

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

April 2022

Volume 1, Issue 1

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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Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter!

*We will be sending out our newsletter once a month to our members via email and posting it on the Tuscola Dems web site and Facebook page. We urge our members to forward copies to friends and family to let them know about the important work we are doing. Hats off to **Mark Putnam**, who first suggested this project and then made it happen. Thanks, Mark!*

Notice of the April meeting

The April meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, April 21st, 2022**, 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. The meeting will be indoors, and masks will be required. We hope you will join us.

Highlights of the March meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. on Saturday, March 5th, 2022, in the parking lot behind the Brentwood. She brought an FM transmitter, so we were able to sit in our cars and listen on our car radios. Thirteen members were in attendance. Vice-chair Bob DeCoe encouraged all members to visit and comment on Facebook to increase Democratic exposure and to comment on the Michigan Democratic Party web site to support Democratic values and candidates. Chair Deb Parker announced the time, place, and agenda of the Spring Convention, the requirements for filing paperwork for those planning to run for Precinct Delegate, and plans for starting up a monthly newsletter. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Highlights of the Spring Convention

The Spring Convention of the Tuscola County Democratic Party was held on March 18th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Brentwood. Ten members were in attendance. Sue Kirby was elected as alternate to the Credentialing Committee, Deb Parker was elected as alternate to the Rules Committee, and Charles Stockwell was elected as alternate to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party. We submitted the following resolution to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party:

A resolution urging Americans to stop buying from companies that are still doing business in Russia

WHEREAS on March 16, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed Congress from Kyiv and asked us to help Ukrainians resist the Russian invaders. He asked our government for military and economic assistance and asked ordinary Americans to stop buying products from companies that continue to do business in Russia.

WHEREAS more than 400 U.S. and multinational companies have pulled out of Russia since February 24th, some companies are still defying demands that they exit Russia or reduce their activities there. A list of these companies was compiled and is being updated continuously by Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at the Yale School of Management. The list names 27 companies still doing business in Russia (as of March 18th, 2022), including Subway fast food, Pirelli tires, Authentic Brands Group (owner of Reebok, Aeropostale, Eddie Bauer, and Brooks Brothers, among others), Natura and Company (owner of Avon products), Koch Industries (owner of Georgia-Pacific, the people who make Brawny paper towels, Dixie cups, Quilted Northern toilet paper, and Vanity Fair napkins), Cargill (maker of Truvia and Diamond Crystal salt), LG Electronics (maker of home appliances), ASUS (maker of laptop computers), and Gruma (maker of Mission tortillas).

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party urge Americans to stop buying the products of companies that are still doing business in Russia.

Highlights of Michigan Democratic Party Convention

The Michigan Democratic Party State Convention was held on April 9th, 2022. The following candidates were endorsed:

- Danna Nessel for Attorney General
- Jocelyn Benson for Secretary of State
- Justice Richard Bernstein and State House Representative Kyra Harris Bolden for Michigan State Supreme Court
- Dr. Pamela Pugh and Mitchell Robinson for Michigan Board of Education
- Renee Knake Jefferson and Dennis Denno for Michigan State University Board of Trustees
- Kathy White and Mike Behm for University of Michigan Board of Regents
- Marilyn Kelly and Danielle Atkinson for Wayne State University Board of Governors

The following resolutions were adopted:

- In Support of the Will of the People
- In Support of the Medicare for All Act
- Condemning Russia
- Urging Americans to Stop Buying from Companies Still Doing Business in Russia
(Submitted by the Tuscola County Democratic Party)
- In Opposition to the “Audit MI” Ballot Proposal
- In Opposition to the “Secure MI Vote” Ballot Proposal
- In Opposition to the “Let MI Kids Learn” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “Michiganders for Fair Lending” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “Michigan United” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “Reproductive Freedom for All” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “Raise the Wage MI” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “MI right to Vote A” Ballot Proposal
- In Support of the “Promote the Vote 2022” Ballot Proposal
- To Improve Burial Site Protection Laws
- Calling for Removal of the Custer Monument in Monroe
- Calling for Improved Laws Regarding Agricultural Monopolies and Minority Farmers
- Calling for an Investigation into the Shelby Township Police Chief and the Handling of the Arrests of the “Shelby 5”
- Calling for Reinstating the Fairness Doctrine
- Calling for Improvements to No-fault Automobile Insurance Laws
- Calling for Making Unemployment and Social Security Benefits Exempt from Federal, State, and Local Taxes

Election Calendar for 2022

Three elections will be held this year:

1. Special Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022, in four Tuscola County townships and one school district, as follows:
 - a. Almer Township, with the Caro Transit Authority Millage Renewal Proposal on the ballot.
 - b. Elmwood Township, with the Village of Gagetown Millage Renewal for Law Enforcement and the Village of Gagetown Millage Renewal for Public Works on the ballot.
 - c. Indianfields Township, with candidates for Township Clerk and the Caro Transit Authority Millage Renewal Proposal on the ballot.
 - d. City of Caro, Precincts 1 and 2, with the Caro Transit Authority Millage Renewal Proposal on the ballot.
 - e. Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools, a proposal is on the ballot.
2. The State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022.
3. The State General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022.

Tuscola County Redistricting

There's a new district map for Tuscola County. It was adopted earlier this year by the Tuscola County Redistricting Committee, which consisted of five members—Democratic Party Chair Deb Parker, Republican Party Chair Billy Putman, County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Reene, County Treasurer Ashley Bennett, and County Clerk Jody Fetting. **Our own Mark Putnam drew up the new district map.** Deb Parker submitted Mark's map to the committee, and they adopted it.

District 1 will be unchanged. It consists of Wisner, Akron, Columbia, Elmwood, Elkland, Gilbert, and Fairgrove Townships. Currently District 1 is represented by Tom Young.

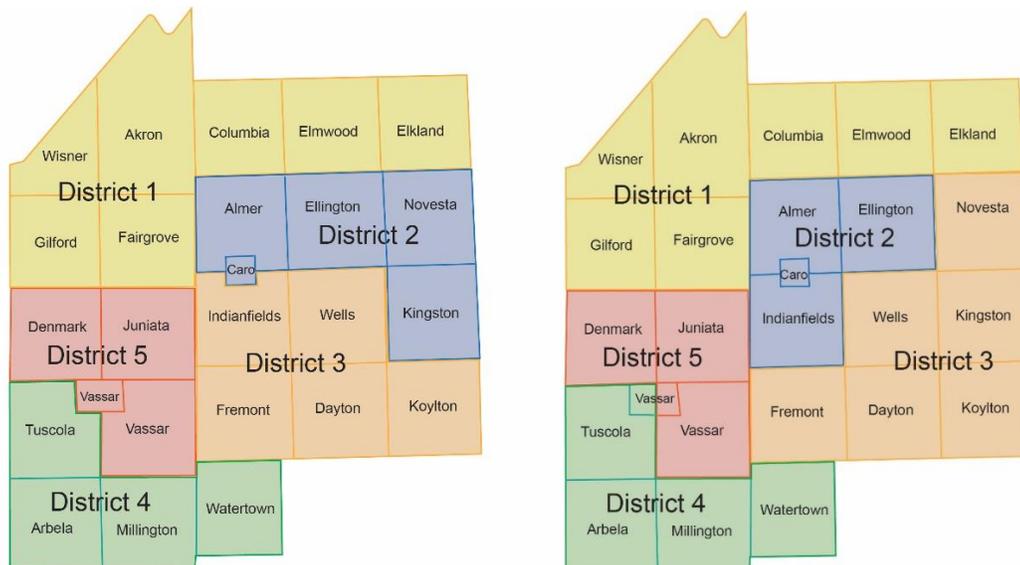
District 2 will consist of Almer, Ellington, and Indianfields Townships, and the City of Caro. Currently District 2 is represented by Commissioner Thomas Bardwell.

District 3 will consist of Novesta, Wells, Kingston, Fremont, Dayton, and Koylton Townships. Currently District 3 is represented by Kim Vaughan.

District 4 will consist of Tuscola, Arbela, Millington, and Watertown Townships, and the western half of the City of Vassar. Currently District 4 is represented by Douglas Durussel.

District 5 will consist of Denmark, Juniata, and Vassar Townships, and the eastern half of the City of Vassar. Currently District 5 is represented by Dan Grimshaw.

All Tuscola County Commissioners are up for election this year. The new district map will take effect when Commissioners elected this year take office on January 1st, 2023.



Old District Map

New District Map

Michigan House of Representatives

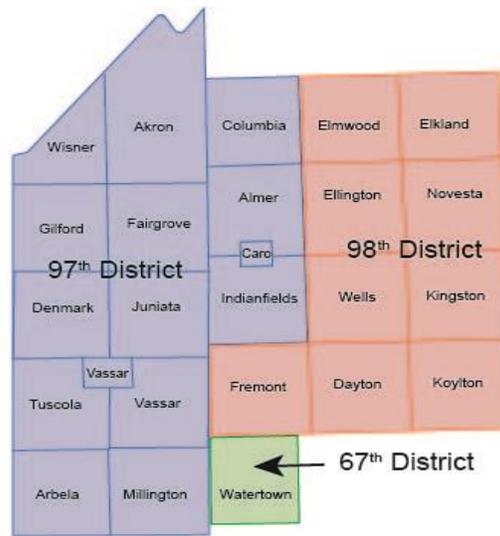
As you will recall, Michigan voters amended the Constitution in November 2018 with Proposal 18-2 to establish a Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, comprised of 13 registered voters—four affiliated with the Democratic Party, four affiliated with the Republican Party, and five with no affiliation to either political party. This Commission has exclusive authority to draw district lines for the Michigan Legislature and Michigan's members of Congress for the 2022 election and beyond. They have now done their work and we have a new district map for the Michigan House of Representatives.

For Tuscola County, the new map is radically different. Under the old map, the whole of Tuscola County was in the 84th District with Phil Green as our Representative. Under the new map (shown below), our county will be divided into three separate districts:

The western half of Tuscola County will be part of the 97th District, which will also include southern Bay County and northwestern Genesee County.

The eastern half of our county will be part of the 98th District, which will also include the whole of Huron County and part of northern Lapeer County.

Watertown Township will be part of the 67th District, which will also include parts of Lapeer and Genesee Counties.



New District Map for the Michigan House of Representatives

We are pleased to introduce **Paul Whitney**, who recently announced that he will run as Democratic candidate for Representative of the 97th District in the Michigan House of Representatives. Paul was born and raised on an eleven-acre farm near Vassar. He 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. Paul has always been an active member of his church and community. He was named Vassar Citizen of the Year. His father was a math teacher at Vassar High School, and both parents served on the City of Vassar Council.

U.S. House of Representatives

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has also redrawn a new district map for Michigan's members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Under the old map, Tuscola County was in District 10 with Lisa McClain as our Representative. We are now in District 9 (except for the southwest corner of Arbela Township, which is now in District 8). The boundaries of the new District 9 are almost the same as those of the old District 10. Included are the whole of Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer, and St. Clair Counties, part of northern Oakland County, and part of northern Macomb County.

In 2020, we elected Lisa McClain as Representative for District 10 (our former district). During her term in office, she has consistently voted against bills and resolutions that would improve the lives of her constituents. Here's a partial list of legislation that she has voted against:

- **For the People Act of 2021** (*H. R. 1*), which expands Americans' access to the ballot box, reduces the influence of big money in politics, strengthens ethics rules for public servants, and implements other anti-corruption measures.
- **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021** (*H. R. 4*), which sets new criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions must obtain preclearance before changes in voting practices.
- **Equality Act** (*H. R. 5*), which prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in public facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.
- **American Dream and Promise Act of 2021** (*H. R. 6*), which provides a path toward permanent resident status and contains other immigration-related provisions.
- **Paycheck Fairness Act**, (*H. R. 7*), which addresses wage discrimination based on sex, which is defined to include pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.
- **Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021**, (*H. R. 8*), which establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between individuals.
- **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021** (*H. R. 1280*), which addresses policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability.
- **Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021** (*H. R. 842*), which expands employees' rights to organize and collectively bargain in the workplace.
- **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** (*H. R. 1319*), which provides relief to Americans from the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.
- **Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021** (*H. R. 1446*), which revises background check requirements for firearm transfers between licensed gun dealers and individuals.
- **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021** (*H. R. 1620*), which reauthorizes programs to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- **Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment** (*H. J. Res 17*).
- **Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act** (*H. R. 2547*), which provides additional financial protections for consumers and places restrictions on debt collection activities.
- **Establish a National Commission to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act** (*H. R. 3233*),
- **Inspector General Independence and Empowerment Act** (*H. R. 2662*).
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** (*H. R. 3684*), which provides new funding for infrastructure projects.

- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021** (*H. R. 2119*), expands funding for emergency shelters and other assistance to victims of domestic violence.
- **Build Back Better Act** (*H. R. 5376*), which provides funding, establishes programs, and modifies provisions in many areas, including education, labor, childcare, health care, taxes, immigration, and the environment.
- **Protecting Our Democracy Act** (*H. R. 5314*), which addresses issues involving abuse of presidential power; and election accountability, transparency, integrity, and security.

Lisa McClain recently announced that she plans to run for re-election in our new District 9. We must try to replace her as our representative in the U.S. Congress.



So far, the only Democrat who has come forward to oppose Lisa McClain is **Brian Jaye**. Brian is an experienced attorney with 15 years under his belt. He lives and practices law in Rochester, and he's an active member of the Oakland County Democratic Party. Brian strongly supports Democratic values:

- LGBTQ rights
- Medicare for All (but continue ACE for now)
- 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
- Recognize same-sex marriage
- Criminal justice reform
- Support local police

For more information about Brian, visit his web site: <https://www.brianjayeformichigan.com/>

Be a Precinct Delegate

Every precinct in Michigan has at least one Republican and one Democrat precinct delegate. Some precincts have more than one. A precinct delegate is the link between a political party and the voters who reside in the delegate's precinct—helping people register to vote, passing out information on issues and candidates, recruiting new party members, helping to turn out the vote on election day, and keeping local party leaders informed about voters' concerns.

In Michigan, precinct delegates are elected in the August primary election of even numbered years. This year, our primary election will take place on August 2nd. Term of office is two

years. Precinct delegates who are elected this year will serve until the end of 2024.

To run for precinct delegate, you must be at least 18 years old, a registered voter, and a resident of the precinct in which you are running. To get your name on the ballot, you must fill out an "Affidavit of Identity." These forms will be available at our Tuscola Dems meeting on April 21st or you can get a copy by visiting the Michigan Secretary of State's website, <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/>. Click on "Search," type in "Precinct Delegate Affidavit of Identity," and the form will come up in PDF format. Print the form, fill it out, and take it to Tuscola County Clerk Jody Fetting's office, which is located in the Courthouse. Jody will notarize your signature in her office at no cost (or you can have it notarized elsewhere before you bring it in). Make sure to get your affidavit in Jody's hands no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 3rd.

Be a Member of the Michigan Democratic Party

Everyone is always welcome at the meetings of the Tuscola County Democratic Party, and membership dues are not required. However, if you wish to participate in official Democratic Party business, you must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, and you must renew your membership every year. It's easy to sign up. Just visit the Michigan Democratic Party's website, <https://www.michigandems.com>, and click "Membership." And while you're at it, visit the Tuscola County Democratic Party's web site, <https://www.TuscolaDems.com>, and make a donation. Much appreciated.

*Paid for by regulated funds of the Tuscola County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*