Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

August 2026 Volume 5, Issue 8

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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.

Officers

Chair: Alex Kirsch

Vice Chair: Lynn Kunze Adams

Secretary: Chuck Stockwell

Treasurer: Lisa Bertsch

Contact Us

tuscolademocrats@gmail.com

Tuscola County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 605
Caro, MI 48723

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Notice of Our August Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, August 20th,** in our headquarters at 451 North State Street, Caro, MI. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Snacks and water will be provided, but feel free to bring your own food and drink, if you wish. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

You may attend the August 20th meeting via Zoom. No later than one day before the meeting, an email containing a link to the meeting will be sent out to all members for whom we have an email address.

Highlights of Our July Meeting

Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16th, at our headquarters. Fifteen members and three guests attended the meeting in person, and five members attended via Zoom. Kandie Sherman, Democratic candidate for Michigan State Representative for the 97th District, told us about her values and goals if elected to office. Vice Chair Lynn Kunze Adams gave us an update of current events. Chuck Stockwell told us about the activities of the Communication Committee. Alison Blattner told us about book-banning and other issues at the Caro District Library. April Dicks gave us an update on the Caro Pop-up Protests. Mona DeQuis told us how to become a write-in candidate for precinct delegate. Chair Alex Kirsch told us the times our new headquarters will be open to the public and reviewed plans for roadside cleanup, the county fair, and other upcoming local events. We passed a motion supporting Jack Adam's efforts to set up a meeting with young voters and a public forum on election integrity. Sherene McCloy told us about the upcoming Exchange Club Trail Walk, and we passed a motion to donate to the event. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Tuscola Democrats 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!

Tuscola County Fair

Tuscola Democrats were at the Tuscola County Fair again this year.

Our booth was open every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Here are two of our party members, Sherene McCloy and Sharon Schwab, reminding fairgoers about all the great things Democrats are doing and handing out free bags of our famous Democratic popcorn.

Millington Summer Festival Parade

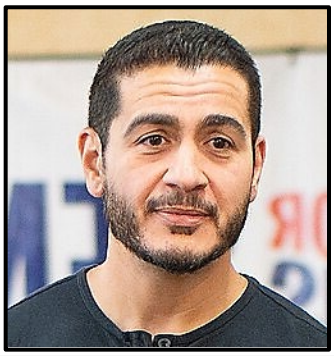
Tuscola Democrats proudly marched in the Millington Summer Festival parade again this year.

Here's our float decorated and ready to head out on Friday, August 7th.

We had a great time and received lots of thumbs up along the parade route. The weather was perfect.

Michigan Democratic Candidates on the Ballot in November

The primaries are behind us and here are the Democratic candidates who survived:



Abdul El-Sayed will be the Democratic candidate for US Senator for Michigan. Abdul was born and raised in Detroit by his father, an Egyptian immigrant, and stepmother, a Michigan native. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Oxford University and earned his MD at Columbia University. He is a former professor and public health official but has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, Abdul will face Republican Mike Rogers, who is a former US representative for Michigan's 8th Congressional District and Trump's handpicked candidate.

Ray Pooley will be the Democratic candidate for US Representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional District, which includes the whole of Tuscola County (except for the southwest corner or Arbela Township) as well as all of Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and St. Clair counties and portions of Macomb and Oakland counties. Ray is a CNC machinist living in Highland Township. He has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, Ray will face Republican Lisa McClain, who is the incumbent US representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional District seeking reelection.

Jocelyn Benson will be the Democratic candidate for Governor of Michigan. She earned a master's degree in sociology from Oxford University and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. She joined the faculty of Wayne State University Law School in 2005 and was appointed its dean in 2012. She was elected Michigan's secretary of state in 2018 and reelected in 2022.

In the November general election, Jocelyn will face Republican John James, who is currently the US representative for Michigan's 10th Congressional District.

Garlin Gilchrist II will be the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State of Michigan (assuming he is formally nominated at the Democratic State Nominating Convention on August 29th). He earned a BS in engineering from the University of Michigan in 2005, then moved to Redmond, Washington, and worked for Microsoft. In 2014, he moved back to Detroit. Gretchen Whitmer selected him as her running mate when she ran for governor in 2018, and they were reelected in 2022.

In the November general election, Garlin will face Republican Anthony Forlini, who is currently the Macomb County clerk.

Eli Savit will be the Democratic candidate for Attorney General of Michigan (assuming he is formally nominated at the Democratic State Nominating Convention on August 29th). He was born and raised in Ann Arbor, earned a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. In 2020, he was elected Washtenaw County prosecutor and reelected in 2024.

In the November general election, Eli will face Republican Doug Lloyd, who is currently the Eaton County prosecutor.

April Osentoski will be the Democratic candidate for Michigan State Senator for the 25th District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County (Almer, Columbia, Elkland, Ellington, Elmwood, Indianfields, Kingston, Koylton, Novesta, and Wells Townships) as well as all of Huron and Sanilac Counties and parts of St. Clair and Macomb Counties. April is a culinary professional living in Bad Axe. She has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, April will face Republican Andrew Beeler, who is a former state representative.

Brendan Johson will be the Democratic candidate for Michigan State Senator for the 26th District, which includes the western half of Tuscola County (Akron, Arbela, Dayton, Denmark, Fairgrove, Fremont, Gilford, Juniata, Millington, Tuscola, Vassar, Watertown, and Wisner Townships) as well as portions of Genesee, Lapeer, and Saginaw counties. Brendan is an IT professional living in Bridgeport. He has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, Brendan will face Republican Matthew Bierlein, who is the incumbent state representative for the 26th District seeking reelection.

Jack Bader is the Democratic candidate for Michigan State Representative for the 97th District**,** which includes the western half of Tuscola County (Akron, Almer, Arbela, Columbia, Denmark, Fairgrove, Gilford, Indianfields, Juniata, Millington, Tuscola, Watertown, Vassar, and Wisner Townships) as well as portions of Bay, Genesee, and Saginaw counties. Jack is a realtor living in Vassar. He has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, Jack will face Republican Briar Bearss, who has never held an elected office.

Keith Brusseau will be the Democratic candidate for Michigan State Representative for the 98th District, which includes the eastern half of Tuscola County (Dayton, Elkland, Ellington, Elmwood, Fremont, Kingston, Koylton, Novesta, and Wells Townships) as well as all of Huron County and part of northern Lapeer County. Keith is a CNC machinist living in Lexington. He has never held an elected office.

In the November general election, Keith will face Republican Gregory Alexander, who is the incumbent state representative for the 98th District seeking reelection.

Leslie Getz will be the Democratic candidate for Michigan State Representative for the 67th District, which includes Watertown Township in Tuscola County as well as parts of Lapeer and Genessee Counties. Leslie is a teacher living in Lapeer. She currently serves as Mayfield Township treasurer.

In the November general election, Leslie will face Republican Phil Green, who is the incumbent state representative for the 67th District seeking reelection.

Results of August 4th Ballot Measures

1. A proposal to change the Tuscola County Road Commission from an elected board to an appointed board failed by a wide margin, 3,181 to 10,316.
2. The Tuscola County 911 central dispatch proposal passed 8,941 to 4,677.
3. The Tuscola County mosquito abatement proposal passed 10,294 to 3,382.
4. Akron Township voters approved a road construction renewal, 191 to 108.
5. Almer Charter Township voters approved a road renewal, 376 to 211.
6. Arbela Township voters approved a fire renewal, 487 to 239, and a road repair renewal, 428 to 297.
7. Columbia Township voters approved four proposals. An emergency services renewal passed 214 to 86, a road construction renewal passed 204 to 95, a road maintenance renewal passed 208 to 89, and a library renewal passed 210 to 89.
8. Denmark Township voters approved both road renewals on the ballot. The first passed 499 to 308, while the second passed 499 to 302.
9. Elkland Township voters approved a fire and ambulance renewal, 642 to 215.
10. Koylton Township voters approved a road maintenance proposal, 245 to 110.

11. Novesta Township voters rejected a proposal to abolish the township's annual meeting, 152 to 262. They approved a road brining proposal, 242 to 179, and a road renewal, 254 to 169.
12. Tuscola Township voters rejected a road improvement proposal, 271 to 302.
13. Watertown Township voters approved a protection proposal, 259 to 203.
14. Wisner Township voters approved an ambulance and fire renewal, 107 to 40.
15. Cass City voters split on two village proposals. A parks and recreation millage passed 330 to 287, while a police department millage failed 291 to 327.
16. The Kingston Community Schools operating millage passed 471 to 376.
17. The Marlette Community Schools bond proposal narrowly passed, 868 to 856.
18. The Rawson Memorial District Library millage passed 965 to 570.

Trump's Corruption Scandals

Norm Eisen of the *Contrarian* periodically updates his list of the 10 worst Trump corruption scandals and has recently published a fourth edition. The list is by no means comprehensive, but it serves to remind us of the most blatant among the many scandals surrounding Trump and his family.

Here is Norm Eisen's updated list:

1. Pickpocketing the Public. Trump's own Justice Department settled his $10 billion lawsuit against the IRS and transformed it into a $1.776 billion so-called "Anti-Weaponization Fund." This scheme seeks to pick the American taxpayers' pockets and hand off the loot to his political supporters, including the rioters who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

2. The Brothers Grift. Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump have invested in more than a dozen defense-related companies that have gone on to do $3.2 billion in government business. One example: The Trump administration helped a little-known US company gain access to Kazakhstan's massive, untapped tungsten reserve, valued at up to $80 billion, and federal agencies pledged $1.6 billion in financing for the company. Shortly before the announcement, Don Jr. and Eric acquired a stake in the enterprise. Another example: Donald Trump Jr.'s investment firm, 1789 Capital, invested in Vulcan Elements, a rare-earths magnet manufacturer, then valued at about $200 million. A few months later, the company landed a $620 million loan commitment from the Defense Department. It is now worth roughly $2 billion.

3. The Crypto Cash Con. Trump pocketed more than $1.4 billion from crypto-related activities in 2025. He has managed this unprecedented earning spree through ventures like his $TRUMP meme coin, his company World Liberty Financial, and especially World Liberty's stablecoin USD1.

4. The Epstein Files Cover-Up. The cover-up of the Epstein files continues to traumatize the brave survivors of his abuse and haunt this administration. Trump and his allies desperately hope the issue will simply disappear, but the survivors won't let it.

5. Trump's Big Beautiful Qatari Boeing. The Qatari Boeing has gotten costlier. The Trump administration forced the jet through an accelerated conversion process that somehow omitted some critical security features, so the jet was sent back to be "maxed out" at further expense to US taxpayers. Independent estimates suggest that the renovation and "maxed-out" security additions will push the final cost over $1 billion.

6. Trump's Foreign Real Estate Explosion. Trump's latest personal financial disclosure shows that his international business holdings generated more than $117 million in revenue last year. Twenty-four Trump-branded real estate projects are now in development overseas, including Trump towers and properties in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Vietnam, Georgia, Qatar, and India. The list goes on.

7. Meme Coin Madness. Trump's annual financial disclosures show that $636 million of his 2025 crypto haul came from his $TRUMP meme coin. Nearly one million people who bought the coin collectively lost about $3.81 billion after its value dropped by 97 percent from its peak. Trump hawked the coin via social media, pocketing fees every time the tokens changed hands, and even held multiple private events for the largest $TRUMP holders.

8. Kushner's Profitable Diplomacy. Trump appointed his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, as Special Envoy for Peace, but Kushner has not stepped away from his private equity and global investment firm while serving as a chief negotiator in the Middle East. Instead, he has continued to pull in millions in management fees for his private equity firm, Affinity Partners, from the same Middle Eastern governments he negotiates with.

9. Trump's DC Renovation Racket. Trump is committed to remaking the nation's capital in his image. Massive banners bearing his face hang from the facades of multiple federal agency headquarters. He has announced plans to build a new gilded arch that will stand 250 feet tall. He has torn down the East Wing of the White House to make way for his enormous ballroom.

10. Pay for Play at Trump Properties. Trump has spent a remarkable amount of time at his own properties — more than a third of his second term, according to a recent analysis. This doesn't just generate revenue for his businesses; it also signals to anyone looking to curry favor with the president exactly where they can find him. In the first year of his second term, foreign government officials reportedly visited Trump's properties sixty times, while special interest groups hosted fifty-seven events there.

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.tuscolademes.com. Party members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. Please limit your submission to 800 words or less and email it by the first of the month to Chuck Stockwell at *cwstockwell@gmail.com.*

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a better place
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