

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

October 2026

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8

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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Notice of Our October Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, October 15th**, at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive in Caro. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Highlights of Our September Meeting

Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th, at the Brentwood. Twenty-two members and three guests attended the meeting in person, and three members attended via Zoom. Guest speakers Jason Bitzer, candidate for Tuscola County District Court Judge, and Suzanne Smith, candidate for Caro Area District Library Board, told us about themselves and their goals if elected to office. Vice Chair Lynn Kunze Adams gave us an update of current events. Chair Alex Kirsch and April Osentoski told us about their trip to the Data Center in Dowagiac. Chair Alex Kirsch reviewed plans for upcoming local events, including a debate between Jack Bader and Briar Bearss, the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival Parade, a "Dunk a Democrat" fundraiser, and a No Kings protest on October 17th. Bob DeCoe told us about being a poll challenger. We passed a motion to postpone our annual fundraiser until the Spring of 2027. 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!

Pumpkin Festival Parade



On Sunday, October 4th, Tuscola Democrats marched once again in the Pumpkin Festival parade alongside our float decorated with signs, pumpkins, and straw bales.



Here we are getting ready to head out.

“The weather was perfect and we got lots of thumbs up from the crowd,” said Chair Alex Kirsch. “And a special shoutout goes to Sherene McCloy for a great job getting the float ready!”

No Kings: Vote Early



On Saturday, October 17th, Tuscola Democrats will be protesting from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of the Tuscola County Courthouse. We'll be joining Americans across the nation for a day of nonpartisan voter participation. We want to make sure that all eligible voters have a plan, know their options, and are ready to make their voices heard.

If you're willing to help setting up this event, please contact the organizer, April Dicks, at april.dicks14@gmail.com or give her a call at (330) 844-2724.

We'll see you there!

Guess Who's Coming to Caro!



Abdul El-Sayed will be speaking in Caro on Saturday, October 17th.

If you wish to attend this event, you must register in advance at: <https://mobilize.us/s/VtsiQc>.

After registration, you will receive notification of the event location.

Doors will open at 3:30 p.m., and the event will start at 4:30 p.m.

Can Democrats Win Back the US House?

All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives are up for election in November, and we need to win 218 of those seats to gain a majority. As of October 8th, the closely watched Cook Political Report rates 208 races as solid, likely, or leaning Democratic, 205 races as solid, likely, or leaning Republican, and 22 races as tossups. Even if Democrats manage to hold onto all 208 seats currently rated as solid, likely, or leaning Democratic, we still need to win at least 10 of the 22 races rated as tossups to gain a majority.

Here's a list of tossup US House races:

1. Arizona's 6th district lies in southeast part of the state and includes most of Tucson. Incumbent Republican US Representative Juan Ciscomani faces Democratic challenger JoAnna Mendoza.
2. California's 22nd district lies in the southern Central Valley. Incumbent Republican US Representative David Valadao faces Democratic challenger Randy Villegas.
3. Colorado's 8th district covers northern Denver and extends northward from there. Incumbent Republican US Representative Gabe Evans faces Democratic challenger Manny Rutinel.
4. Florida's 14th district covers the Tampa Bay area. Incumbent Democratic US Representative Kathy Castor faces Republican challenger Mike Beltran.
5. Florida's 22nd district spans southwest Florida across the Everglades to the Atlantic coast. It is an open seat. The Democratic nominee Pia Dandiya faces Republican nominee Casey Askar.
6. Florida's 25th district lies in south Florida along the Atlantic Coast. Incumbent Democratic US Representative Jared Moskowitz faces Republican challenger Scott Singer.
7. Iowa's 1st district lies in the south-central part of the state and includes Iowa City. Incumbent Republican US Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks faces Democratic challenger Christina Bohannon.
8. Iowa's 3rd district covers Des Moines and extends southward to the Missouri border. Incumbent Republican US Representative Zach Nunn faces Democratic challenger Sarah Trone Garriott.
9. Michigan's 7th district lies in mid-Michigan and includes the state capital of Lansing. Incumbent Republican US Representative Tom Barrett faces Democratic challenger Will Lawrence.
10. Michigan's 10th district covers southern Macomb County and parts of eastern Oakland County. This is an open seat. The Democratic nominee Christina Hines faces Republican nominee Michael Bouchard.

Note that in Michigan's 9th district, which includes Tuscola County, incumbent US Representative Lisa McClain faces Democratic challenger Ray Pooley. The Cook Political Report rates this race as solid Republican.

11. New York's 17th district lies in the Hudson Valley north of New York City. Incumbent Republican US Representative Mike Lawler faces Democratic challenger Cait Conley.
12. North Carolina's 11th district lies in the mountainous western part of the state, including Asheville. This is an open seat. The Democratic nominee Jamie Ager faces Republican nominee Jennifer Balkcom.
13. Ohio's 7th district covers the area just south of Cleveland. Incumbent Republican US Representative Max Miller faces Democratic challenger Brian Poindexter.
14. Ohio's 9th district lies in the northwestern part of the state and includes Toledo. Incumbent Democratic US Representative Marcy Kaptur faces Republican challenger Derek Merrin.
15. Pennsylvania's 7th district mainly covers the Lehigh Valley, including Allentown. Incumbent Republican US Representative Ryan Mackenzie faces Democratic challenger Bob Brooks.
16. Pennsylvania's 8th district lies in the northeastern part of the state, including Scranton. Incumbent Republican US Representative Rob Bresnahan Jr. faces Democratic challenger Paige Cognetti.
17. Pennsylvania's 10th district lies in the south-central part of the state including the state capital of Harrisburg. Incumbent Republican US Representative Scott Perry faces Democratic challenger Janelle Stelson.
18. Texas' 15th district covers the Rio Grande Valley. Incumbent Republican US Representative Monica De La Cruz faces Democratic challenger Bobby Pulido.
19. Texas' 34th district lies along the Gulf Coast. Incumbent Democratic US Representative Vicente Gonzalez Jr. faces Republican challenger Eric Flores.
20. Virginia's 2nd district lies on the Eastern Shore and includes Virginia Beach. Incumbent Republican US Representative Jennifer Kiggans faces Democratic challenger Elaine Luria.
21. Washington's 3rd district lies in the southwestern part of the state. Incumbent Democratic US Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez faces Republican challenger John Braun.
22. Wisconsin's 3rd district lies in the southwestern part of the state. Incumbent Republican US Representative Derrick Van Orden faces Democratic challenger Rebecca Cooke.

Can Democrats Win Back the US Senate?

Democrats hold 34 US Senate seats that are not up for election in November. We need at least 51 seats to ensure an outright Senate majority (because JD Vance gets to cast his vote for the Republicans in the event of a 50-50 tie.) So even if Democrats manage to hold onto all thirteen seats up for election this year that are rated by the Cook Political Report as solid, likely, or leaning Democratic, we still need to win at least four of the seven races rated as tossups to reach a majority. That's a tall order.

Here's a list of tossup US Senate races:

1. In Alaska, former Democratic US Representative Mary Peltola, is challenging incumbent Republican US Senator Dan Sullivan, who has served as Alaska's junior senator since 2015. No Democrat has won a US Senate race in Alaska since 2008.
2. In Iowa, Republican US Senator Joni Ernst announced that she would not seek a third term. Democrats nominated Iowa state representative Josh Turek as their candidate for her open seat. He is facing the Republican nominee, US Representative Ashley Hinson. No Democrat has won a Senate race in Iowa since 2008.
3. In Kansas, incumbent Republican US Senator Roger Marshall is facing Democratic challenger Adam Hamilton, who has never held public office. No Democrat has won a Senate race in Kansas since 1932.
4. In Maine, Graham Platner won this year's Democratic primary for US Senate but withdrew following an allegation of sexual assault. Democrats scrambled to find a replacement and settled on Troy Jackson. He now faces incumbent Republican Senator Susan Collins, who has served as Maine's senator since 1996. No Democrat has won a Senate race in Maine since 1988.
5. In Michigan, Democratic Senator Gary Peters announced that he will not seek another term. Democrats nominated Abdul El-Sayed, a progressive Democrat and a Muslim who has never held public office, as their candidate for his open seat. He is facing the Republican nominee, former US Representative Mike Rogers. No Republican has won a Senate race in Michigan since 1994.
6. In Ohio, former Democratic US Senator Sherrod Brown is trying to stage a comeback after his defeat for reelection in 2024. Standing in his way is incumbent Republican US Senator Jon Husted, who was appointed in 2025 by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine to serve out JD Vance's term.
7. In Texas, Ken Paxton, the state's scandal-plagued attorney general, won the Republican nomination by defeating incumbent US Senator John Cornyn. Democrats nominated James Talarico, a Presbyterian seminarian and Texas state senator. No Democrat has won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, and Republicans have held both of Texas' US Senate seats for more than three decades.

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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.



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Tuscola County
a better place
to live.

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P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723

Elect Democrats