

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

September 2025

Volume 4, Issue 9

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 September Meeting

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

Vice Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on August 21st at the Brentwood. Twenty members and six guests were in attendance. Mark Putnam read his proposed new native tribes statement. Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events. Lynn Adams gave us an update on developments regarding Line 5. Marjan Saenen and Sally Wood showed us the yard signs they created. Lloyd and Susan Swan of the Genessee County Democratic Party told us a speaker on social security is available. Mona DeQuis told us about the upcoming SOS Day of Action. Sharon Schwab called for volunteers to help decorate our float and march alongside it in the upcoming Pumpkin Festival parade. Sherene McCloy told us about the upcoming Fall Fundraiser in November. April Osentoski told us how to form a local Young Democrats group. 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!

Revised Native Tribes Statement

Mark Putnam, noted Tuscola County historian and wordsmith, proposed a revised native tribes statement to be read at future meetings of the Tuscola County Democratic Party, as follows:

We stand in honor of the Anishinabek—the Three Fires Confederacy of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi.

These three nations, bound together in kinship and purpose, are among the most recent Native peoples to call Michigan—Mitchigami—their homeland.

We especially honor the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, along with the Black River and Swan Creek communities, and most reverently the Antler, or Fork, dodem—a family whose camps once rested within Tuscola County. This land, known to the French as La Pays Plat and to the English as the Flat Country—the Thumb of Michigan—was once home to Native gardens, cultivated with care in what is now Tuscola.

Let us rise together, to protect, preserve, and cherish the legacy of this sacred land—its history, its people, and its spirit.

Mark's revised statement was unanimously approved at our meeting on August 21st.

Protest Signs



Two Tuscola County residents, Marjan Saenen (on the left) and Sally Wood (on the right), have been concerned about Trump's attack on our democracy and decided that one thing private citizens can do is display protest signs in our yards.

They came to our meeting on August 21st with a yard sign they designed and asked us what we thought about it. We were enthusiastic and purchased every one they brought with them.

S.O.S Day of Action



Tuscola Democrats took part in *Serve Our Society, A Day of Action*, on Thursday, August 28th, at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds in Imlay City. The event was sponsored by the Lapeer Democrats.

Lots of folks stopped by our table to say how glad they were to see Tuscola Democrats at the event, and we got a chance to talk with them about matters of mutual concern, including what's happening with Line 5.

We're hoping that Lapeer Democrats will sponsor another event like this one next year.

Pumpkin Festival Parade



Tuscola Democrats will be marching in the Pumpkin Festival parade on October 6th. We're looking for people to help decorate the float and walk alongside it on parade day.

If you are willing to help out, please give Sharon Schwab at (989) 710-0391 and she will sign you up.

Trump's "National Emergencies"

Trump has figured out how to do whatever he wants without approval from Congress — he declares a "national emergency." In 1976, Congress enacted the National Emergencies Act, which allows the president to declare a national emergency at any time and thereby activate enhanced executive powers, such as deploying military forces, freezing assets, restricting telecommunications, and regulating commerce. The idea is that a president needs to be able to act quickly in a crisis without waiting for Congressional action. Unfortunately, there's a serious defect in the National Emergencies Act — it doesn't specify what a national emergency is. Consequently, presidents are free to define a "national emergency" however they wish.

In the first seven months of his second term, Trump has declared ten "national emergencies."

1. On January 20th, 2025, Trump declared a "southern border emergency," asserting that illegal aliens are invading the US along the US-Mexico border and used this argument

to justify unlocking federal funding for border wall construction, empowering the military to support the Border Patrol, and turning a narrow strip of federal border land along the Mexican border into a military installation under the jurisdiction of the Pentagon.

2. On January 20th, 2025, Trump declared another “national emergency,” asserting that international cartels are foreign terrorist organizations invading the US and invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1789, which he says empowers him to deport foreigners.
3. On January 20th, 2025, Trump declared a “national energy emergency,” asserting that domestic energy resources are inadequate to meet our nation’s needs. He used this argument to direct federal agencies to develop ways to keep unprofitable coal plants operational, withdraw federal support for projects that boost renewable energy, and clear the way for the administration to fast-track the production of energy resources on federal land and waters.
4. On February 1st, 2025, Trump declared a “northern border emergency,” asserting that Canada failed to stem the flow of illicit drugs from that country to the US. He used this argument to invoke the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, which he says allows him to impose a 25 percent tariff on imports from Canada.
5. On February 1st, 2025, Trump declared another “national emergency,” asserting that China failed to stem the flow of synthetic opioids from that country to the US. He used this argument to invoke the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, which he says allows him to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on imports from China.
6. On February 1st, 2025, Trump declared a third “national emergency,” asserting that Mexico failed to stem the flow of illegal aliens and illicit opioids from that country to the US. He used this argument to invoke the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, which he says allows him to impose a 25 percent tariff on imports from Mexico.
7. On February 6th, 2025, Trump declared a “national emergency,” asserting that the International Criminal Court has abused its power by issuing baseless arrest warrants targeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant. He imposed sanctions on the court, its members, and its supporters.
8. On April 2nd, 2025, Trump declared another “national emergency,” asserting that the large and persistent annual US trade deficits are caused by a lack of reciprocity from our trading partners. He used this argument to invoke the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, which he says allows him to impose punishing tariffs — starting at 10 percent and going as high as 50 percent —on more than ninety trading partners.
9. On July 30th, 2025, Trump declared another “national emergency,” asserting that the government of Brazil is politically persecuting its ex-president, Jair Bolsonaro, an ally of Trump who is accused of orchestrating an attempted coup after losing the 2022 election. Trump imposed an additional 40 percent tariff on imports from Brazil.

10. On August 11th, 2025, Trump declared a “crime emergency” in Washington, DC., and invoked an emergency provision of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act of 1973 allowing him to take control of the city’s police force, deploy the National Guard, and send hundreds of federal law enforcement agents into the city.

Economic and legal experts generally agree that Trump’s “national emergencies” are fake. International cartel members are not agents of foreign governments, and they are not invading our country. An energy emergency does not exist. In fact, fossil fuel production reached record levels under President Biden. Drugs coming into our country are not a threat to our national security, and even if they were, Trump’s invocation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose tariffs on the governments of Canada, Mexico, and China is improper, since that statute does not authorize him to impose tariffs under any circumstances. Trump may dislike certain actions of the International Criminal Court and the government of Brazil, but those actions have nothing to do with our nation’s security. Trade deficits are a long-running feature of the US economy, and economists wonder why Trump would choose to declare an economic emergency after inheriting the strongest economy in the world. There is no crime emergency in Washington, DC. In fact, National Guard troops deployed there couldn’t find enough crime to fight, so they ended up picking up garbage and mulching cherry trees.

Congress is powerless to terminate an emergency declaration by the president unless it can enact a joint resolution, which must then be signed by the president. If the president vetoes the joint resolution (which of course he will), Congress must override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and Senate — a virtual impossibility for this Congress.

It’s now up to the judges to decide whether Trump’s national emergencies are genuine. Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against Trump’s actions by state attorneys, media organizations, physicians, nonprofits, migrants, international students, law firms, and unions. Lower court judges painstakingly research the law to reach their rulings, and they have consistently ruled against the president. Trump appeals every ruling against him to the Supreme Court, which is inclined to defer to the president’s judgment. Thus far, the Supreme Court has overturned nearly every lower court ruling against Trump without any explanation.

Perhaps Trump’s passion for “national emergencies” will backfire. Already many voters are saying that Trump’s early months have been “scary.” The coming months may bring fresh tumult. Trump says armed troops may soon prowl more cities, beginning with Chicago. It’s a tinderbox. How will voters feel if, by accident or misunderstanding, National Guard troops shoot civilians for protesting?

About this newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly. It is sent by email to members of the Tuscola County Democratic Party and is 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 Chuck Stockwell at cwstockwell@gmail.com.

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Tuscola County
a better place
to live



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Elect Democrats