

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

August 2024

Volume 3, Issue 8

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 August Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, August 15, 2024**, in our campaign headquarters at 224 State Street in Caro.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., we will convene our annual Tuscola County Democratic Party Convention, where we will consider resolutions to be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party and elect our members to Michigan Democratic Party committees.

Immediately following the Convention, we will begin our regular monthly meeting.

Please join us.

Highlights of Our July Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, in our campaign headquarters at 224 State Street in Caro. Twenty-six members and several guests were in attendance.

Sargeant Ryan Robinson told us about his experience and plans as he runs for Tuscola County Sheriff. Vice Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events, including the assassination attempt on former President Trump and the concerns of voters about President Biden's age. Sharene McCloy gave us an update on the activities of the Party Building Committee. Mark Putnam gave us an update on the activities of the Candidate Recruitment Committee. Chair Deb Parker called for volunteers to help us send out postcards to young voters and staff our booth every day at the Tuscola County Fair. Bob DeCoe told us what's happening at the UAW.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Tuscola Dems at the Mayville Sunflower Festival



We marched in the Mayville Sunflower Festival Grand Parade on July 19. Here we are (left to right) — Gary Schwab, April Osentoski, Sue Kirby, Mike Furgerson, Mark Putnam, and Sharon Schwab.

Tuscola Dems at the Tuscola County Fair



We staffed our booth every day at the fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Here we are on July 23 (left to right) — Clint St. Mosley, Sherene McCloy, Sharon Schwab, and Gary Greania.

President Biden Passes the Torch



On July 24, President Joe Biden told the American people why he decided to decline the 2024 Democratic presidential nomination and pass the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris. Speaking from behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office, Biden said, “I revere this office, but I love my country more.”

And with that, our president followed the example of the nation’s first president, George Washington, who declined to run for a third term to remind the American people that he was a president, not a king, and of our second president, John Adams, who handed the presidency over to his rival, Thomas Jefferson, and thus established our nation’s tradition of the peaceful transition of power.

When President Biden took office in January 2021, the coronavirus was spreading at alarming speed. In just a few weeks, Biden’s team turned the disjointed operation they inherited from Trump into one of the most effective vaccination campaigns in history. They got 100 million doses of vaccine into people’s arms in the just 58 days. Within six months, nearly half of Americans got shots. Medical experts say those vaccinations prevented more than 18 million hospitalizations and more than 3 million deaths and saved more than \$1 trillion in medical costs.

In March 2021, President Biden signed the *American Rescue Plan Act*, which allocated more than \$360 billion of federal money to state and local governments to keep front line workers on the job, \$160 billion to stop the spread of COVID-19, \$130 billion to help schools reopen, and \$1 billion for cash assistance to families. The government sent a \$1,400 check to every American making less than \$75,000 per year and provided a \$300 per week supplement to unemployment insurance, emergency aid to cover back rent, a 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits, an increase in the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child, an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit for 17 million workers, a tax credit for spending on childcare for children under age 13, lower insurance premiums for low- and middle-income families, and subsidized premiums for COBRA.

In May 2021, President Biden started pulling troops out of Afghanistan, marking the end of the longest war in American history. It did not go well. The Afghan regime that we bankrolled fled the country, the Afghan troops that we trained laid down their guns, and the Taliban took over within days. Biden got tremendous flak, although none of his critics offered suggestions about what he should have done differently.

In November 2021, President Biden signed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, which allocated \$550 billion in new spending for infrastructure projects, including \$110 billion to fix roads and bridges, \$39 billion to modernize public transit, \$66 billion to upgrade Amtrack,

\$73 billion to upgrade the power grid, \$5 billion for new school buses, \$55 billion to improve drinking water, \$65 billion to expand broadband coverage, \$21 billion to clean up pollution, and \$11 billion to improve highway and pedestrian safety.

In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and the West quickly united against the invasion. Much of the credit goes President Biden, who demonstrated remarkable acumen as he strengthened the NATO alliance, promoted the inclusion of Sweden and Finland, and lobbied NATO countries and other allies into contributing financial and military support.

In March 2022, President Biden signed the *Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act*, which allocates federal money to state, local, and tribal police so they can investigate and prosecute violent crimes against women.

In June 2022, President Biden signed the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, which gives incentives for states to pass red flag laws, expands the law that prevents people convicted of domestic abuse from owning a gun, expands background checks on anyone under 21 who wants to buy a gun, and allocates federal money for the mental health of young people.

In August 2022, President Biden signed the *CHIPS and Science Act*, which allocated \$52 billion of federal money to produce semiconductor chips in the United States rather than rely on China.

Also in August 2022, President Biden signed the *PACT Act*, which expanded medical coverage for veterans exposed to burn pits during their service.

Also in August 2022, President Biden signed the *Inflation Reduction Act*, which will cost taxpayers about \$490 billion, most of the money to be spent on energy and climate programs and much of the rest going for healthcare subsidies under the Affordable Care Act and making sure Medicare recipients pay no more than \$2,000 out-of-pocket per year for prescription drugs and no more than \$35 per month for insulin. This bill will generate about \$764 billion, part of it coming from cost savings by allowing Medicare to bargain down prescription drug prices and limit drug price increases and the rest coming from new tax revenue generated by imposing a 15 percent minimum tax on large corporations, a 1 percent tax on stock buybacks, and beefing up the IRS's ability to go after wealthy tax cheats. Economic experts say the bill should generate a budget surplus of nearly \$300 billion, which will be used to reduce the deficit.

In December 2022, President Biden signed the *Electoral Count Reform Act*, which clearly states that vice presidents only play a ceremonial role when Congress tallies election results and certifies the outcome. The bill also requires approval of one-fifth of both the House and Senate to consider a challenge to a state's results and specifies that only a state's governor (or another official designated in advance by state law) is allowed to submit election results.

Mr. President, thank you for being a good president, for fifty years of distinguished public service, and for your gracious exit from the 2024 campaign.

Vice President Harris Sprints for the Presidency



As Vice President Kamala Harris begins her campaign for the presidency, she has quickly reunited the Democratic Party. Just days after the president abandoned his campaign, polls showed Democrats rallying behind Harris as the presumptive nominee. An overwhelming 70 percent of Democratic voters said they wanted the party to speedily consolidate behind her rather than engage in a more drawn-out process. She has raised eye-popping amounts of money right out of the gate. Key interest groups have held well-attended organizing conference calls and Zooms. She has started her campaign with clear speeches laying out not only her case against Trump, but also her vision for the country. The latest average of presidential polls shows Harris now leading Trump by 1.6 percentage points.

Vice President Harris is well known to voters, but here are some details of her life that perhaps you didn't know:

Kamala Harris was born in Oakland, California, in 1964 — the daughter of immigrants. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, came here from India in 1958 and received a PhD in biology from UC Berkeley in 1964, the same year Kamala was born. Her father, Donald Harris, came here from Jamaica in 1961 and received a PhD in economics from UC Berkeley in 1966. Kamala's parents met in Berkeley in 1962, were married in 1963, and were divorced in 1971, when she was seven. When she was twelve, Kamala moved with her mother and younger sister to Montreal, where she went to school, graduating from high school in 1981. Kamala then attended Howard University in Washington D.C. and graduated with a degree in political science and economics in 1986. She then attended UC Law in San Francisco and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1989. She was admitted to the California Bar in June 1990.

In 1990, Kamala Harris was hired as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County, California, specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. In 1998, she was recruited by the San Francisco District Attorney's office as an assistant district attorney, where she prosecuted homicide, burglary, robbery, and sexual assault cases. In 2000, Harris clashed with her boss' assistant, so she quit and took a job in the San Francisco City Attorney's office supervising the children and family services unit.

In 2004, Kamala Harris was elected District Attorney of San Francisco, defeating her old boss. She established the office's environmental justice unit and created a program to provide first-time drug offenders with a chance to earn a high school degree and find employment. In 2007, she was reelected to that position.

In 2010, Kamala Harris was elected California Attorney General. During her tenure, she reached a multibillion-dollar settlement with five U.S. banks over flawed mortgage foreclosure practices, launched an initiative designed to curb recidivism, called for parents of truant children to face harsher consequences, reached a \$24 million settlement with Chevron for violations of state hazardous materials and waste laws, reached a settlement with BP West Coast for violations of state laws governing the maintenance of underground gasoline tanks, defended California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard and cap-and-trade program, and obtained a \$1 billion judgement against Corinthian Colleges for misrepresenting its programs to prospective students.

In 2016, Kamala Harris was elected U.S. Senator from California, filling the seat vacated by Barbara Boxer. In the senate, she championed legislation to fight hunger, provide rent relief, improve maternal health care, revitalize our infrastructure, combat the climate crisis, and secure elections.

In 2020, Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris as his running mate. Since they won the election, she has been sitting beside the president — fighting for the freedom of women to make decisions about their own bodies, the freedom to live safe from gun violence, the freedom to vote, and the freedom to drink clean water and breathe clean air. She has been representing our nation abroad — embarking on more than a dozen foreign trips, traveling to more than nineteen countries, and meeting with more than 150 world leaders. She has been serving as President of the Senate, setting a record for the most tie-breaking votes cast by any vice president in history.

Kamala Harris Picks Tim Walz as her Running Mate



Vice President Kamala Harris has chosen Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota as her running mate. He was born in West Point, Nebraska, in 1964 and graduated from high school in Butte, Nebraska, in 1982. As a teenager, he enlisted in the Army National Guard, where he would serve for the next 24 years. In 1989, Walz earned a teaching degree from Chadron State College in Nebraska and took a job teaching and coaching in Alliance, Nebraska. In 1996, he moved to Mankato, Minnesota, where he worked as a geography teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School. In 2006, he won the race to represent Minnesota's 1st Congressional District and thereafter won reelection five times. In 2018, he was elected governor of Minnesota, defeating his Republican opponent by more than 10 percentage points. In 2022, he handily won reelection to a second term.

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to live.



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