

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

May 2026

Volume 5, Issue 5

## 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

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## Contact Us

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<https://www.tuscoladems.com>

<http://facebook.com/tuscoladems>

## Notice of Our May Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**, 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. Our guest speaker will be Sam Senter, candidate for the Caro Library Board of Trustees. Please join us.

## Highlights of Our April Meeting

Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Brentwood. Twenty-one members and five guests were in attendance. Our guest speaker was Eli Savit, Democratic candidate for Michigan Attorney General, who told us about his background, qualifications, and goals if elected to office. Members of the Midland County Democratic Party solicited signatures for their *Get Money Out of Politics* petition. Vice Chair Lynn Kunze Adams reviewed current events. April Dicks told us about the weekly pop-up protests in front of the courthouse. Sherene McCloy told us about plans to send out appreciation packets to Tuscola Tech Center teachers. Jack Bader said he will kick off his campaign for state representative at T. North Pavilion in Vassar on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Alex Kirsch told us about plans to open our new headquarters office on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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!

## Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention



On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuscola Democrats joined more than 7,200 delegates from across Michigan for this year's Democratic Party Endorsement Convention at Huntington Place in Detroit. It was a big day for progressives since nearly every candidate backed by the party's Progressive Caucus won endorsement at the convention. Voting during the convention was delayed by an hour and a half due to an error made by a volunteer while registering delegates.



At the convention, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilcrest II won endorsement for Michigan Secretary of State. He will be officially nominated by the party at a nominating convention later this year, after the August 4<sup>th</sup> primary election, and then he will appear on the ballot in the general election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> running against the Republican candidate, Anthony Forlini, who is currently the Macomb County clerk.



Also at the convention, Eli Savit, who is currently the Washtenaw County prosecutor, won endorsement for Michigan Attorney General. He will also be officially nominated by the party at a nominating convention later this year, and then he will appear on the ballot in the general election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> running against the Republican candidate, Doug Lloyd, who is currently the Eaton County prosecutor.

Michigan Democrats also endorsed Megan Cavanagh and Noah Hood for the Michigan Supreme Court, Judith Pritchett and Tiffany Tilley for the State Board of Education, Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay Zemke for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Richard Mack and Shereef Akeel for the Wayne State University Board of Governors, and Paul Brown and Amir Makled for the University of Michigan Board of Regents. These candidates will also be officially nominated by the party at a nominating convention later this year and then appear on the ballot in the general election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***“Then They Came for Me . . .”***

Here’s the poem quoted by Eli Savit when he spoke to us at our meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. It’s the poetic version of a speech given by Martin Niemöller, a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany. At first, Niemöller sympathized with the Nazis, but after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, he became an out-spoken critic and ended up spending eight years in Nazi prisons.

*First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out —  
Because I was not a Communist.*

*Then they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out —  
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out —  
Because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out —  
Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me —  
And there was no one left to speak out for me.*

## **Caro Weekly Pop-up Protests**



We protest on the sidewalk in front of the Tuscola County Courthouse every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. (except on third Thursdays of the month when we hold our membership meetings, protest time will be from 5 to 6 p.m.). Our goal is to bring visibility, community, and hope both to those being harmed and those fighting against injustice.

All are welcome! Bring a sign, a flag, or just yourself.

We now have a Facebook group where we post updates, weekly themes, and reflections. Go to <https://facebook.com/share/g/1EHWM9BmiX/> or search "The Caro Pop-up."

## **Roadside Cleanup Postponed**



The Tuscola Democrats’ roadside cleanup project, scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, was unfortunately cancelled due to rain. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you will join us then. Be sure to mark your calendars.

## Our New Headquarters



On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuscola Democrats will move into our new headquarters at 451 North State Street, across the street from the courthouse. The picture on the left shows the front of the building, but the entrance to our headquarters is around back. There's plenty of parking.

From June 1<sup>st</sup> until after the fall midterm elections, our headquarters will be open on weekdays. All party business and our monthly meetings will be conducted there.

## Bluster and Blunder



American voters have a special obligation: When we elect a president, we are also electing the leader of the free world. At the end of World War II as Europe lay in ruins, America emerged with intact factories, a booming economy, and a strong military. In 1947, President Harry Truman set forth the Truman Doctrine, a promise that America will provide political, military, and economic assistance to democratic nations resisting authoritarian regimes. Since then, every US president —from Dwight Eisenhower to Barack Obama — has affirmed America's commitment to that promise.

Then along came Trump. After we elected him as our president, he quickly abandoned his role as leader of the free world. He declared his admiration for dictators and began acting like one himself. He imposed tariffs on our long-time trading partners. He turned his back on Ukraine. He withdrew America from international organizations working on climate change and disease prevention in children. He threatened military action against Panama over the canal and Denmark over Greenland. He blew up civilians in small boats in international waters. He bullied our NATO allies, so now they doubt whether they can still count on us.

At home, it's the same. When he mounted his mass deportation scheme, Americans recoiled in horror. Disapproval of his handling of immigration has now risen to 62 percent. Public support for allowing undocumented immigrants to become US citizens is now at 78 percent. More than 76 percent of Americans say unauthorized migrants who have jobs and no criminal record should have a way to gain legal status. On abortion rights, 61 percent of Americans say abortion should be legal in most or all cases. Two-thirds of Americans view the Affordable Care Act favorably. Overall favorability of Medicaid is now at 83 percent. Americans don't like Trump's proposed ballroom or his triumphal arch or the idea of his signature on paper money or his picture on our passports. And then there's his war with Iran. A recent poll shows that only 34 percent of Americans approve while 61 percent oppose it.

Trump has been our president for sixteen months now and his ratings have steadily declined. Recent polling shows Trump' overall approval rating now at an all-time low of 37 percent with 63 percent disapproving.

What can we do? Must we endure another two years and eight months of this president before we can elect a better one? Or is there some way we can remove Trump from office?

Our Constitution says there are two ways to remove a president from office.

1. Section 4 of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution lays out the rules for the removal of a president who is deemed incapable of performing his duties but refuses to resign. It allows the vice president and a majority of cabinet members to issue a written declaration to Congress that the president is incapable of performing his duties. Thereafter, the vice president immediately becomes acting president. If the president subsequently issues a written declaration to Congress asserting that he is indeed fit to serve, then a four-day period begins during which the vice president remains acting president. If, by the end of this period, the vice president and a majority of cabinet members fail to contest the president's assertion that he is fit to serve, then he may continue in office. If they do contest the president's assertion within the four days, then the vice president remains acting president while Congress considers the matter. If within 21 days, both the Senate and the House, each by a two-thirds vote, determine that the president is incapable of performing his duties, the vice president continues as acting president.

No way that's going to happen.

2. Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution gives Congress the power to impeach a president for treason, bribery, and "other high crimes and misdemeanors," including abuse of power, betrayal of public trust, or any act expressly prohibited by our Constitution or our laws. Members of the House of Representatives can begin the process by bringing articles of impeachment against the president. If the House adopts the articles by a simple majority vote, then the president is impeached and the House sends its articles of impeachment to the Senate. The Senate holds an impeachment trial with the Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court presiding. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required to convict. If convicted by the Senate, the president is removed from office and prohibited from ever holding elected office again. There is no appeal.

That's unlikely to happen either. Whereas impeachment requires only a simple majority of votes in the House, conviction and removal of a president requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate — an extremely high hurdle.

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<sup>th</sup> attack on the US Capitol. The Senate failed to convict him either time.

There's still some hope. The midterms are coming up in November. As of earlier last week, prediction markets give Democrats a 78 percent chance of winning a majority in the House. However, that was before the Virginia Supreme Court tossed that state's voter-approved congressional map and the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. Since then, Republican-controlled legislatures in several southern states have been busily redrawing their maps to favor Republican candidates. We'll have to wait and see how that turns out.

To retake the senate, it looks like Democrats need to retain all thirteen of their seats up for election this year — Delaware, Oregon, Rhode Island, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Virginia, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Georgia — and they need to flip four seats now held by Republicans. In recent polls, Democrats appear tied or even ahead in these races — Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, and Alaska. There are also signs that Republicans could be in danger in two more states where Trump won by double digits — Iowa and Texas. Prediction markets now give Democrats a 50/50 chance of winning a majority in the Senate.

## 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>. 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](mailto:cwstockwell@gmail.com).



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Tuscola County  
a better place  
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by the Tuscola County Democratic Party  
P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723

Elect Democrats