

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

June 2025

Volume 4, Issue 6

## 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.

## Contact Us

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## Notice of Our June Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, June 19, 2025**, 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.

We hope you will join us.

## Highlights of Our May Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on May 15, 2025, at the Brentwood. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Alex Krisch gave us a rundown of current events, including Trump's Mideast trip, the donation to the US of a luxury jet by the Qatari royal family, the cancellation of a House vote on Trump's impeachment, and the ruling by Judge Patel that Michigan's 24-hour waiting period before an abortion is illegal. Lisa Bertsh reported on the work of the Party Building Committee, and Chuck Stockwell reported on the work of the Communication & Education Committee. Deb Parker renewed a request for volunteers to help in the roadside cleanup on M-81 on May 31 and led a discussion about participation of Tuscola Dems in upcoming protests. Lynn Adams told us about the latest developments in Enbridge's proposal to build a tunnel for Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. The meeting was adjourned at 8 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 wish.

Thank you!

## Roadside Cleanup



A healthy environment is a top concern for Tuscola Dems. Every year, we take part in MDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program, picking up roadside trash on a two-mile stretch of M-81 between Caro and Cass City. Here we are on May 31, ready to head out to clean up the roadside.

By the end of the day, we had filled up ten big bags of trash, including environmental hazards like cigarette butts and e-cartridges, hubcaps, rubber from blown tires, food wrappers, glass and plastic bottles, beer cans, and empty opioid medication containers. "We've been picking up trash out here for many years," says Chair Deb Parker. "We call it our 'Trash Bash'."

## Actions of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

The Board appointed John Hunter to a three-year term on the Mid-State Health Network's Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board. Mr. Hunter is Executive Director of the Tuscola County Community Foundation and former Chair of the Tuscola County Democratic Party.

The Board also authorized the Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission to move forward with funding for a kiosk sign to be installed at the proposed Cass River landing. This project is being led by Mark Putnam, a member of the Tuscola County Democratic Party.

## The Midterms

The midterm elections are coming up next year, and the contests for Michigan governor and Michigan US senator are widely regarded as among the most crucial in the nation. Governor Whitmer has already served two terms and cannot run again. Thus far, three Democrats have declared themselves as candidates for her job:



Garlin Gilchrist is currently Michigan's lieutenant governor. He was born in Detroit in 1982 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Michigan in 2005. Then he moved to Redmond, Washington, and worked for Microsoft as a software engineer. In 2014, he moved back to Detroit and began working for the city government. In 2018, Gretchen Whitmer selected him as her running mate, and they won the election. The pair won re-election by a wide margin in 2022.



Jocelyn Benson is currently Michigan's secretary of state. She was born in Pittsburgh in 1977 and graduated from Wellesley College in 1999 and received her JD from Harvard Law School in 2002. Then she moved to Detroit to serve as a law clerk. In 2005, she joined the faculty of the Wayne State University Law School and in 2012 was appointed dean of that institution. In 2018, she was elected as Secretary of State and was re-elected in a landslide in 2022.



Chris Swanson is currently Genesee County sheriff. He's been a police officer for nearly three decades. Swanson earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan and has worked in the Genesee County sheriff's office since 2011. He was appointed sheriff in 2019 and then was elected to that position in 2020.

Also running for Michigan governor are Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, an Independent, and two Republicans — State Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbit and US representative for Michigan's 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district, John James.

Michigan's US Senator Gary Peters has announced that he won't run again. Thus far, four Democrats have declared themselves as candidates for his seat:



Haley Stevens is currently a Michigan representative in the US Congress. She was born in 1983 in Rochester Hills and has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and philosophy from American University. After graduation, she became involved in politics, working for the Michigan Democratic Party. She moved to Chicago and worked for a digital design institute, then returned to Michigan in 2017. In 2018, she was elected as US representative for Michigan's 11<sup>th</sup> congressional district and has been re-elected three times.



Mallory McMorrow is currently a Michigan state senator. She was born in 1986 in Morristown, New Jersey, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in industrial design from the University of Notre Dame in 2008. After graduation, she worked for design firms in New York and Los Angeles before moving to Michigan. In 2018, she was elected to the Michigan Senate representing Michigan's 13<sup>th</sup> district and was appointed assistant minority floor leader. She was elected again in 2022 and has served as Senate Majority Whip.



Joe Tate is currently a Michigan state representative and former speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives. He was born in 1980 in Detroit and attended Michigan State University on a football scholarship, graduating in 2003. Then he spent two seasons with the NFL. In 2009, he joined the US Marine Corps and served two deployments in Afghanistan. Afterwards, he attended the University of Michigan and in 2017, earned a dual MBA/MS. In 2018, he was elected as state representative for Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> district and has been re-elected three times.



Abdul El-Sayed was born in 1984 in the Detroit to parents who emigrated from Egypt. He completed two years at the University of Michigan Medical School and then attended Oriel College, Oxford, where he completed a DPhil in public health in 2011. In 2014, he completed his MD at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons but has never obtained a license to practice medicine. He served as executive director of the Detroit Health Department from 2015 to 2017 and director of the Wayne County Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services from 2023 to 2025.

Also running for Michigan's US Senator is Republican Mike Rogers, former US representative for Michigan's 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district.

Michigan's Democratic primary is on August 4, 2026.

## Civics Lesson No. 1

Not long ago, Americans took our right to “due process” for granted and never thought much about it. Not anymore.

### What is “due process”?

Due process is a right guaranteed to Americans by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the US Constitution. These amendments require the government, both federal and state, to follow lawful procedures when acting against any person, whether citizen or non-citizen, if that action could result in the loss of that person’s life, liberty, or property.

Trump summarily fired or put on leave tens of thousands of federal employees without notice or cause, ignoring the fact that government workers are protected by civil service laws, which stipulate that they may be removed only for “inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office” and that they are entitled to 30 days’ advance written notice, a chance to respond, and a fair hearing.

Trump issued a proclamation invoking the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, a sweeping war-time power that allows the federal government to swiftly deport citizens of an invading nation. His aim was to target members of Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang that Trump says is invading the United States, ignoring the fact that Tren de Aragua is not a foreign government, nor is it working for a foreign government, nor are its members invading the United States. Immediately after invoking the Alien Enemies Act, Trump ordered his immigration officers to round up hundreds of alleged gang members and fly them to El Salvador and agreed to pay the Salvadorians \$6 million of US taxpayer’s money to imprison them for a year. Trump’s immigration officers later said “oops, maybe some of them weren’t gang members,” but refused to try and get them back.

## Civics Lesson No. 2

Once Americans also took their right to “habeas corpus” for granted.

### What is “habeas corpus”?

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 2, of the US Constitution says that all individuals, citizen or non-citizen, who are detained by the government have the right to be brought before a judge to decide if their detention is legal.

Stephen Miller, Trump’s deputy chief of staff who orchestrated his crackdown on immigration, recently said that the administration is “actively looking at” suspending the right of immigrants to challenge their detention in court before being deported.

Kristi Noem, Trump’s Secretary of Homeland Security, recently told a US Senate committee that habeas corpus is “a constitutional right that the president has to be able to remove people from this country.” “That’s incorrect,” replied Senator Maggie Hassan. “Habeas corpus is the foundational right that separates free societies like America from police states like North Korea.”

## Civics Lesson No. 3

Until recently, Americans rarely heard the term, “emolument.” Now we hear it every day.

### What is an “emolument”?

An emolument is any benefit (other than the salary) received while employed or holding an office. Article 1, Section 9, of the US Constitution says, *"No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And No Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State."*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth accepted a luxury jumbo jet worth \$200 million from the Qatari royal family. The plan is to upgrade the jet for Trump’s use as Air Force One while he is president, then transfer it to his presidential library after he leaves office.

On the eve of his second inauguration, Trump released a crypto coin, \$Trump, which effectively allows any individual or foreign state to funnel money anonymously to him and his family. When people buy these coins they pay transaction fees, and those transaction fees go directly to Trump’s bank account. He’s made \$320 million just from those fees alone. That’s not all. To boost sales, Trump invited 220 of the biggest buyers of his \$TRUMP coin to a special dinner party at his golf club in northern Virginia. We don’t know who most of those people were, but we know that many of them were foreigners. Trump arrived at the dinner in a US Marine helicopter and spoke for about half an hour behind a lectern bearing the presidential seal.

Trump has refused to divest from his business interests and still owns the Trump Organization, currently being managed by his two eldest sons, Eric and Donald, Jr. This company is building a new Trump Tower in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia’s second largest city, with plans for two more projects in partnership with a company closely tied to the Saudi government. It has also agreed to a new golf course and real estate deal with a firm owned by the Qatari government. The Vietnamese government recently fast-tracked approval of a Trump golf complex outside Hanoi and a Trump skyscraper in Ho Chi Minh City because it was “receiving special attention from the Trump administration and President Donald Trump personally.”

Trump has made sure he won’t be held accountable for his self-enrichment schemes. He has fired government inspectors general and ethics watchdogs, installed his people in the Justice Department, the FBI, and regulatory agencies, and bullied the Republican-controlled House and Senate into obeisance.

## About the Newsletter

Our newsletter is published monthly. It is sent by email to members of the Tuscola County Democratic Party and is also posted on our website, <https://www.tuscoladems.com>. All members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. Please limit your submissions to 800 words or less and email them by the first of the month to [tuscolademocrats@gmail.com](mailto:tuscolademocrats@gmail.com).

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