

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

January 2026

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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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On January 7<sup>th</sup>, an ICE agent shot and killed 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good on a residential street in Minneapolis.

Videos taken at the scene show a maroon SUV parked crosswise on a snowy street. A silver SUV drives up and stops with sirens and lights blaring. Two masked ICE agents get out and walk up to the maroon SUV. One of them orders the driver to exit her vehicle while the other grabs at the door handle and reaches inside. She backs up, straightens the wheel, and starts to move forward. A third ICE agent, not in the path of vehicle, pulls out a gun and shoots into the vehicle as she drives past. It rolls up the street and crashes into a parked car. Eventually, the ICE agent who shot the motorist walks up to the vehicle, turns back around, and tells his colleagues to call 911.

## Notice of Our January Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive, Caro, MI. Our guest speaker will be Ray Pooley, a Democratic candidate for Congress from Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District (a seat now held by Republican Lisa McClain). 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.

## The Midterms

It's 2026 already, and the midterms will soon be upon us. Here's the schedule:

- **Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** - Party members will meet at Huntington Place in Detroit to endorse Democratic nominees for certain Michigan elected offices, including Secretary of State and Attorney General. An attendee must have been a party member for at least thirty days in order to vote.

Incumbent Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson term-limited and thus ineligible to seek re-election. Announced candidates for that office include Ingham County Prosecutor Barbara Bynum, Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie, former State Senator Adam Hollier, and Michigan's Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli.

Incumbent Attorney General Dana Nessel is also term-limited and thus ineligible to seek reelection. Announced candidates for that office include Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit, former US Attorney Mark Totten, and Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald.

Attendees at the convention will also endorse two candidates for each of the following offices: State Supreme Court, State Board of Education, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University Board of Governors, and University of Michigan Board of Regents.

- **Primary Election on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** – US Senator Gary Peters has announced that he will not run for re-election in 2026, forcing Democrats to defend an open senate seat. The field of announced Democratic candidates hoping to succeed him includes US Representative Haley Stevens, Michigan Senator Mallory McMorrow, and Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, a former public health official. On the Republican side, former US Representative Mike Rogers has announced he is running in his second bid for a US Senate seat after losing to Elissa Slotkin in 2024.

Incumbent Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer is term-limited and thus ineligible to seek reelection, so there will be an open contest for governor. For the Democrats, the announced candidates are Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, and Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson. On the Republican side, US Representative John James has announced his candidacy. Also, Mike Duggan, the former Democratic mayor of Detroit, is running as an independent.

- **General Election on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Candidates who survive the Democratic Party Endorsement Convention on April 19<sup>th</sup> or the August 4<sup>th</sup> primary will be on the general election ballot. One Democrat and one Republican candidate (and perhaps candidates from other parties) for Michigan's open US Senate seat will be up for election as well as candidates for each of Michigan's thirteen seats in the US House. Contests for Michigan's governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and state supreme court will also be on the ballot. Candidates for the Michigan House and Senate will be up for election as will candidates for many offices within Tuscola County.

## Trump's Impeachable Offenses

During his first term, Trump was impeached twice — once for threatening to withhold military aid to Ukraine unless President Zelensky announced an investigation into his political opponent, Joe Biden, and a second time for inciting the January 6 attack on the US Capitol. The Senate declined to convict him either time.

Article II, Section 4, of the US Constitution says: *The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.* "Treason" and "Bribery" are clearly defined criminal acts — *treason* is levying war against the United States or giving its enemies aid and comfort, and *bribery* is offering or receiving something of value in exchange for official favors. The Constitution does not define "*high Crimes and Misdemeanors*," but historically the term has meant offenses against the state, such as abuse of power, betrayal of public trust, or any act expressly prohibited by our Constitution or our laws.

Legal scholars are saying that in less than a year into his second term, Trump has already committed a number of impeachable offenses, including:

1. **Mobilizing military forces against US civilians.** Trump has sent National Guard troops and US Marines into the streets of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Portland despite the objection of state and local elected officials in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.
2. **Kidnapping and imprisoning US residents.** Trump has transformed the nation's immigration enforcement agencies into a *de facto* secret police force, terrorizing communities across the country. He has kidnapped, arrested, detained, and imprisoned US residents without due process in violation of the First Amendment.
3. **Removing US residents to foreign prisons.** Trump has removed people from the United States without due process, paid foreign governments to imprison them, and disavowed any responsibility for return them to US soil even when ordered to do so by federal judges.
4. **Deporting immigrants for peacefully protesting.** Trump has arrested, detained, and deported international students who are lawfully present in this country because they exercised their First Amendment right to protest.
5. **Usurping the power of Congress.** Trump has refused to disburse funds that have been appropriated by Congress even when ordered to do so by federal judges. He has imposed, paused, and reinstated the highest US tariffs in over a century. He has authorized US forces to launch airstrikes or night raids across Yemen, Iran, Somalia, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, and Venezuela.
6. **Usurping judicial authority.** Trump has refused to comply with multiple court orders and asserted that he is not bound by them. He has even called for the impeachment of judges who have ruled against him.

7. **Seeking retribution against FBI and DOJ officials.** Trump has fired FBI investigators and DOJ prosecutors who worked on federal cases against him.
8. **Dismantling federal agencies.** Trump has turned the Department of Justice into his personal law firm. He has fired the National Labor Relations Board's General Counsel and a Board Member without notice, hearing, or cause as required by federal law. He has fired two commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission without notice, hearing, or cause as required by federal law. He has suspended all investigative work and other operations of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He has fired more than seventeen inspectors general of eight agencies who were charged with preventing government waste, fraud, and abuse.
9. **Accepting foreign and domestic emoluments.** Trump has personally profited from being president —real estate deals from Qatar to Serbia that involve foreign governments and a new bank-like crypto venture that has pulled in \$2 billion from the government of the United Arab Emirates. It has been estimated that Trump's businesses, business associates, and projects tied to him or his family members have pulled in more than \$3 billion thus far during his second term as president.
10. **Abusing emergency powers.** Trump has declared that immigration at the southern US border is a "national emergency" and claimed that such migration constitutes an "invasion," allowing him to mobilize the armed forces within the US and at its borders. He has declared a "national energy emergency," allowing him to evade regulatory limits on fossil fuel development and block development of renewable energy sources. He has invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which he claims allows him to impose tariffs on imported goods.
11. **Abusing pardon power.** Trump has pardoned over 1500 January 6 insurrectionists, including those who trashed the US Capital and attacked the police. He pardoned four founders of the BitMEX cryptocurrency exchange convicted of money laundering. He dismissed criminal charges against Eric Adams in return for help with immigration enforcement. He pardoned Changping Zhao, founder of a cryptocurrency exchange that has connections to the Trump family crypto ventures. He pardoned a long list of people who advanced his effort to claim victory after losing the 2020 election.
12. **Depriving citizens of birthright citizenship.** Trump denied the privilege of US citizenship to children born in the US to immigrants in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

If Trump is not impeached again, there's still no guarantee he gets off the hook. Some of his offenses might justify criminal prosecution, especially his cryptocurrency profiteering, which clearly falls outside the standard of "official acts" that the Supreme Court exempted from criminal prosecution in its 2024 decision.

If Trump manages to go Scot free once again, untouched either by impeachment or criminal prosecution, what an extraordinary injustice that would be!

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a better place  
to live



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