

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

January 2024

Volume 3, Issue 1

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.

Contact Info

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

(989) 262-9885

Tuscola Democrats
@gmail.com

Notice of Our January Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, January 18, 2024**. The meeting will be held 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 December Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21. Thirteen members and two guests were in attendance. Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events. Vicki Leland told us about the community service project that she organized — distributing packages containing food, essential household supplies, and Christmas presents to ten Caro-area families. Then we broke into two working groups. The Party Building group came up with a phone banking campaign aimed at recruiting volunteers for next year's elections. The Candidate Recruitment group worked on a plan to identify potential Democratic candidates for local public office. The leader of each group presented that group's work to the entire membership. 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 desire.

Thank you!

Elections in 2024

In 2024, there will be three (maybe four) elections in Michigan: (1) the Presidential Primary Election on February 27, (2) the Michigan Primary on August 6, (3) the General Election on November 5, and (4) maybe an election on May 7, ballot as yet unknown.

In the Presidential Primary Election on February 27, three Democratic candidates will be on the ballot: (1) Joe Biden, (2) Dean Phillips, a Minnesota congressman, and (3) Marianne Williamson, an author. Seven Republican candidates will be on the ballot: (1) Doug Burgum, North Dakota governor, (2) Chris Christie, former New Jersey governor, (3) Ron DeSantis, Florida governor, (4) Nikki Haley, former South Carolina governor, (5) Asa Hutchinson, former Arkansas governor, (6) Vivek Ramaswamy, a businessman, and (7) Donald Trump. You may vote for only one candidate, either Democrat or Republican, and you do not have to register as a member of any party to vote.

To be eligible to vote in Michigan, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- A Michigan resident for at least 30 days by the time you vote.
- Be at least 17.5 years old, and be 18 by Election Day.
- Not currently serving a jail or prison sentence.

To vote in Michigan, you must register first. You can register in one of three ways:

- In-person at your local clerk's office by obtaining and returning a voter registration application. Along with the application, you must provide proof of residency. This can be a valid Michigan ID, utility bills, credit card or banking statements, or other government documents. Within 14 days of an election, registration has to take place in person at a local clerk's office. You may register at your local clerk's office up until polls close on Election Day.
- Online by visiting the Michigan Voter Information Center at michigan.gov/vote. You can register to vote online up to 15 days before the election.
- Through the mail by printing off an application online at michigan.gov/vote, picking up an application at your local clerk's office, or by requesting your local clerk to mail you an application. Voter registration applications sent through the mail must be postmarked at least 15 days before the election.

There are three ways to cast your ballot in Michigan:

- In-person at your polling location on Election Day. When voting in person, you will be asked to sign in and provide an ID. If you do not have an ID, you will be asked to sign a

form verifying your identity. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. You have the right to vote if you are in line by 8 p.m.

- By absentee ballot. To obtain an absentee ballot, apply online at michigan.gov/vote up to 5 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day. You can also pick up an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office or request that an application be mailed to you.

Once you have your absentee ballot, fill it out, place it in the envelope provided, and sign the outside of the envelope. Your completed ballot must be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day to count.

You may turn in your absentee ballot (a) by mail, (b) by dropping it off at your city or township clerk's office or in a secure drop box provided by your clerk, (c) by having an immediate family member or a person residing in your household drop it off for you, or (d) by having your city or township clerk pick up your completed ballot. To use this option, your completed ballot must be located within the city or township where you vote, and you must call your city or township clerk by 5 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day to request that your ballot be picked up.

- By voting in person using a regular ballot for nine days before Election Day (from Saturday, February 17 through Sunday, February 25, for the Presidential Primary Election) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. In Tuscola County, there will be seven early voting sites:
 1. Novesta, Elkland, Ellington, Elmwood, Kingston, and Koylton township residents may vote early at the Novesta Township Hall.
 2. Fairgrove, Akron, Columbia, and Gilford township residents may vote early at the Fairgrove Township Hall.
 3. City of Caro and Almer, Indianfields, and Wells township residents may vote early at Caro's Municipal Building.
 4. City of Vassar and Denmark, Juniata, and Vassar township residents may vote early at the Vassar City Hall,
 5. Watertown, Dayton, and Fremont township residents may vote early at the Watertown Township Hall.
 6. Tuscola, Millington, and Arbela township residents may vote early at the Tuscola Township Hall.
 7. Wisner Township residents may vote early at the Wisner Township Hall.

There will be no early voting on Monday, February 26. That day is reserved for preparations for Election Day. On Election Day, you must vote at your regular polling place, not an early-voting site.

What Happened in Detroit on November 17, 2020?

Craig Mauger of *The Detroit News* recently reported that he has obtained recordings of a telephone conversation on November 17, 2020, between Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel and Donald Trump and the two Republican members of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, Monica Palmer and William Hartmann. In that conversation, McDaniel and Trump told the two canvassers not to sign the papers certifying the 2020 presidential election. Trump told them they would look “terrible” if they signed the documents. McDaniel promised, “We will get you attorneys,” to which Trump added, “We’ll take care of that.”

Palmer and Hartmann took that call while sitting in a vehicle parked outside Wayne County's election department building on East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. Earlier that day, they had voted first to block and then to approve certification of the election. Afterwards, they left the canvasser's meeting without signing the certification papers, got the call from McDaniel and Trump, and never came back. The following day, they attempted to rescind their votes in favor of certification, filing legal affidavits claiming they had been pressured. As it turned out, their votes to approve certification were already a matter of record and so their signatures weren't needed to advance the process to the State Board of Canvassers. The state board certified Biden's victory on November 23, 2020.

Immediately after Mauger's story came out, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson recalled on X (Twitter) what happened on November 17 and what was at stake. She wrote:

“Tonight feels like a good time to tell you all that, for me, the absolute lowest moment in the post election battle we endured to protect Michigan's accurate and legitimate election results in 2020 was not when armed protestors stormed my home. It was the night of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers meeting.”

“I distinctly remember coming home that evening feeling completely defeated. We knew about the pressure not to certify (though until tonight I did not know about the recording). We were prepared to go to court to successfully ensure certification at the local and state level - and we were confident we'd win in court. But blocking certification in Wayne County and pushing this to the courts would still delay and create enough doubt and uncertainty to enable the Trump campaign to push Pennsylvania, which was certifying the next week, to delay as well. And we knew other dominos would fall after that.”

“Well, then something I'll never forget happened. Hundreds - hundreds (!) - of citizens showed up to the meeting of the Wayne County Canvassing Board to remind them of their duty under the law to ensure their votes counted. In my view that turned the tide. Citizens and election officials in Wayne County and statewide didn't flinch, stood firm, and demanded their votes be certified as required under the law. And in the end, the Wayne County Canvassing Board fulfilled their legal duty, followed the law, and certified the election.”

“What started as the lowest moment of the post election melee became the most inspiring. The voters won. Facts and the rule of law carried the day. Democracy prevailed.”

An Amicus Brief from Republican Lawyers

On December 1, District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled that former President Trump was not immune from prosecution in the election subversion case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith in August. On December 23, the Trump legal team filed a brief asking the Appeals Court to throw out the case, arguing that Trump is protected under presidential immunity.

On December 29, an extraordinary thing happened. Sixteen prominent Republican lawyers — former prosecutors and government officials — submitted an amicus brief in the case. Those individuals are:

- Bradford Berenson, who served as Associate Counsel to President George W. Bush.
- Gregory Brower, who served as U.S. Attorney appointed by President George W. Bush.
- Tom Campbell, who served as Republican U.S. Congressman from California.
- Ty Cobb, who served as Special Counsel to President Trump.
- Tom Coleman, former Republican U.S. congressman from Missouri.
- George Conway, author of the brief opposing immunity in *Clinton v. Jones* (1997).
- John Farmer, who served as U.S. Attorney appointed by President George H.W. Bush.
- Patrick Fitzgerald, former U.S. Attorney appointed by President George W. Bush.
- William Kristol, who served as Chief of Staff to Vice President Dan Quayle.
- Philip Lacovara, who served as Deputy Solicitor General in the Nixon Administration.
- John McKay, who served as U.S. Attorney in the George W. Bush Administration.
- Trevor Potter, former FEC Chairman, appointed by President George H.W. Bush.
- Claudine Schneider, former Republican U.S. congresswoman from Rhode Island.
- Fern Smith, who served as U.S. District Court Judge, appointed by President Reagan.
- Olivia Troye, former Special Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence.
- William Weld, who has served as Republican Governor of Massachusetts.

The brief argues that Trump's request that the court grant him absolute immunity from federal criminal prosecution for all official acts he took while President has no basis in constitutional text, structure, or history. It explains in detail why the immunity sought by Trump "*is inconsistent with our Constitution and would subvert the bedrock principle that no person is above the law.*"

Read the full text of the amicus brief [here](#).

Make
Tuscola County
a better place
to live.



*Paid for with regulated funds
by the Tuscola County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

Elect Democrats