

# Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

August, 2023

Volume 2, Issue 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.

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## Notice of Our August Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. 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 July Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen members and five guests were in attendance. Brian Negovan, UAW Region 1 CAP Coordinator, told us about UAW programs to provide financial support of organizations that share their values. Vice-Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events. Sharene McCloy and Sharon Schwab announced plans for Tuscola Dems' participation in the Mayville Sunflower Festival and the Tuscola County Fair. Mona DeQuis gave us an update on the Michigan Democratic Party's activities and told us how to identify and motivate local Democrats to run for public office. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

## An Easier Way to Donate



Tuscola Dems always welcome your donations. Mark Putnam has come up with a way that makes it even easier 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.

## Tuscola Dems at the Mayville Sunflower Festival



Here are Sharene McCloy and Mark Putnam getting our float ready for the Grand Parade on Friday, July 20.



Here's Sharene again with Sharon Schwab at our booth in the Mayville United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 21, offering items for sale to fund our community service projects and telling folks about the wonderful things Democrats are doing.

## Tuscola Dems at the Tuscola County Fair



We were in our booth at the fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, from Monday, July 24, through Saturday, July 29. Here are Chuck Stockwell and Mark Putnam on Monday, offering items for sale, telling folks about the wonderful things Democrats are doing and handing out bags of our famous Democratic popcorn.

## Tuscola Dems at the Pumpkin Festival



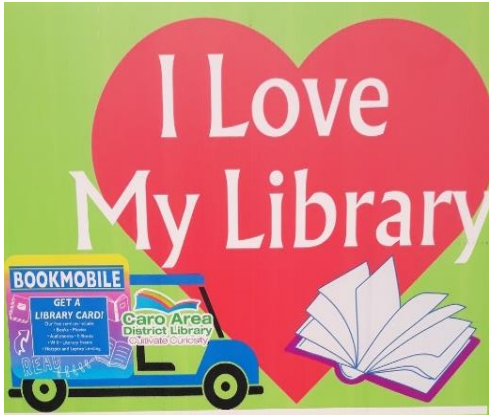
We are planning to have a Tuscola Dems Hay Ride Float in the Grand Parade of the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, which takes place on Sunday, October 8.

Would you like to ride on the float? By yourself? With your family? With your grandkids? It'll be fun.

If you wish to ride, please call Sharon Schwab at (989) 710-0391 and let her know.



## Judge Gearheart Halts Recall of Library Board Members



On July 28, Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Amy Gearheart overturned a decision of the Tuscola County Election Commission, which had ruled that the language on recall petitions submitted by Tuscola County resident Stephanie Spencer against Caro Area District Library board members, Stacy Crutchfield and Jordyn Nordstrom, was clear and factual. Judge Gearheart wrote that the petitions failed to refer to specific books and failed to specify what the board members did wrong.

Judge Gearheart also wrote that “these recall petitions raise serious questions regarding the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, freedom of speech. In the context of a library, the principles of intellectual freedom guide the selection and retention of books, ensuring that diverse perspectives and ideas are available to the public. If the recall petitions aim to penalize Crutchfield and Nordstrom for decisions made regarding the library’s collection, they raise concerns about a potential violation of both their individual freedom of speech and the library’s rights as an institution dedicated to intellectual freedom and the free exchange of knowledge.”

Judge Gearheart’s decision means that Crutchfield and Nordstrom won’t be facing a recall election in November.

Yay!

## Tuscola County Voters Reject Jail Proposal



In the election on Tuesday, August 3, Tuscola County voters shot down the bond proposal to fund a new county jail. The tally for the bond proposal was 3,759 “yes” votes and 5,440 “no” votes. This is the second time voters have rejected this proposal. They shot it down once before in last November’s election.

Another vote on the proposal isn't likely to happen soon, since it has now been rejected twice by voters.

Bummer.

## Talking Points

President Biden has made a powerful case for reelection, both at home and abroad.

At home, he's signed a number of bills that keep his promise to "build the economy from the bottom up and middle out,"<sup>1</sup> setting the stage for an employment boom (more than 13 million jobs) and a manufacturing resurgence. His programs are transforming the heartland, creating well-paying jobs that don't require college degrees, and making life easier and more affordable for average families. Inflation is down to three percent, lower than in any other major economy, while employment is at its strongest rate in half a century.<sup>2</sup> If Biden does nothing else for the last year and a half of his term, he will still be considered one of the most effective presidents of the past century. He can still rack up more wins, albeit probably not of the magnitude that was possible when Democrats had majorities in both chambers of Congress.

Abroad, Biden's accomplishments are equally impressive. NATO is more united today than at any time since the end of the Cold War, and this wouldn't have happened without Biden's leadership. As the world's preeminent military power, the United States calls the shots in NATO. Biden has coordinated NATO's massive flow of arms, ammunition and intelligence to Ukraine — enough to stop Putin's forces in their tracks. Moreover, the Russian invasion spurred Finland to abandon its long-standing neutrality and quickly join NATO. Sweden is also coming in,<sup>3</sup> which turns the Baltic Sea (Russia's maritime gateway since the time of Peter the Great) into a NATO lake, completely ringed by countries that belong to the alliance. The statecraft that went into this achievement required skill, creativity, and patience from all of NATO's leaders. But as first among equals, Biden bore the heaviest burden — and deserves the biggest share of the credit.

<sup>1</sup> Here's a list of major legislation signed by President Biden:

1. The American Rescue Plan.
2. The Paycheck Protection Program
3. Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act,
4. Infrastructure and Jobs Act
5. Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.
6. Postal Service Reform Act.
7. Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.
8. CHIPS and Science Act
9. The Inflation Reduction Act

<sup>2</sup> In a recent article in Fortune magazine, Jeffrey Sonnenfeld and Steven Tian wrote that supply-side economic theories were proved wrong long ago and "the U.S. economy is now pulling off what all those economists said was impossible: strong growth and record employment amidst plummeting inflation. Just as importantly, the fruits of economic prosperity are inclusive and broad-based, amidst a renaissance in American manufacturing, investment, and productivity." They conclude: "Bidenomics is proving to be the most impactful and transformative public investment program since the New Deal."

<sup>3</sup> Just before last month's NATO meeting, Turkish President Erdogan suddenly dropped his objection to Sweden's membership in the alliance. Surely it isn't a coincidence that the Biden administration announced they would support Turkey's bid to buy 40 advanced F-16 fighter jets. If that was Erdogan's price for getting Sweden into NATO — he gets to pay us \$20 billion — then it's a terrific bargain.

## Republican Woes

On July 17, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced felony charges against 16 Republicans<sup>1</sup> for falsely portraying themselves as electors from Michigan in an effort to overturn Trump's 2020 defeat here.

Attorney General Nessel began investigating the matter in early 2021, but referred it to the Justice Department in January, 2022. By January of 2023, federal prosecutors had taken no action, so Nessel announced that "we are reopening our investigation, because I don't know what the federal government plans to do."

Each of the defendants has been charged with eight felony counts.<sup>2</sup> They are alleged to have met covertly in the basement of the Michigan Republican Party headquarters on December 14, 2020, and signed their names to multiple certificates stating they were the "duly elected and qualified electors for President and Vice President of the United States of America for the State of Michigan." These false documents were then transmitted to the United States Senate and National Archives in an effort to award the state's electoral votes to the candidates of their choosing, in place of the candidates actually elected by the people of Michigan.

On August 1, Matthew DePerno, a losing candidate for Michigan attorney general, and Daire Rendon, a former Michigan lawmaker, were charged with felonies as part of an investigation into the improper acquisition of voting machines.<sup>3</sup> Both were arraigned before Chief Judge Jeffery Matis in Oakland County's Sixth Circuit Court and released on personal bond. The charges stem from a Special Prosecutor D. J. Hilson's investigation into a bizarre plot hatched by a group of conservative activists in early 2021 to take voting machines from at least three Michigan counties to hotels and Airbnb rentals in suburban Detroit, where they broke into the machines and performed "tests" on them, hunting for evidence of election fraud.

<sup>1</sup> The charged defendants are:

1. Kathy Berden, of Snover
2. William Choate, of Cement City
3. Amy Facchinello, of Grand Blanc
4. Clifford Frost, of Warren
5. Stanley Grot, of Shelby Township
6. John Haggard, of Charlevoix
7. Mari-Ann Henry, of Brighton
8. Timothy King, of Ypsilanti
9. Michele Lundgren, of Detroit
10. Meshawn Maddock, of Milford
11. James Renner, of Lansing
12. Mayra Rodriguez, of Grosse Pointe Farms
13. Rose Rook, of Paw Paw
14. Marian Sheridan, of West Bloomfield
15. Ken Thompson, of Orleans
16. Kent Vanderwood, of Wyoming

<sup>2</sup> Each defendant has been charged with:

1. One count of Conspiracy to Commit Forgery,
2. Two counts of Forgery.
3. One count of Conspiracy to Commit Uttering and Publishing.
4. One count of Uttering and Publishing.
5. One count of Conspiracy to Commit Election Law Forgery.
6. Two counts of Election Law Forgery.

<sup>3</sup> DePerno was charged with improper possession of a voting machine, conspiracy to unlawfully possess a voting machine, conspiracy to gain unauthorized access to a computer system, and willfully damaging a voting machine.

Rendon was charged with conspiracy to unlawfully possess a voting machine and using false pretenses with the intent to defraud.

Trump himself is facing a total of 78 charges (so far) in three criminal cases (so far). To date, he faces 44 federal charges and 34 state charges, all of them felonies.

On April 4, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg charged Trump with 34 counts of falsifying business records in connection with hush money payments to adult film actress, Stormy Daniels, during the 2016 election.<sup>1</sup> The indictment relates to a series of checks that were written to Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen, to reimburse him for his role in paying off Daniels, who alleged a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, not long after Melania Trump gave birth to their son, Barron. Those payments were recorded in company documents as being for a legal retainer that prosecutors say didn't exist.

<sup>1</sup> Each charge represents a separate instance in which prosecutors allege that Trump misclassified campaign expenses as legal expenses.

On June 9, Special Counsel Jack Smith charged Trump in federal court with 40 counts of illegal retention of top secret documents<sup>2</sup>. The charging papers allege that Trump hoarded materials of the highest sensitivity after he left the White House, including documents on US nuclear programs, potential military vulnerabilities of the US and allies, and plans for US retaliation in the event of an attack. Each of the first 32 counts relates to a different classified document that prosecutors say Trump illegally kept after he left the White House. The eight additional counts are related to Trump's alleged attempts to hide the documents from investigators and his instruction to employees to delete Mar-a-Lago security footage and lie about it.

<sup>2</sup> 32 counts of willful retention of national defense information.

3 counts of withholding or concealing documents in a federal investigation

2 counts of making false statements.

2 counts of altering, destroying, mutilating or concealing an object or record.

1 count of conspiracy to obstruct justice,

On August 1, Special Counsel Jack Smith charged Trump and a group of alleged co-conspirators in federal court with four charges of scheming to reverse the election results and keep Trump in power, which culminated in the January 6 attack on the Capitol by a mob of his supporters.<sup>3</sup> The indictment includes three counts of conspiracy, which relate to the myriad ways they allegedly tried to accomplish that goal. In addition, there is a fourth count of obstruction, which relates to Trump's attempt to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's win.

<sup>3</sup> 3 counts of conspiracy, one to defraud the U. S. government, one to violate civil rights, and one to obstruct the vote certification proceedings at the Capitol on January 6.

1 count of obstruction of vote certification proceedings at the Capitol on January 6,.

## David Sierocki



We were saddened to hear that one of our most active members, David Sierocki, passed away at home on Monday, August 7. He was 77 years old.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Friday, August 11, at Deisler Funeral Home, 2233 Hemmeter Road, Saginaw.

Tuscola Dems will plant a tree in his memory. Those planning their own expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition, <https://michiganhorsewelfare.org/>.

We will miss you, David.



Make  
Tuscola County  
a better place  
to live.



*Paid for with regulated funds  
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P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

**Elect Democrats**