

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

July 2024

Volume 3, Issue 7

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

Chair: Deb Parker

Vice Chair: Alex Kirsch

Secretary: Chuck Stockwell

Treasurer: Lisa Bertsch

(989) 262-9883

tuscolademocrats@gmail.com

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

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Notice of Our July Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, July 18, 2024**, at our campaign headquarters located at 224 State Street in Caro, MI. *The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. (one-half hour earlier than usual) so we can hear from Ryan Robinson, candidate for Tuscola County Sheriff.* Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., as usual. Please join us.

Highlights of Our June Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20. Twenty-one members and many guests were in attendance. Patrick Wood introduced Lieutenant Brian Harris, who told us about his plans and goals as he runs for Tuscola County Sheriff. His presentation was followed by an in-depth discussion of the powers and duties of county sheriffs and comments by Judge Amy Gierhart regarding the relationship between the sheriff's office and the court. Vice-chair Alex Kirsch gave us a run-down of current events. Chair Deb Parker thanked members for helping to get our new campaign office ready and called for volunteers to staff our booth at the Tuscola County Fair. Levi Todd, regional campaign manager for Elissa Slotkin, spoke to us about her plans and goals as she runs for the U.S. Senate seat that will be vacated by Senator Stabenow. 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!

Cass City Freedom Festival

On July 6, Tuscola Dems proudly marched in the Cass City Freedom Festival Grand Parade.



Lots of Democrats turned out to build the float and take part in the parade, including Deb Parker, Chuck Stockwell, Lisa Bertsch, Mike Furgerson, Lynn Adams, Sharene McCloy and her husband, David, and Sharon Schwab and her husband, Gary, who drove the pickup pulling our float. Marching with us were Clint St. Mosley, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Michigan's 9th District, along with his wife, Susan, and their twin boys, Spencer and Oliver. Also marching were Mark Putnam, Democratic Candidate for State Representative for the 97th District, and April Osentoski, Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 98th District.

We had a great time, made a few friends, and it didn't rain.

Tuscola County Fair



Tuscola Dems will have a booth at the Tuscola County Fair again this year. We will be telling folks about the good things Democrats are doing for the people of Tuscola County and how important it is for them to vote for Democratic candidates in this year's elections, and of course we will be serving our legendary Democratic popcorn! The Fair runs from Sunday, July 21, to Saturday, July 27. On each day, we will be staffing our booth in two shifts — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you are available to work any of those shifts, please call Deb Parker at (989) 673-6569 and she will sign you up.

We will also be looking for help setting up the booth starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 21, and taking it down starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 27. Please let Deb know if you are willing to help.

Michigan Primary Election

Michigan will hold its primary election on August 5. Each voter will be required to select either a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot.

There are three ways to vote:

- By absentee ballot (available to voters on June 27).
- By early voting for nine days before Election Day (July 27 to August 4)
- By voting in person at your polling location on Election Day.

In addition to the candidates, there will be four county-wide millage proposals on the ballot:

- Renewal of the current millage of \$0.15 per \$1,000 of taxable value to fund recycling activities within Tuscola County for another eight years.
- Renewal of the current millage of \$0.32 per \$1,000 of taxable value to fund Senior Citizen activities within Tuscola County for another eight years.
- Renewal of the current millage of \$1.33 per \$1,000 of taxable value to fund Sheriff's Road Patrol activities within Tuscola County for another eight years.
- A new millage of \$0.20 per \$1,000 of taxable value to fund Senior Citizen Home Delivered Meals within Tuscola County for a period of five years.

There will also be millage proposals on the ballot for voters who live in Almer, Arbela, Elkland, Koylton, Millington, Novesta, and Watertown townships, for those who live within the Rawson Memorial Library district, and for those who live within the Caro, Frankenmuth, and Vassar school districts.

If you are looking for personal voter information (like "How do I update my voter registration?" or "Where's my polling place?"), go to Mich.gov/Vote, tell them who you are, and they will provide the information you are seeking.

The Presidential Debate

President Biden is 81 years old, and many voters think he's too old for another term as president. On Thursday, June 27, Biden debated Donald Trump. Trump's debate performance was appalling. He lied. He dodged. He rambled and raved. He talked nonsense. But that didn't seem to matter as much as Biden's performance. He mumbled. He stammered. He misspoke. He trailed off mid-sentence. To watch a replay of the entire 90-minute debate, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr9d79TNPfc>

Before the debate, polls showed Trump leading Biden by about three points. After the debate, polls showed Trump leading Biden by six points. When voters were asked which concerned them more, Biden's age or Trump's lies, they chose Biden's age by 53 percent to 42 percent. There have been calls from pundits and a few Democratic lawmakers for Biden to step aside. The president has declared that only divine intervention could persuade him to withdraw from the race. Although many Democratic party leaders have expressed private concerns that Biden is too old to campaign effectively against Trump, most of them have thus far remained silent to give him a little more room to prove himself, or exit the race on his own terms, before making any public calls for him to drop out.

Democratic lawmakers returned to Washington this week and have been talking among themselves about whether Biden should run or pass the torch. We'll see that happens.

The Supreme Court Ruling on Presidential Immunity

In August 2023, a federal grand jury indicted former President Donald Trump for conduct during his presidency following the November 2020 election. The indictment alleged that after losing that election, Trump conspired to overturn it by spreading knowingly false claims of election fraud to obstruct the collecting, counting, and certifying of the election results. In February 2024, Trump moved to dismiss the indictment, claiming immunity from prosecution for any crimes he may have committed while in office. U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan denied Trump's motion and the U.S. Circuit Court affirmed her decision. Trump then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 25, the Court heard oral arguments, and on July 1, issued its decision. The Court ruled that there are three different categories of presidential conduct, each with a different rule about immunity, as follows:

1. A former president has *absolute immunity* from criminal prosecution for actions within his exclusive presidential powers. These powers are specified by the Constitution and our laws and include commanding the armed forces, appointing and removing government officials, engaging in diplomacy, granting pardons for federal convictions, and deciding which crimes to prosecute. The Court said that when a president exercises these powers, Congress cannot act on, and courts cannot examine, the president's actions.

The justices ruled that when Trump talked with top Justice Department and White House officials about investigating purported voter fraud and threatened to replace the Acting Attorney General for resisting his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, he was acting within his exclusive presidential powers and cannot be criminally prosecuted for those acts.

2. A former president is entitled to *at least presumptive immunity* from criminal prosecution for acts that fall outside his exclusive presidential powers, but within the “outer perimeter” of his official responsibilities. The court said that a president cannot be prosecuted for these acts unless the prosecutors can satisfy the court that prosecution will not intrude on the authority and functions of the presidency.

The justices ruled that Trump’s attempts to badger Vice-president Pence into blocking certification of 2020 election results probably qualify as official acts and so he has at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for that conduct, but they said it wasn’t up to them to decide this question and sent it back to U.S. District Court Judge Chutkan.

The justices also ruled that most of Trump’s tweets and the speech he delivered to supporters before the riot at the U.S. capital on January 6 probably qualify as official acts, although they did allow that sometimes he might have been speaking in an unofficial capacity — perhaps as a candidate for office or party leader. They said it wasn’t up to them to decide these questions and sent them back to Judge Chutkan.

The justices also said it wasn’t up to them to decide whether Trump’s attempts to convince state officials to switch electoral votes from Biden to himself and his plan to submit fraudulent slates of presidential electors qualify as official acts, and they sent these questions back to Judge Chutkan.

3. A former president has *no immunity* from criminal prosecution for unofficial acts.

In her concurring opinion, Justice Barrett said that Trump’s efforts to submit fraudulent slates of presidential electors were entirely unofficial acts because presidents have no official role in such state action. She said the same reasoning could apply to Trump’s efforts to pressure state officials into switching electoral votes from Biden to himself.

The Court’s opinion runs 119 pages and includes a summary, the majority opinion written by Justice Roberts, concurring opinions written by Justice Thomas and Justice Barrett, and dissenting opinions written by Justice Sotomayor and Justice Jackson. To read the entire document, go to <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/603/23-939/> and click *Download PDF*.

With this decision, the Supreme Court justices introduced broad and novel rules for determining presidential immunity from criminal prosecution. Then they sent the case back to Judge Chutkan and directed her to sort out which of Trump's actions are entitled to immunity under their new rules. This will wind up delaying Trump’s trial for months, maybe a year. The bottom line is that a jury will not get to determine whether Trump is guilty of trying to interfere with the 2020 election before voters go to the polls in November. He is still in legal jeopardy — but only if he loses the election. If he wins, he could use his presidential powers to end the federal cases against him and if convicted, perhaps pardon himself. Trump’s fate (and perhaps even the rule of law) is in the hands of voters. We alone will decide if he can be held accountable.

Make
Tuscola County
a better place
to live.



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Elect Democrats