



## MI3CD Democrats Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2026

- I. Call to Order - 10:03am
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call of Officers
  - A. Present: Chair Donna Secor Pennington, 1st Vice Chair Gary Stark, 2nd Vice Chair Pamela Redd, Secretary Chris Herweyer, Treasurer Richard Williamson
  - B. Absent/Excused: none
- III. Credential Report & County count
  - A. Chris Herweyer reported that a quorum was present (11/19 district committee members and officers)
  - B. 3CD Attendees at the meeting from the various counties:
    1. Kent: 12
    2. Ottawa: 4
    3. Muskegon: 7
- IV. Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved as amended by unanimous consent.
  - A. Edit reflected that the next meeting is on April 19 at the MDP Endorsement Convention, not the Nominating Convention.
- V. Approval of Minutes (10.11.2025) - Minutes approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- VI. Guest Speaker
  - A. MDP Chair Curtis Hertel acknowledged the passing of a former commissioner from the district. He spoke to how the past year has gone as Chair (he was elected on February 22, 2025), engaging with Democrats locally across the state, getting Project 83 fully funded, holding monthly meetings with local chairs, People's Townhalls, etc.
    1. He shared that the One Campaign will be rebranded as One Team going forward with a goal of no longer focusing too much on the top of the ticket to the detriment of downballot races. The One Team will be focused on races up and down the ballot, but to do the best job, Chair Hertel expressed the need to hire folks locally and layering in the existing departments of the MDP, specifically the Voter Protection team.
    2. He shared a special announcement that Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear will be our guest speaker at the MDP Legacy Dinner on April 18.

3. He acknowledged the mess that was the February 2025 MDP Convention and the work that he and his team have been doing to resolve the issues that were apparent, especially the credentialing process. The new process will include more time for credentialing and using a “scan in” process for all dues-paying members of the party. He also addressed the voting process and shared that MDP is moving away from using a separate app to make it more accessible.
4. Chair Hertel took questions from attendees regarding moving Michigan’s primary elections, the changes he is implementing at MDP, and digital membership cards.

VII. Statewide Candidate Presentations

- A. Abdul El-Sayed is a candidate for US Senate. He spoke to attendees about his campaign and upbringing, why he is running for office. He took a couple questions from attendees as well.
- B. MSU Trustees Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay were both first elected as MSU Trustees in 2018 and are running for reelection. They are seeking the MDP endorsement at the upcoming April convention. Brianna spoke to the situation MSU was facing 8 years ago when they were first running around Larry Nasser and John Engler. She also spoke to the work that she and Kelly have been able to accomplish since then. Brianna is the only member of the MSU board from West Michigan, and she expressed that she is excited to be continuing to partner with Kelly in their joint reelection bid.

VIII. Officers Reports

- A. Chair’s Report - Donna Pennington gave a brief report regarding issues facing our nation ahead of MDP Chair Hertel’s remarks.
- B. Treasurer’s Report - Richard Williamson gave a quick update on the convention bus (listed below).

IX. Old Business

- A. Convention Bus - Richard Williamson shared that fundraising for the bus to convention is underway. There are 56 seats total on the bus and we’re selling spots for \$30 apiece. Additional fundraising to cover the total \$6,500 expense currently sits at \$2,740, leaving \$3,760 still to raise. More info can be found [here](#).
- B. Senate Candidate Forum - No update.

X. New Business

- A. Endorsement of Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay - Chair Donna Pennington gave an update on the state of this race. Pam Redd moved, seconded by Chris Herweyer, to endorse both Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay for MSU Trustee. Discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

XI. County Democratic Party Reports

- A. Kent - Kim Gates shared that the Kent Dems monthly meetings have been attended by over 150 people each time since the last 3CD meeting. AG Candidate Eli Savit is hosting the social hour for the March meeting. She also shared that several new caucuses have been added to the party and their Progressive Caucus helped host a “Melt the ICE” concert to raise money to go

toward resources for communities affected by ICE. She also shared that the Kent Dems Gala is coming up on April 11 at GVSU's Eberhard Center. Tickets can be purchased at [kentdems.com](http://kentdems.com). The Kent Dems convention is on February 28.

- B. Muskegon - Susan Fabrick shared that the Muskegon Dems are having a euchre night on February 27, and that a fashion show of sitting elected officials is being held on March 22 from 4-6pm with proceeds going to help pay for the 3CD bus to convention. The Muskegon Dems gala is coming up on May 1. Expanded hours for the Muskegon Dems office will begin on March 2 thanks to a number of volunteers who have stepped up. They are also working on a rapid response plan for if and when ICE starts showing up in the community. The Muskegon Dems convention is on March 12.
  - C. Ottawa - Linda Riepma shared that the Ottawa Dems have been working hard to host candidates for statewide office, and recruiting candidates for the state legislative races there including Kiel Reid for HD-88, Joseph McClusky for HD-86, and Chris Kleinjans for SD-31.
- XII. State Central Report - Christine Baker shared that the most recent State Central meeting was in Mt Pleasant on December 7. The most notable agenda item was on the call to convention for the Endorsement Convention. She shared that the Resolutions Committee was finally able to meet and get a number of business items taken care of.
- XIII. Good and Welfare
- A. Christine Baker shared that the LWV is hosting an event on February 26 at 6:15.
- XIV. Adjournment - Mary Bouwense moved, seconded by Donna Pennington that the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:31am