

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

January 2025

Volume 4, 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 Us

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## Notice of Our January Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, January 16, 2025**, 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 December 21, 2024. Thirteen members were in attendance. Alex Krisch gave us a rundown of current events, the state legislative session, and the activities of the Rural Caucus. He also outlined a proposal for starting a Michigan chapter of Progressive Democrats of America. Vicki Leland gave us a rundown of the work by Tuscola Dems to provide food and Christmas presents for five low-income Tuscola County families as part of a project of the Thumb Area Mud Runners Four Wheel Drive Club. Sherene McCloy gave us a rundown of activities of the Party Building Committee, including the Christmas cards she sent out to all members and status of contributions to the David Sierocki Memorial Scholarship Fund. 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 wish.

Thank you!

## Michigan Democratic State Convention

Don't forget: The 2025 Spring State Convention of the Michigan Democratic Party will be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center on Saturday, February 22, 2025. After nearly six years as chair, Lavora Barnes is stepping down and a new chair will be chosen. The convention is free, but if you wish to attend and vote, you must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party for at least 30 days, which means that if you are not already a member, you must sign up on or before Thursday, January 23. To sign up, go to <https://michigandems.com/join/>. You may join as a "Grassroots" member without paying any membership dues.

## Trump's Plans for a Second Term

Trump had an eventful year in 2024. \$350 million in court-ordered payments in a civil fraud case, \$83 million in a defamation case, 34 felony convictions in a hush-money case, two assassination attempts, and the biggie — 312 electoral votes.

Trump is hoping for an even more eventful year in 2025. No one knows exactly how much he can get through Congress and the courts, but here are some of the things he wants to do:

**1. Extending 2017 tax cuts.** Some of Trump's 2017 tax cuts are set to expire at the end of 2025, and he wants to extend them plus add a few new ones, such as ending taxes on tips and overtime. The Congressional Budget Office is saying those tax cuts would add almost \$5 trillion to the current \$36 trillion in national debt over the next decade, raising concerns among economists that major new borrowing might send federal interest payments soaring, slow economic growth, and spike inflation.

**2. Raising tariffs.** Trump loves tariffs. "Tariffs are the greatest thing ever invented," he said at a campaign rally last fall. As a candidate, Trump called for "universal" tariffs on everything imported into the US, but lately he has been talking about imposing tariffs only on "critical imports," such as industrial materials (steel, iron, aluminum, and copper), medical supplies (syringes, needles, vials, and pharmaceuticals), and energy production (batteries, rare earth minerals, and solar panels). Trump told voters that his planned tariffs were "not going to be a cost to you, it's a cost to another country," but we all know that isn't true. A tariff is simply a tax on goods that enter the US. The tax is collected by US customs agents from the US companies that import foreign goods, not the foreign companies that export them, and the money goes into the US Treasury. Who ends up paying this tax? Three possibilities: (1) If the US importing firm passes along the cost of the tax onto people buying the product by raising its prices, then the US consumer pays the tax. (2) If the US importing firm absorbs the cost of the tax and doesn't pass it on, then that firm pays the tax in the form of lower profits. (3) If the foreign exporter lowers its wholesale prices by the amount of the tax to retain US customers, then the exporting firm pays the tax in the form of lower profits. History tells us that exporting firms almost never lower their wholesale prices and importing firms rarely absorb the cost of tariffs. Instead, they pass it on to US consumers by raising prices. To make matters worse, when domestic manufacturers see prices for imported goods going up, they take the opportunity to raise their own prices. According to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Trump's new tariffs will likely cost a typical American household about \$2600 per year.

**3. Deporting undocumented immigrants.** There are 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US. Trump proposes to deploy the National Guard to round them up and build massive detention camps to hold them. If he has his way, armed troops and out-of-state law enforcement officials will sweep into American cities and towns — knocking on doors, searching workplaces and homes, and interrogating and arresting suspected undocumented immigrants. What would all this cost? According to the American Immigration Council, the cost of a one-time operation to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants would cost the federal government at least \$315 billion. If conducted in phases — say, deporting one million immigrants annually over 11 years — the total cost would rise to approximately \$1 trillion. That’s just the direct cost. There’s more. Undocumented immigrants contribute to the US economy. They grow and harvest our food, construct our homes, and care for our young and elderly. Like the rest of us, they pay federal income taxes and Social Security taxes (even though they are not eligible for benefits), and they pay state and local income, property, and sales taxes. According to the Center for American Progress, deporting 11 million undocumented immigrant workers would cause our GDP to contract immediately by 1.4 percent and eventually by 2.6 percent, ignite a 3 percent jump in inflation within two years, and increase the price of services by almost 10 percent within four years.

**4. Slashing Medicaid,** the public health insurance program for low-income Americans. Trump proposes to impose a lifetime cap on the length of time a person can be enrolled in Medicaid and impose work requirements for those who are still eligible. The stakes are high. Almost 73 million American adults and children rely on Medicaid for affordable health care. Medicaid pays for more than 40 percent of US births, provides supplemental coverage to more than 7 million poor seniors, and insures more than 10 million people with disabilities. If Trump’s lifetime caps are implemented, over 19 million people would be at risk of losing their health care coverage.

**5. Cutting social programs.** Trump has targeted SNAP, a federal program that provides money every month to low-income families to buy groceries. He wants to further limit what kind of food SNAP recipients can buy and increase work requirements for SNAP eligibility. He also wants to eliminate Head Start, a federal program that provides early childhood education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. He also wants to end the child tax credit for noncitizens, which currently gives all parents a tax break for taking care of their children, including noncitizens with children who are US citizens.

**6. Phasing out Title I,** a federal program that provides funds to school districts with a high percentage students from low-income families. The money is used to upgrade educational programs and support services to improve the academic performance of low-achieving students. Sixty-three percent of US school districts take part in the program. The Center for American Progress estimates that without it, the country could lose around 6 percent of its teacher work force, affecting nearly 3 million students.

**7. Abandoning President Biden’s effort to reduce the burden of student debt** on young Americans. For new loans, any loan forgiveness would be eliminated. Borrowers would retire loans by paying 10 percent of income above the poverty line, which would raise monthly payments for those who never earned a college degree to \$308 from \$78. Bachelor’s degree graduates would have to pay nearly three times as much as they pay now.

**8. Repealing large parts of the Inflation Reduction Act**, which is principally aimed at easing a shift toward renewable energy. Clean energy funding and tax credits would be eliminated, and many emissions regulations would be reversed. Also on the chopping block: the government's power to negotiate drug price reductions. Trump and congressional Republicans want to spur domestic fossil fuel production and hope to give a green light to major expansion of energy production on protected federal lands. Among the moves they are considering are revoking the \$7,500 electric vehicle tax credit, new vehicle emissions rules, and other incentives for clean energy production.

**9. Banning the antiabortion drugs.** Trump knows that a ban on abortion is deeply unpopular among American voters, so he has flip-flopped on where exactly he stands. He has said he wouldn't sign a national abortion ban (although he wouldn't say whether he would veto one if it landed on his desk). Experts have suggested that he will try to restrict access to abortion pills, especially when they are administered through telehealth or delivered by mail. The main target would be the abortion pill, mifepristone, which blocks a hormone needed for pregnancy development. Since its approval in 2000, the use of the mifepristone has soared and now accounts for 63 percent of all abortions in this country, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Trump and his aides are talking about reviving the Comstock Act, an 1873 anti-obscenity law that, among other things, makes it a crime to send or receive drugs and other articles used in abortion care by mail or common carriers like UPS and FedEx.

**10. Reclassifying about 50,000 civil servants as political appointees.** Trump has long argued that the "deep state" — by which he means the federal bureaucracy — has stymied many of the things he wants to do. In 2020, he tried to address his concern by issuing Schedule F, which would allow him to reclassify top-level career federal employees as employees who serve at the pleasure of the president, which means he could fire them as will. Biden repealed Schedule F as soon as he took office, but now Trump wants it reinstated. That would create a huge increase in the number of political appointees (there are currently only about 4,000), which would substantially increase presidential power.

**11. Cutting 'unauthorized' programs:** Before congress spends money, it's supposed to "authorize" that spending by passing a separate law that says how the money is to be spent. In recent years, that practice has been mostly ignored. The Congressional Budget Office says that many government agencies and programs now run without congressional authorization, including the FBI, the DEA, the State Department, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Weather Service, and NASA. This means there's a huge pot of money appropriated by congress, but not authorized. Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who head up Trump's so-called "Department of Government Efficiency," say they want to claw back at least some of it.

**12. Taking revenge on political enemies.** Trump has nominated Pam Bondi as attorney general in the hope that she will appoint a slew of special prosecutors to go after those he feels have wronged him. These plans have been in the works since 2021, and they target not just Biden, whom Trump believes is the primary force behind his legal woes, but also Special Counsel Jack Smith, Attorney General Merrick Garland, FBI Director Christopher Wray, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and many others.

2025 will be an eventful year. Buckle up!

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a better place  
to live.



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