of women’s right activists—the ACLU of Michigan, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, and Michigan Voices—circulated a ballot initiative, *Reproductive Freedom for All*, that would amend the state Constitution to repeal the 1931 law. They have collected 753,759 signatures and on July 11th, submitted their petition to the Michigan Secretary of State. If the signatures are verified by the Board of State Canvassers, the measure will appear on the ballot in November. If passed by the voters, it will add Section 28 to Article I of the Michigan Constitution, as follows:

(1) Every individual has a fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which entails the right to make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care. An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be

denied, burdened, nor infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Notwithstanding the above, the state may regulate the provision of abortion care after fetal viability, provided that in no circumstance shall the state prohibit an abortion that, in the professional judgment of an attending health care professional, is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual.

(2) The state shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

(3) The state shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion, nor shall the state penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with their voluntary consent.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

A state interest is "compelling" only if it is for the limited purpose of protecting the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision-making.

"Fetal viability" means: the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of an attending health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.

(5) This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section.[11]

January 6th Committee



Last month, the U.S. House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack held six public hearings outlining President Trump's plan to overturn the 2020 election.

The most compelling testimony came on June 28th from 26-year-old Cassidy Hutchinson, an aide to Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows. She was there in the West Wing on January 6th and backstage while Trump addressed his supporters at the Ellipse.

Here's some of what Ms. Hutchinson told the Committee:

She testified that on the morning of January 6th, Deputy Chief of Staff Tony Ornato told her boss, Mr. Meadows, and Mr. Trump that some of the people arriving at the president's rally were carrying weapons, including knives, guns, bear spray, body armor, spears, and flagpoles.

Backstage at the Ellipse before his speech, Ms. Hutchinson overheard Mr. Trump angrily order his aides to let his people come in closer to the speaker's platform because the area looked empty on television. When he was told that some of them were armed and refused to pass

through the magnetometers because their weapons would be confiscated, Mr. Trump said “something to the effect of, ‘I don’t f***ing care that they have weapons. They’re not here to hurt me. Take the mags away. Let the people in, they can march to the Capitol from here.’”

During Mr. Trump’s speech at the Ellipse, Ms. Hutchinson said she learned that Secret Service agents were reporting that the mob was getting close to Capitol, and it was becoming clear that “security at the Capitol would not be sufficient” to hold them off. When she relayed that information to her boss, Mr. Meadows, he “had almost a lack of reaction.”

Back at the White House after the rally, Ms. Hutchinson said that Mr. Ornato and the head of Mr. Trump’s security detail, Robert Engel, told her what happened inside the president’s vehicle after his speech. When Mr. Ornato told Mr. Trump that he could not go to the Capitol because of security concerns, he became “irate” and said “something to the effect of, ‘I’m the f***ing president. Take me up to the Capitol now,’” When Mr. Engel told him no, they were going back the White House, Mr. Trump “reached forward to grab at the steering wheel,” and lunged at him.

Around 2:00 p.m., Ms. Hutchinson and other aides were in the West Wing glued to the television, watching the scene at the Capitol grow increasingly violent. White House Counsel Pat Cipollone stormed into Mr. Meadows’s office, and said something to the effect of, “The rioters have gotten to the Capitol, Mark. We need to go down and see the president now.” Mr. Meadows looked up at Mr. Cipollone and said: “He doesn’t want to do anything, Pat.” Mr. Cipollone replied, “Something needs to be done or people are going to die and the blood’s going to be on your f***ing hands. This is getting out of control. I’m going down there.”

Twenty minutes later, Mr. Meadows and Mr. Cipollone emerged from a meeting with Mr. Trump, and Ms. Hutchinson recounted the conversation she overheard between the two men. “I remember Pat saying something to the effect of, ‘Mark, we need to do something more. They’re literally calling for the vice president to be f***ing hung,’” and Mark responded something to the effect of, ‘You heard him, Pat. He thinks Mike deserves it. He doesn’t think they’re doing anything wrong.’”

At 2:24 p.m., Mr. Trump tweeted that “Mike Pence didn’t have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution.” Two hours later, he released a one-minute video in which he told the rioters, “Go home. We love you. You’re very special.”

The January 6th Committee will be holding more hearings this month. Then they will release an interim written report and a final report in September before the midterm elections.