

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

June 2026

Volume 5, Issue 6

## 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

tuscolademocrats@gmail.com

## Contact Us

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

## Follow Us

<https://www.tuscoladems.com>

<http://facebook.com/tuscoladems>

## Notice of Our June Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**, at our new headquarters, 451 North State Street, Caro, MI. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., and there will be pizza. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

## Highlights of Our May Meeting

Chair Alex Kirsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Brentwood. Twenty-one members and five guests were in attendance. Our guest speakers were Sam Senter, candidate for Caro Library Board of Trustees, and Martin Cousineau, candidate for Michigan State Senator for the 26<sup>th</sup> District. Both candidates told us about their backgrounds, qualifications, and goals if elected to office. Vice Chair Lynn Kunze Adams gave us an update of current events. April Dicks gave us an update on the Caro Pop-up Protests. Sherene McCloy announced this year's recipients of David Sierocki Memorial Scholarships. Alex Kirsch reviewed last month's Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention in Detroit and told us about plans to open our new headquarters office on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Vicki Leland told us about the League of Women Voters voter registration drive in area high schools. Bob DeCoe talked about Trump's war with Iran. 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!

## Caro Weekly Pop-up Protests



We're protesting on the sidewalk in front of the Tuscola County Courthouse every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us! Bring a sign, a flag, or just bring yourself.

We have a new Facebook page where we regularly post updates, reflections, and weekly theme. To visit, click on: <https://facebook.com/share/g/1EHWM9BmiX/> or search "The Caro Pop-up."

## David Sierocki Memorial Scholarships



This year, two outstanding local students earned David Sierocki Memorial Scholarships.

One of the recipients is MaKaylin Fall (on the left). She's a graduate of Vassar 6-12 Building and is headed to Alma College in the fall to study pre-med.

The other recipient is Marshal Smith (on the right). He's a graduate of Mayville Community Schools and will attend Oakland University in the fall to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

Congratulations to both of you!

## Our New Headquarters



On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we began moving 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.

Beginning on June 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll be open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and every other Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. We'll be conducting all our party business and monthly meetings there.

Please stop by whenever you can! We'll be handing out campaign literature and yard signs for Democratic candidates along with our famous Democratic popcorn.

## The Rise Up, Sing Out Concert



On Sunday, June 14 (which happens to be Trump's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday), No Kings and the Committee for the First Amendment will present *Rise Up, Sing Out: A Concert for the First Amendment* at Town Hall in New York City. The concert features an all-star line-up of performers — Jane Fonda, Patti Smith, Bette Midler, Rufus Wainwright, Sasha Allen, Wilson Cruz, Broadway Inspirational Voices, Joy Reid, and others. We've arranged to live stream this entire concert at our new headquarters at 451 North State Street in Caro.

Please come and join us. Watch the concert! Get inspired by the performances! Sing along if you wish! Eat delicious snacks and our famous Democratic popcorn! Enjoy the company of fellow Democrats! The party begins around 7 p.m. and will last for about two hours.

## Monetizing the Presidency



When Harry S. Truman left the White House in 1953, he had no income other than his Army pension of \$112 a month, but he refused to cash in on his celebrity as a former president. He turned down lucrative corporate board positions, endorsements, and commercial job offers, saying "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people, and it's not for sale."

Subsequent presidents never fully lived up to Truman's rectitude. After leaving office, Gerald Ford accepted high-paying board memberships. Ronald Reagan accepted \$2 million to deliver two 20-minute speeches in Japan. Bill Clinton pocketed over \$40 million in speaking fees.

Despite their willingness to cash in on their celebrity after leaving office, all recent presidents have carefully avoided the appearance of profiting from being president while still in office. They have chosen to either dump their stocks, put their money in broadly diversified funds, or set up "blind trusts," financial vehicles in which the owners of the trust are unaware of how their money is being invested.

But not Trump. He has refused to place his assets in a blind trust. Instead, he placed them in The Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust, managed by his two sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and his longtime business associate, Allen Weisselberg. Trump retains full ownership and control over the trust's holdings, knows exactly what those holdings are, and can alter or revoke the trust at any time. Opportunities for conflicts of interest are obvious.

During the first quarter of this year, Trump's Revocable Trust executed more than 3,700 stock transactions (roughly 50 trades per day), many of them involving companies whose profits have been directly impacted by Trump's decisions as president. Some of those trades involved sizable purchases of shares of technology and AI giants like Nvidia, Dell, Oracle, and Palantir before the Trump administration made policy decisions favoring those firms.

Trump has monetized his presidency in other ways.

Since his election in November 2024, he and his family have pocketed roughly \$4 billion through licensing fees, real estate deals, cryptocurrency, and hawking Trump-branded merchandise — meme coins, watches, perfume, sneakers, phones, and even bibles.

Here are a few examples:

### **Trump's Crypto**

The Trump family crypto business has been by far its biggest moneymaker. They have made at least \$867 million through various cryptocurrencies. People who hope to influence federal policy, including foreigners, can buy his family's coins, effectively transferring money to the Trumps, and the deals are often secret. One deal is now public — a United Arab Emirates-backed investment firm announced plans last year to deposit \$2 billion into a Trump crypto firm. Two weeks later, the president gave that country access to advanced chips.

Trump's sale of crypto keeps spawning new schemes. The latest, WorldClaw, is an AI-services platform that takes payment in Trump-affiliated WLF1 stablecoin, requiring members to invest in these functionally worthless assets to pay for its services. But that's not the worst part. The company is conducting a raffle for dinner with Donald Trump Jr. at his father's Florida home — but is explicitly excluding US residents from attending.

### **Trump's Merchandise**

Trump has made an estimated \$125 million from Trump-branded merchandise since launching his 2024 presidential campaign and entering his second term. He operates The Trump Store, which sells nearly 1,500 different items, including branded golf gear, hats, robes, blankets, glassware, and more. The Trump Store brought in approximately \$8.8 million in 2024 (the latest year for which financial records are available).

Trump also makes licensing deals where companies pay him royalties to manufacture and market items bearing his name. Trump watches have netted over \$2.8 million. His fragrance collection and signature shoes have brought in at least \$2.5 million. He has earned over \$1.3 million from his "God Bless the USA Bible." His "45" guitars have brought in just over \$1 million. His digital trading cards have earned him at least \$7 million.

### **Trump's Foreign Real Estate**

Since his election in 2024, the Trump family has made at least \$23 million from licensing Trump's name overseas. They have partnered with Dar Global, the international branch of Saudi developer Dar Al Arkan, on massive real estate projects valued at roughly \$10 billion. Developments include the Trump Plaza Jeddah, Trump Tower, and the Wadi Safa mansion and golf course project in Riyadh. They also announced a deal to develop a luxury golf resort and villa complex near Doha, involving companies linked to the Qatari government. In addition, they have unveiled plans for Trump Tower Tbilisi — a 70-story skyscraper that would become Georgia's tallest building and the centerpiece of a \$2 billion development. These are a few of the more than 20 overseas projects the Trumps are pursuing.

## Trump's Slush Fund

Trump has conspired with his own Justice Department, headed by his former personal lawyer, Todd Blanche, to use taxpayer money to create \$1.776 billion slush fund to pay off his cronies, including those convicted of committing crimes while storming the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, during Trump's attempt to overturn the 2020 election results.

And that's not all. Trump's Justice Department quietly inserted, as a supplement to that slush fund deal, a one-page document signed by Todd Blanche, stating that the government would be "forever barred and precluded from prosecuting or pursuing pending tax claims against Trump, his family members, or his businesses."

US District Judge Leonie Brinkema has blocked Trump's effort to establish his slush fund, and Todd Blanche has announced that the Justice Department will abandon it entirely. However, Blanche has said the judge's ruling would not affect the agreement shielding Trump from audits of tax returns that he and his family have filed. The Trumps have spent decades avoiding taxes, and this newly won ability to escape from IRS examinations could be worth tens of millions of dollars to them.

## Remember Abrego Garcia?



Kilmer Abrego Garcia is a thirty-one-year-old Salvadoran sheet metal worker who illegally entered the United States as a teenager to escape gang threats. In 2019, he was granted "withholding of removal" status by an immigration judge due to the danger he would face from gang violence if he returned to El Salvador. He has lived in Maryland for fifteen years and has an American wife and children. Nonetheless, Trump's immigration agents arrested and deported him to El Salvador last year, setting in motion a byzantine legal journey that passed through every level of the federal courts, including the Supreme Court.

Here's a look back at what happened:

**On March 12, 2025:** Trump's immigration agents arrested Abrego Garcia in the parking lot of a Home Depot in suburban Maryland. They accused him of being in the country illegally and of being a member of the violent street gang MS-13.

**On March 15, 2025:** Immigration agents deported Abrego Garcia to El Salvador without due process and had him locked up in the notorious CECOT prison. An ICE official later admitted that Abrego Garcia's deportation was an "administrative error."

**On April 4, 2025:** Abrego Garcia's wife sued the US government, and Judge Paula Xinis of Federal District Court in Maryland ruled that his deportation to El Salvador was illegal. She ordered the government to ensure his return to the US no later than April 7.

**On April 10, 2025:** Judge Xinis' order was upheld by the US Supreme Court.

**On April 14, 2025:** Trump's agents, along with President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, said they had no intention of returning Abrego Garcia to the United States.

**On April 15, 2025:** Judge Xinis said she would open an investigation into the recalcitrance of Trump's immigration officials and raised the possibility of contempt charges against them.

**On April 27, 2025:** Robert McGuire, the acting US attorney in Nashville, began working on a criminal case against Abrego Garcia based on a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee where he was pulled over for speeding with nine passengers in the car and released with only a warning.

**On May 21, 2025:** McGuire's team secured a sealed indictment against Abrego Garcia that accused him of taking part in a yearslong conspiracy to smuggle undocumented immigrants as a member of MS-13.

**On June 6, 2025:** The indictment against Abrego Garcia was unsealed, and he was returned to the United States despite repeated assertions by Trump's immigration agents that they were powerless to do exactly that.

**On July 23, 2025:** Judge Waverly Crenshaw of Federal District Court in Tennessee, ordered that Abrego Garcia be freed from criminal custody. At the same time, Judge Xinis issued a separate order protecting him from being expelled from the country again.

**On August 23, 2025:** Trump's agents said they were willing to expel Abrego Garcia to the one place he agreed to go — Costa Rica — but only if he would plead guilty to criminal charges. He refused.

**On August 25, 2025:** Trump's immigration agents detained him again, saying they now planned to expel him to Uganda.

**On September 5, 2025:** After Ugandan officials refused to take him, Trump's immigration agents said they now planned to send him to the small African nation of Eswatini.

**On October 24, 2025:** Trump's agents said they now wanted to expel him to Liberia.

**On December 11, 2025:** Judge Xinis ordered that Abrego Garcia be freed from custody for a second time.

**On May 22, 2026:** Judge Crenshaw finally dismissed the criminal case against Abrego Garcia, ruling that Trump's agents brought human smuggling charges against him in a vindictive effort to punish him for challenging his wrongful deportation to El Salvador.

He still faces possible deportation to a third country.

## 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  
to live.



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