



Manistee County GOP Membership Meeting

October 8, 2026

6:00 pm

West Shore College Building

400 River St.

Manistee, Michigan 49660

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve/Amend Agenda

Secretary Report

Treasurer Report (interim)

Old Business

1) Get out the vote event - Wrap up (Hint - It was epic)

2) December County Convention/Elections

3) Presentation

New Business

Adjourn

9/15/26 Manistee County GOP Meeting Minutes (Assisted by Zoom AI)

Date/Time: Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Type: Informal Republican Party meeting (no formal motions or Robert's Rules procedures)

Opening

- The acting chair, Denise, noted that Dwayne was unable to attend and that the meeting would be conducted informally.
 - The group recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
 - An invocation was given by David, preceded by remarks honoring **Charlie Kirk** and referencing a message from his widow, Erika, and Isaiah 6:8 ("Here I am, send me").
 - Prayer focused on faith, guidance, national restoration, and honoring Charlie Kirk's legacy.
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Website and Candidate Information

Concerns Raised

- Members noted that the county party website lacks a comprehensive list of local Republican candidates and links to candidate websites.
- It was pointed out that the county Democratic website has candidate information readily available.

Response

- Leadership agreed the suggestion was valid.
 - Work is already underway on candidate information cards that will be used in literature drops and posted online.
 - Volunteers are needed to help gather candidate website links.
 - Discussion included website maintenance, with members noting that:
 - The website is maintained through GoDaddy.
 - Updates are ongoing and handled largely by volunteers.
 - Current events, meeting information, and the October 2 fundraiser are already posted online.
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Headquarters (HQ) Report

Volunteer Needs

- Headquarters operations continue but rely heavily on a small group of volunteers.
- More volunteers are needed to maintain office hours and event staffing.

Activities

- Updated office hours will continue to be posted online and on Facebook.
- New campaign signs are expected the following week.
- Merchandise sales have been strong.
- Additional pop-up outreach events will be held along US-31 next to Haglund's Floor Coverings.

Observation

- Volunteers reported increasing foot traffic and positive interactions at HQ.

Literature Drop (formerly Door Knocking)

Planned Event

- Scheduled for **September 26**.
- Volunteers will meet at HQ at 9:00 AM.

Approach

- Instead of traditional door knocking, volunteers will simply leave literature at homes.
- Goal is to distribute approximately **500 pieces of campaign literature**.
- Candidate information and campaign materials will be packaged together.
- Organizers believe this approach will:
 - Reduce volunteer discomfort.
 - Avoid confrontations.
 - Increase participation.

Need

- More volunteers are requested.

Tea Party Meeting Promotion

- Members were encouraged to attend a local Tea Party meeting at the Bungalow.
- Leadership emphasized cooperation among conservative organizations and increasing local political engagement.

August State Convention Report

Attendees Shared Feedback

- Several members attended the Michigan GOP State Convention.
- The convention was described as:
 - Well-organized.
 - Positive and energizing.
 - Largely ceremonial because primary election results had already determined candidates.

Discussion

- One attendee noted surprise that there was little discussion of party platform issues and that the convention mainly ratified candidates.

October 2 Candidate Event

Featured Guests

- Congressman **John James**

- Congressman **John Moolenaar**
- Potential appearances by additional Republican candidates

Details

- Cost: **\$25 per person**
- Includes food and beverages.
- Event serves as both a fundraiser and voter engagement opportunity.

Focus

- Organizers stressed the importance of:
 - Increasing turnout.
 - Bringing friends and family.
 - Expanding Republican engagement in the county.

Current Reservations

- Approximately **27 reservations** had been made at the time of the meeting.

Membership and Volunteer Development

- Members discussed recruiting and retaining new attendees.
- Two individuals who had attended a previous meeting were identified as potentially valuable future volunteers.
- Contact information has been added to the party database.

District 2 Republican Committee Presentation

Speaker

- Brett Amelia, District 2 Executive Committee member.

Topics

- Promoted a **District 2 fundraising fishing cruise** in Muskegon.
- Cost: **\$100 per person**.
- Candidates expected to attend include:
 - Kurt Vanderwall
 - Kim Cole

District Overview

- District 2 covers a large geographic portion of western Michigan, including Manistee County and extending south toward Muskegon and Kent County – essentially Rep. John Moolenaar's district.

Committee Role

- Organizes fundraising events.
- Supports Republican candidates across the district.

- Coordinates youth outreach efforts.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly Summary

Revenue: From

- Donations
- Merchandise sales
- Membership dues

Expenses: From

- Zoom fees
- Parade expenses
- Approved charitable donation in memory of Dr. Wilde

Net Gain: Approximately \$

Ending Balance: Treasurer's report is available in printed form at the meeting

Discussion

- Suggestion made to compare current financial performance with previous years.
- Financial reports are shared internally but not posted publicly.

Charlie Kirk Presentation

Presentation

- A seven-minute **PragerU** video about Charlie Kirk's life and legacy was shown.

Themes Covered

- Founding of Turning Point USA.
- His role in conservative youth organizing.
- His influence on Republican politics.
- His Christian faith and advocacy.

Follow-up Discussion

- Members recommended PragerU videos as educational resources.
- Discussion expanded to other topics covered by PragerU programming.

Sign Vandalism Discussion

Report

- One member reported:
 - A John Moolenaar sign had been defaced.
 - A Kim Cole sign had been stolen.

Response

- Members discussed replacing signs and documenting vandalism.

- Additional signs were offered to affected supporters.

Candidate Forum Discussion

Chamber of Commerce Forum

- Attendees discussed a recent candidate forum featuring:
 - Kim Cole
 - Rebecca Amidon

Observations

- One attendee felt both candidates performed competently.
- Discussion focused on issues such as:
 - Medicare and healthcare policy
 - Voter education
 - Candidate messaging

Closing

- Members were reminded to:
 - Volunteer for HQ shifts.
 - Participate in the September 26 literature drop.
 - Attend the October 2 fundraiser.
 - Support local candidate efforts.

Meeting adjourned informally.