

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

September 2024

Volume 3, Issue 9

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 September Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, September 19**, at our campaign headquarters located at 224 State Street in 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 August Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15. Twenty-four members were in attendance. Vice Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of recent developments in the Kamala Harris/Tim Walz campaign for the White House and announced that he will begin posting a weekly current events podcast on the Tuscola Dems Facebook page. Chair Deb Parker urged members to purchase tickets for the raffle of school backpacks (proceeds going into the David Sierocki Memorial Scholarship Fund). She also urged members to sign up to staff our headquarters office, sign up to march in the Pumpkin Festival Parade on October 6, work on postcards to be sent out to young Tuscola County voters, and bring food for the Blessing Boxes. Henry Harris introduced the oldest Democrat in Tuscola County — 96-year-old Bessie Wiley — and she received a big round of applause. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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!

Michigan's August 6 Election Results



Elissa Slotkin is the Democratic nominee for the Michigan U.S. Senate seat that will be vacated by Debbie Stabenow. Elissa has served as U.S. representative from Michigan's 7th congressional district since 2019. Before entering politics, she served three tours in Iraq as a CIA analyst and as acting assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs.

Elissa won the August 6 Democratic primary in a landslide with over 80% of the vote. She will be facing Republican Mike Rogers in the general election on November 5.



Clint St. Mosley is the Democratic nominee for U.S. Congress in Michigan's 9th 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, live in Lake Orion. They are the parents of seven-year-old twin boys.

Clint was unopposed in the August 6 Democratic primary election. He will be facing incumbent Republican Lisa McClain in the general election on November 5.



Mark Putnam is the Democratic nominee for State Representative in the 97th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County as well as southern Bay County and northwestern Genesee County. Mark was born and raised in Tuscola County. 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 the Mid-state Health Network.

Mark was unopposed in the August 6 Democratic primary election. He will be facing incumbent Republican Matthew Bierlein in the general election on November 5.



April Osentoski is the Democratic nominee for State Representative in the 98th 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 Bad Axe. They have five children and three grandchildren. April has worked as a culinary professional for over 25 years.

April was unopposed in the August 6 Democratic primary election. She will be facing incumbent Republican Gregory Alexander in the general election on November 5.



Jack Adams is the Democratic nominee for Tuscola County Commissioner in District 3, which includes Dayton, Fremont, Kingston, Koylton, Novesta, and Wells Townships. Jack lives in Deford with his wife, Lynn, and has two grown sons and four grandchildren. He taught in Bad Axe Public Schools for 33 years, coached football, basketball, track, and Little League baseball and served as a Cub Scout leader.

Jack was unopposed in the August 6 Democratic primary election. He will be facing incumbent Republican Kim Vaughn in the general election on November 5.

Miles Breinager is the Democratic nominee for Tuscola County Sheriff. He was unopposed in the August 6 Democratic primary election and will be facing Republican Ryan Robinson in the general election on November 5.

Tuscola County Recycling Renewal Proposal passed by a vote of 8,767 for the proposal to 697 against.

Tuscola County Senior Citizen Home Delivered Meals Proposal passed by a vote of 9,129 for the proposal to 4,283 against.

Tuscola County Senior Citizen Renewal Proposal passed by a vote of 9,232 for the proposal to 4,119 against.

Tuscola County Sheriff Road Patrol Renewal Proposal passed by a vote of 9,298 for the proposal to 4,151 against.

Almer Charter Township Road Proposal passed by a vote of 427 for the proposal to 236 against.

Arbela Township Road Repair Proposal passed by a vote of 361 for the proposal to 184 against.

Elkland Township Road Improvement Proposal passed by a vote of 528 for the proposal to 290 against.

Koylton Township Road Proposal passed by a vote of 221 for the proposal to 100 against.

Millington Township Fire Operational Proposal passed by a vote of 833 for the proposal to 184 against.

Novesta Township Road Proposal passed by a vote of 236 for the proposal to 148 against.

Watertown Township Road Proposal passed by a vote of 240 for the proposal to 213 against.

Caro Community School Bond Proposal passed by a vote of 1,744 for the proposal to 1,541 against.

Frankenmuth School Operating Proposal and **Frankenmuth School Sinking Fund Proposal** passed. In Tuscola County, the vote was 86 for to 43 against both proposals.

Vassar School Operating Proposal failed by a vote of 838 for the proposal to 1,064 against.

The Democratic National Convention

Delegates from all 50 states and U.S. territories convened in Chicago on August 19 for the 2024 Democratic National Convention, where they nominated Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for president and vice president.



Vice President Harris spoke on the last night of the convention. She said, “My entire career, I have only had one client. The People. And so, on behalf of The People. On behalf of every American, regardless of party, regardless of race, regardless of gender, regardless of the language your grandmother speaks. On behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey. On behalf of Americans like the people I grew up with — people who work hard and chase their dreams and look out for one another. On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth, *I accept your nomination for President of the United States of America.*”

The Presidential Debate



On September 10, Tuscola Dems gathered at our headquarters to watch Kamala Harris square off against Donald Trump in the first presidential debate since President Biden quit the race.

We watched as they came out on stage, Trump went straight to his podium, while Harris strode across the stage, held out her hand, and said, "Kamala Harris. Have a good debate." He muttered something.

In her first answer, Harris told her story as a middle-class kid and how she intended to build an opportunity economy for middle-class Americans by lowering food and housing costs and opening the way for more small businesses.

Then Trump spoke. The first thing he did was call Harris a liar, and then he insisted that his proposed tariffs are going to solve everything.

About ten minutes into the debate, Harris started baiting Trump. She invited people to go to one of his rallies, where "he talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter, he will talk about 'windmills cause cancer.' And what you will also notice is that people start leaving his rallies early out of exhaustion and boredom."

That's when Trump lost it. "People don't leave my rallies," he insisted. "We have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics." He said that Harris couldn't get anyone to attend her rallies, and that she has to bus in attendees, and then he repeated the bizarre story about Haitian immigrants eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

Harris kept on baiting Trump, and he took the bait every time. When Harris said, "world leaders are laughing at Donald Trump" and added that dictators "can manipulate you with flattery and favors" and foes like President Vladimir Putin of Russia "would eat you for lunch," Trump could only reply that Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán says he's a good leader. He refused to say he would not sign a national abortion ban and admitted that after nine years of promising one, he had no health care plan. He kept saying that the U.S. is "a failing nation" and that we're perched on the edge of World War III.

Harris is an experienced prosecutor. She calmly and confidently poked at Trump's sensitive spots time and again, in effect litigating the case against a candidate who has been convicted of thirty-four felonies, indicted three other times, found liable of sexual abuse in one civil trial and of business fraud in another, and tried to overturn an election that he lost. Trump scowled the whole time she was speaking and wouldn't even look at her.

By the end of the evening, Harris had delivered a clear message to the American people about her hopes to move the country forward. She promised to build an economy that will support small businesses and a growing middle class while protecting our rights, including the right to vote and the right to make reproductive decisions without the intrusion of the government. Moreover, she showed us that Trump can be baited, that he lies all the time, that he is often incoherent, and — perhaps most importantly — that he is not fit to be our next president.

After the debate was over, things got even worse for Trump. Taylor Swift endorsed Kamala Harris. At the end of her endorsement, she signed off as “Taylor Swift, Childless Cat Lady.”

Our Backpack and Lunchpail Raffle



On Saturday, August 31, Lauren Amellal drew the names of our raffle winners.

Ryker Burka (pictured on the left) and Sandy Rieck (not pictured) won school backpacks.

Lily Hoffman (pictured on the right) and Lori Curtis (not pictured) won school lunchpails.

Congratulations to all the winners, and many thanks to Sherene McCloy, who donated the prizes, and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

Proceeds from the raffle go into the David Sierocki Memorial Skilled Trades Scholarship Fund.

Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival



Every year, Tuscola Dems proudly march in our Pumpkin Festival Parade, the biggest event of the year. The parade this year will take place on Sunday, October 6. Please come and march with us.

It is customary for marchers in the parade to hand out candy to kids along the route, and the kids love it. If you are able to contribute candy for our marchers, please bring it to our meeting on September 19. Thank you.

Blessing Boxes

There are at least 7,700 people, including 1,800 children, in Tuscola County who are “food insecure,” which means they often don’t get enough to eat. Many of these folks qualify for SNAP benefits (also known as “food stamps”), but that’s not quite enough. The average SNAP benefit in Tuscola County amounts to \$2.83 per meal per person. A healthy meal costs more than that — at least \$3.10 per person. Several churches and government agencies in Tuscola County provide food for hungry people, but that’s still not enough.



Another alternative is Blessing Boxes, which are miniature food pantries set up outdoors to receive items from those who want to donate and offer them to those in need. There are no locks on these boxes. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Local folks are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items, especially kid-friendly items like peanut butter and jelly, granola bars, cereal, and soup, canned pasta, Mac-n-Cheese, small boxes of cereal, fruit cups, and individually wrapped snacks, as well as hygiene items, like bar soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene items, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, disposable razors, and toilet paper. “Take what you need. Bring what you can.” That’s the motto of Blessing Boxes

Blessing Boxes have been set up at many locations in Tuscola County, including:

- In Akron, at the Akron Village Offices, 4380 Beach Street.
- In Caro, at the entrance to Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank Street.
- In Caro, in the Caro Farmer’s Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- In Caro, at the Senior Commons, 1601 W. Gilford Road.
- In Caro, at Schall Elementary School, 325 E. Frank Street.
- In Cass City, at the United Methodist Church. 5100 Cemetery Road.
- In Cass City, in Rotary Park by the alley, 6530 Main Street.
- In Fairgrove, in Castamore Zanglotti’s Restaurant, 2034 Main Street.
- In Fostoria, in the Post Office entryway, 9301 Foster Street.
- In Gagetown, at the intersection of Bay City-Forestville Road and Lincoln Street.
- In Mayville, at Mayville Elementary School, 106 Orchard Street.
- In Millington, behind Millington Pizza & More and Worth’s Market on Main Street.
- In Reese, on the north side of the Unity District Library, 2065 Gates Street.
- In Unionville, behind the American Legion Hall, 2960 Cass Street.
- In Unionville, in Kemp Park on the corner of Bay City-Forestville Road and M-25.
- In Vassar, in the back parking lot of City Hall, 287 E. Huron Avenue.

Tuscola Dems encourage you to donate whatever you can. You may either place your donations in one of the Blessing Boxes yourself or bring them to our next membership meeting on September 19 and we will put them in the boxes for you.

Much appreciated.

Make
Tuscola County
a better place
to live.



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

Elect Democrats