

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

August 2022

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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 the August meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, August 18th, 2022**, at our 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 the July Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on July 21st by Chair Deb Parker. Fifteen members were in attendance. Vicki Leland provided an update on the status of the Promote the Vote and Reproductive Rights ballot proposals. Bret Van Dyke, Democratic candidate for Michigan State Senator in the 25th District, spoke to us about his background and platform. Mona DeQuis provided an update on the plans of the Michigan Dems to promote Democratic values and candidates. Bob DeCoe provided information about poll watchers. Deb Parker appealed for volunteers to staff the Tuscola Dems booth at the Tuscola County Fair, our campaign office at 852 Hooper Street, and our upcoming knock doors campaign. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Highlights of the Fall Convention

The Fall Convention of the Tuscola County Democratic Party was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 6th, by Chair Deb Parker. Nine members were in attendance via Zoom. Lisa Bertsch was elected female alternate to the Rules Committee and Mike Furgerson was elected male alternate to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party. We submitted the following resolutions to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party:

A resolution in support of a ban on single-use plastics

WHEREAS single-use plastics are detrimental to our environment, health, and the future of our planet,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party supports a ban on single-use plastics, beginning with shopping bags and water bottles.

A resolution in support of individual freedoms

WHEREAS the U.S. Constitution states that all people are created equal,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the individual freedoms of marriage equality, abortion rights, and the right to access contraceptives.

Our Fundraiser

We had a highly successful fundraiser on July 14th at our headquarters at 852 Hooper Street in Caro. Dozens of Democrats came by and partook of Chef José Parker's famous paella and grilled corn on the cob. We talked politics, quizzed our Democratic candidates, and donated a ton of money to the Party. Thanks everyone.

Special thanks to those who helped us set up, serve the food, and clean up afterwards.

Tuscola County Fair

We had a great week at the Fair! The Tuscola Dems booth was open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day, from Sunday, July 24th, to Saturday, July 30th. We told everyone who would listen about the great things Democrats are doing and how important it is to vote for Democratic candidates, and we handed out a gazillion bags of our famous Democratic popcorn!

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Lapeer County Democratic Party Annual Dinner

The Lapeer County Dems will hold their Annual Fall Dinner on Saturday, October 1st. Keynote speaker will be Dana Nessel. Let's all attend the dinner, show support for our neighbors, and hear what our favorite Attorney General has to say! To purchase tickets, go to <https://lapeer-democrats.com/>.

Winning in November

The primary election is over and now it's time to start campaigning for the general election on November 8th. During the month of August, our campaign headquarters at 852 Hooper Street in Caro will be open Mondays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Beginning in September, we will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please stop by, take a look at our maps of the newly redrawn precincts, pick up yard signs, and talk politics with fellow Democrats who are always hanging out there.

Democratic Candidates on the November Ballot



Gretchen Whitmer is seeking reelection to a second term as Michigan's Governor. It's no secret that her first term has been wracked by turmoil. She has dealt with a bitter backlash over pandemic restrictions, been the subject of a kidnapping plot, and sparred repeatedly with Donald Trump.

Here are a few of Governor Whitmer's accomplishments during her first term: (1) She made the largest investment in K-12 education in Michigan history, closed the school funding gap, tripled the number of literacy coaches, and reduced class sizes, (2) She invested over \$400 million in local businesses and cut taxes for small business owners, (3) She secured a refund check of \$400 per vehicle for Michigan auto owners, (4) She created nearly 25,000 auto jobs, (5) She put 170,000 Michiganders on a path to good-paying jobs with tuition-free skills training and higher education programs, (6) She helped enroll 35,000 four-year-old kids in high-quality pre-K and expanded affordable child care to

105,000 more children, (7) She fixed the damn roads, repairing over 13,000 lane miles and more than 900 bridges, while generating over 80,000 good paying jobs, (8) She passed three balanced budgets and turned a projected \$3 billion deficit into a \$7 billion surplus, (9) She put \$500 million into Michigan's rainy day fund, (10) She did not raise taxes on working families by one cent.

On November 8th, Governor Whitmer will be running against Tudor Dixon, a Grand Rapids conservative media personality who has never held public office. Dixon is backed by the DeVos family and has received Donald Trump's endorsement. She has pledged to enact an abortion ban with no exceptions for rape, incest, or health of the mother. She has said she would implement a DeVos-style school voucher plan that would send taxpayer dollars to private schools. Earlier this year, she said Trump won Michigan in 2020, but lately has backed away from that claim.



Joslyn Benson is seeking reelection to a second term as Michigan's Secretary of State. Here are a few of her accomplishments during her first term: (1) She oversaw Michigan's 2020 presidential election, which drew a record-breaking turnout—5.5 million voters—and was the most secure election in state history. She implemented new voting rights for all eligible Michiganders prior to the election, including the right to vote absentee, and oversaw more than 250 audits after the election, every one of which affirmed its integrity and accuracy, (2) She has transformed the customer service operations of the Secretary of State's office. She doubled the number of services available online, installed more than 160 self-service stations statewide, mostly at grocery stores, and ended the take-a-ticket-and-wait system that had resulted in hours-long lines at offices for years. Now, most transactions are conducted without an office visit at all and when residents do visit an office, they are in and out in an average of 20 minutes or less.

On November 8th, Secretary of State Benson will be running against Kristina Karamo, an instructor at Wayne County Community College who has never held public office. Karamo has served on the board of Michigan's Right to Life organization and on the board of an anti-abortion pregnancy crisis center in Detroit. She has spoken at meetings organized by QAnon, a group that claims Trump is working to take down a cabal of Democratic politicians running a child sex-trafficking ring. She has said that abortion is "child sacrifice" and a "satanic practice." She has suggested that the January 6 attack at the Capitol was "completely Antifa posing as Trump supporters." She is against teaching evolution and has described public schools as "government indoctrination camps." Karamo rose to prominence in Michigan politics after she claimed she had witnessed election fraud in Detroit as a poll challenger during the 2020 election. At first, she was dismissed as just another conspiracy kook with no chance of winning her party's primary, but last spring the Michigan Republican Party chose her as its nominee for Secretary of State. She has received Trump's endorsement.



Dana Nessel is seeking reelection to a second term as Michigan's Attorney General. Here are a few of her accomplishments: (1) She launched the Department's Auto Insurance Fraud Unit to investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses that exploit Michigan residents, (2) She established the office's first Payroll Fraud Enforcement Unit to crackdown on individuals and businesses who try to cheat Michigan's workers out of their pay and retirement benefits, (3) She created the Hate Crimes Unit with the express purpose of protecting everyone in this state from those who wish to terrorize them, (4) She launched Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force, in partnership with the Michigan Supreme Court, to stop the rise of crimes against Michigan's senior citizens, (5) She continued investigations into the Flint Water Crisis and PFAS contamination, (6) She launched the Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure that no one is convicted of a crime they didn't actually commit.

On November 8th, Attorney General Nessel will be running against Matt DePerno, a tax lawyer based in Portage who has never held public office. DePerno's legal career has been marked by discord—he was fired from one law firm, fought over client records after leaving a second firm, and was accused of assaulting a client amid a fee dispute. He rose to prominence in Michigan politics in 2020 after he filed a lawsuit in Antrim County claiming that Dominion Voting Systems election machines and software were “corrupted” during the 2020 election—a lawsuit dismissed by an Antrim County Circuit judge. He has received Trump's endorsement.



Brian Jaye is the Democratic candidate for U. S Representative for Michigan's newly redrawn 9th District, which includes all of Tuscola County, except for the southwest corner of Arabela Township.

Brian is an experienced lawyer who lives in Rochester. He strongly supports LGBTQ rights, Medicare for All, college for everyone who wants it, the Green New Deal, battling voter suppression, ending systemic racism, raising the minimum wage, educational equality, women's reproductive rights, recognizing same-sex marriage, legislation that protects Americans from senseless gun violence, criminal justice reform, and supporting local police.

On November 8th, Brian will be running against Republican Lisa McClain, who has served as U.S. Representative for Michigan's 10th District since 2021. She is now the Republican candidate for U.S. Representative for Michigan's newly redrawn 9th District. During her term in office, Representative McClain has consistently voted against bills and resolutions that would improve the lives of her constituents.



Dan Kildee has served as U.S. Representative for Michigan's 5th District since 2013. He is now the Democratic candidate for U.S. Representative for Michigan's newly redrawn 8th District, which includes the southwest corner of Arbel Township in Tuscola County.

Representative Kildee currently serves as Chief Deputy Whip for the Democrats in Congress. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Science, Space and Technology Committee. He has worked on getting economic aid to working families, speeding up vaccine distribution, reopening our schools safely, and supporting small businesses. He co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force to clean up toxic PFAS chemicals in our drinking water. During the water crisis in Flint, he led the fight to secure \$100 million to help replace lead pipes and expand health care to residents.

On November 8th, Representative Kildee will be running against Republican Paul Junge, a lawyer, businessman, and Fox47 television news anchor. Junge says that, if elected, he will work to ban sanctuary cities and stop illegal immigration, stop liberal efforts to eliminate voter identification law, and serve as a pro-life, pro-Second Amendment conservative leader.



Bert Van Dyke is the Democratic candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 25th Senate District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County.

Bert grew up on a farm in Sanilac County and has worked for 30 years as a teacher at Marine City High School. He has a special interest and expertise in education policy. He believes we don't need to put public funding into unaccountable private hands and we don't need to provide more tax breaks to the wealthy. Bert also believes in free, fair, accessible elections with checks and balances that are safe from partisan interference. He believes we need to transition toward the energy sources of the future. He believes that we need to protect our water, soil, and air from pollution and exploitation.

On November 8th, Bert will be running against Republican Dan Lauwers, who represented Michigan's 81st House District between 2013 and 2019. Since 2019, he has served as State Senator for the 25th District. Lauwers is an avid hunter and gun owner, and a strong supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights. He says he firmly believes in the sacredness of life at conception and will stand firm to uphold the state's constitution.



Charles Stadler is the Democratic candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 26th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County.

Charles lives in Vassar. He is co-owner of Stadler Bookkeeping & Tax Service and has been a Vassar Township Trustee for 4 years. He has said that, if elected, he will work at building vibrant communities, high quality public schools and colleges and attract businesses so Michigan can offer great paying jobs to the hard-working people of Michigan. His top priorities are jobs, school funding, college grants, road funding and opening markets for farmers.

On November 8th, Charles will be running against Kevin Daley, who was State Representative for Michigan's 82nd House District from 2009 to 2014 and has been State Senator for Michigan's 31st Senate District since 2019. Daley is now the Republican candidate for State Senator in the newly redrawn 26th District. He opposes mandates from Lansing, supports reforms to restore faith in our elections process, and strongly defends of our 2nd Amendment Rights. He is a member of the NRA and has been endorsed by Right to Life Michigan.



Paul Whitney is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 97th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County.

Paul has been a life-long resident of Vassar with his wife, Kortney, and their two children, Nolan and Paige. He serves as Vice-president of Wolverine Human Services, which provides foster care and adoption services for children. He has worked for that institution for more than thirty years and has been police officer for the City of Vassar for thirty-one years. Paul has always been an active member of his church and community. He was named Vassar Citizen of the Year.

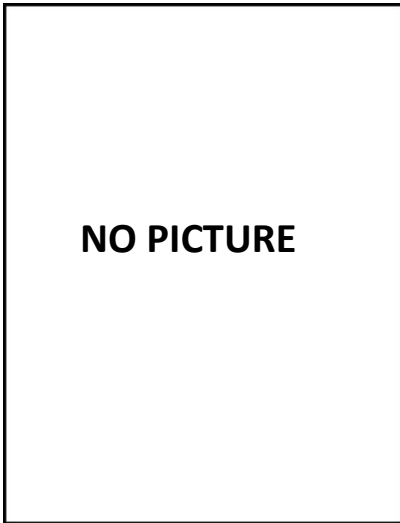
On November 8th, Paul will be running against Republican Matthew Bierlein, a Vassar businessman who served as Tuscola County Commissioner for 6 years. Bierlein believes that life starts at conception. He believes that we must restore the people's trust in our election process. He wants no more one-sided radical decrees from Lansing. He's a life-time member of the NRA.



Bob Mroczek is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 98th District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County, except Watertown Township.

Bob lives in Sandusky. He has been in business and education for more than 30 years and is currently self-employed in the tax and accounting field.

On November 8th, Bob will be running against Republican Gregory Alexander, a dairy farmer who lives in Carsonville. Alexander has said that, if elected, he will introduce legislation to defund prosecutors who refuse to prosecute all of our laws and will call on the Attorney General to enforce them. He will work to reduce class sizes and advocate for parents to have a voice in their child's education. He will fight to remove flawed policies that have forced many small businesses to close. He will introduce legislation that will get inflation under control and promote job growth.



Brian LaJoie is the Democratic candidate for State Representative in the newly redrawn 67th District, which includes Watertown Township in Tuscola County.

Brian lives in Lapeer.

On November 8th, Brian will be running against Republican Phil Green, who has served as State Representative for Michigan's 84th District since 2019. He is now the Republican candidate for State Representative for Michigan's newly redrawn 67th.District. Green has been endorsed by Right to Life, Citizens for Traditional Values, and the National Rifle Association: