

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

March 2024

Volume 3, Issue 3

## 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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## March Bowling Event & Monthly Meeting



Tuscola Democrats are pleased to invite you for an evening of bowling on **Thursday, March 21**, at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive, in Caro. The bowling event will begin at 4:30 p.m., and two bowling lanes have been reserved for us. As always, we will be seeking new volunteers. See you there.

After bowling, we will have a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by our regular monthly meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please come and talk with fellow Democrats about our plans for a big win in November and find out how you can help.

Please consider becoming a Democratic candidate for local public office. Many positions are up for election this year, and you don't have to be a lawyer or an accountant to run — all you need is grit and a desire to serve our community. We are ready to show you the ropes and provide support for your campaign.

## Highlights of Our February Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15. Twenty members were in attendance. Secretary Chuck Stockwell reported the results of our phone banking program aimed at recruiting volunteers for this year's elections. Vice-chair Alex Kirsch gave us a run-down on current events. Then we broke into working groups. One group worked on the Contest Every Race project and the other group worked on strategies for party building. Afterwards, group leaders gave summaries of their groups' work to the entire membership. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

## A Call for Candy



Last year, Tuscola Dems delivered Easter bags to residents of the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, and we heard many times that it was good to see some Democrats come around. We plan to do the same thing again this year and are asking for donations of candy for the Easter bags. If you are willing to donate candy (or money to buy candy), please bring it to our meeting on March 21 or call Deb at (989) 673-6569 and she will have someone come by and pick it up.

Thanks!

## Michigan's Presidential Primary Election

Michigan held its presidential primary on February 27 for both Republican and Democratic candidates. Voters cast ballots for their preferred candidate, but it's the delegates to national party conventions who actually select presidential nominees.

Democrats will send 3,900 delegates from across the country to our national convention to be held August 19-22 in Chicago. Michigan will send 139 delegates, divided into two categories — pledged and unpledged. We will send 117 delegates who are pledged to vote for a particular candidate on the first ballot. If no candidate wins on the first ballot, pledged delegates will be free to vote for the candidate of their choice on subsequent ballots. We will also send 22 unpledged delegates, who are free to vote for the candidate of their choice, but cannot vote on the first ballot. A candidate must receive at least 15 percent of the vote in our primary election to qualify for pledged delegates.

Republicans will send 2,429 delegates to their national convention to be held July 15-18 in Milwaukee. Michigan Republicans will send 55 delegates — 16 of them awarded based on the result of the February 27 primary and the remaining 39 allocated based on their state party caucus on March 2.

Why did Michigan Republicans hold both a primary and a caucus? That's because Democrats, who control the state government, passed a law last year that moved up Michigan's primary date to February 27. (Previously it was on the second Tuesday in March). Republicans didn't like the change, because it conflicted with rules set by their national party that bar states from holding nominating contests before March 1. To avoid being docked delegates by their national party, they adopted the hybrid nominating system.

## Results of the Primary

There are approximately 8.2 million registered voters in Michigan. About 1.9 million of them (24 percent) voted in the presidential primary on February 27. Each voter was required to select either a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot.

768,246 Michiganders selected a Democratic ballot. 623,415 of them (81 percent) voted for President Biden, and he was awarded 115 pledged Michigan delegates at the Democratic National Convention. Voters also had the option of voting “uncommitted.” 101,436 Democratic voters (13 percent) chose this option, which was widely interpreted as a statement of opposition to Biden’s support for Israel’s war in Gaza. “Uncommitted” voters were awarded two pledged Michigan delegates. Marianne Williamson received 22,805 votes (3 percent) and Dean Phillips received 20,454 votes (3 percent). Neither of these candidates received more than 15 percent of the vote, so neither was awarded any pledged delegates. (Williamson had already dropped out of the race.)

1,088,774 Michiganders selected a Republican ballot. 758,892 of them (68 percent) voted for Trump, and he was awarded 12 pledged delegates to the Republican National Convention. 296,328 voters (27 percent) went for Nikki Haley, and she was awarded 4 pledged delegates. 33,554 Republican voters (3 percent) voted “uncommitted.” Also on the ballot were Ryan Binkley and four other candidates — Ron DeSantis, Chris Christie, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Asa Hutchinson — who had already dropped out of the race. Since “uncommitted” voters and those other candidates received less than 15 percent of the vote, they were awarded no pledged delegates. Trump was also awarded 39 pledged delegates at the Michigan Republican caucus held on March 2 in Grand Rapids.

In Tuscola County, there are 37,420 registered voters and 11,488 of them (31 percent) voted in the primary. 2546 Tuscola County voters selected a Democratic ballot. 2080 of them (81 percent) voted for President Biden, 319 (12 percent) voted “uncommitted,” 78 (3 percent) voted for Marianne Williams, and 69 (3 percent) voted for Dean Phillips.

8330 Tuscola County voters selected a Republican ballot. Trump received 6475 votes (78 percent), Haley received 1431 votes (17 percent), 240 voters (3 percent) voted “uncommitted,” and the other five candidates received a few votes each.

## What’s Next?

Looks like it will be Biden vs. Trump in November and the fate of the country is on the line. Michigan is once again a must-win state for Biden, and as Democrats, our job is to make sure he wins. That means getting every Democratic voter to the polls and getting our message out to independents, soft Republicans, and others who haven’t been paying close attention.

What should we be talking about?

**1. Women’s Rights.** The Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe vs. Wade proved to be a galvanizing moment for Michiganders who support abortion rights. They put abortion rights on the ballot with Proposition 3, which secures the right to reproductive freedom in Michigan. After taking the majority in the Legislature, Democrats repealed bans on abortion procedures and abortion-inducing drugs and added protection for abortion recipients to the state’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, which bans employers from firing, demoting, or otherwise discriminating against an employee who gets an abortion. Later last year, lawmakers passed bills to remove other abortion restrictions in state law, including bans on insurance companies covering abortion without an opt-in rider, bans on most late-term abortions, and building codes for

abortion facilities that make it difficult for new clinics to open. Polls indicate that women's rights will be Issue #1 for Democrats in Michigan, even more so after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are people and anyone who destroys them could face criminal penalties.

**2. Immigration.** President Biden finds himself underwater with voters, including Democrats, on immigration. We must let voters know that last month, the Senate passed a bipartisan immigration bill — put together by Republican James Lankford, independent Kyrsten Sinema, and Democrat Chris Murphy — that would tighten asylum rules, allow for partial border shutdowns, beef up border security, combat human trafficking, expedite immigration review, and open new avenues for legal migration. President Biden said he would sign the bill, but Trump, eager to keep problems at the southern border as a campaign issue, said he didn't like it, and Speaker Mike Johnson refused to bring it to the floor of the House.

**3. Palestinians.** Michigan is home to more than 200,000 Arab Americans. They voted overwhelmingly Democratic in 2020, and even modest defection this year spells trouble for Biden. We must let voters know that although the president demonstrated sympathy and support for Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack, his administration has worked tirelessly with Arab allies, first mediating a brief halt in fighting in November and more recently trying to negotiate a longer cease-fire to release the Israeli hostages and to bring humanitarian relief to Gaza. Everyone knows this war has led to the wholesale killing of Palestinians. Everyone also knows that the U.S. effort to rein in the Israeli assault has been rejected by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or blocked by unacceptable demands from Hamas.

**4. Ukraine.** The second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has passed, and it has become a commonplace to say that time favors Putin. Ukraine is running low on ammunition, American military assistance is in doubt, and Russia seems determined to fight on. We must let voters know that largely due to President Biden's leadership, the European Union has come together in its support for Ukraine. Previously divided, the bloc has acted in near unanimity — Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary being the only exception — to oppose Putin's act of aggression. Furthermore, two more countries, Finland and Sweden, have joined NATO. Neither had shown the slightest inclination to sign up before the invasion and both have first-rate armies. What's more, Russia's attack has jolted NATO countries into rethinking their longstanding aversion to boosting military expenditures. This year, 18 member states are reportedly set to meet the goal of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on their militaries — a sixfold increase.

**5. Bidenomics.** The Democratic party is hemorrhaging support from the white working class. More than 60 percent of Americans over 25 do not have a four-year college degree, and it's hard to win a presidential election without them. We must let voters know that after Joe Biden won the White House, he immediately began pursuing an ambitious agenda to support the working class. The economic results have been fantastic. The U.S. economy has created more than 10 million production and nonsupervisory jobs. Sixty-one percent of the jobs created by the infrastructure law initiated by Biden don't require a college degree. The same applies for 58 percent of the jobs created by the Inflation Reduction Act and 44 percent of the jobs created by the CHIPS act. The new laws have directed almost \$82 billion into the nation's employment-

distressed counties. As a result, we are in the middle of an employment boom in many of the places that had previously been left behind. Have these huge spending programs increased working-class support for the Democratic Party? The answer so far is a resounding no. Biden's economic policies have done little to help the Democratic Party politically. In fact, the party continues to lose working-class support. Voters now are saying they trust Trump more than Biden to handle the economy.

**6. Trump.** Democrats don't like going negative, but perhaps our best issue is Trump himself, his character and his plans for a second term.

Trump begins his 2024 election campaign with baggage that would stop any other politician. Before he became president, Trump created a for-profit education venture, Trump University, and a family charity, the Trump Foundation. Both were shut down by court order for fraud and ordered to pay millions of dollars in penalties. Trump has been convicted of sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll and calling her a liar when she wrote about it and ordered to pay her \$83 million in damages. He has been found liable for inflating the value of his assets to obtain favorable loan terms and lower insurance premiums and ordered to pay more than \$454 million in penalties and interest. He is currently facing trial for falsifying business records to conceal hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels.

We must let voters know that as president, Trump was impeached for pressuring Zelensky to dig up dirt on Hunter Biden. He was impeached a second time for attempting to stay in office after his defeat in the 2020 presidential election. He is now facing criminal trials for scheming to overturn his 2020 election loss and for taking top-secret documents to Mar-a-Lago and trying to hide them from the FBI.

We must let voters know that Trump has said, if elected for a second term, he will be a dictator "for one day" and then "seal up the border and drill, baby, drill." He has said he will direct the Justice Department to investigate his political rivals and his critics in the media. He has said he intends to force independent federal agencies — like the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission — to submit any new regulations to the White House for approval before issuing them. He has said he intends to reclassify about fifty thousand career federal employees as employees who serve at the pleasure of the president, which means he could fire them and replace them with people he believes are more loyal to him. He has vowed to impound funds, that is, refuse to spend money appropriated by Congress for programs he doesn't like. He said, "For 54 years they were trying to get Roe v. Wade terminated, and I did it, and I'm proud to have done it." He said "Obamacare Sucks!" and he wants to repeal it. He has said he would encourage Russia to attack NATO allies who don't pay enough for their defense. He has said he would end the Ukraine war "in one day" by telling Zelensky "to make a deal." He has vowed to "carry out the largest domestic deportation operation in American history," using local police as well as federal troops to round people up and move them to camps for deportation.

Make  
Tuscola County  
a better place  
to live.



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P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

**Elect Democrats**