



MI3CD Democrats Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2026

- I. Call to Order - 12:08pm
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call of Officers
 - A. Present: Chair Donna Secor Pennington, 1st Vice Chair Gary Stark, Secretary Chris Herweyer
 - B. Absent/Excused: Treasurer Richard Williamson, 2nd Vice Chair Pam Redd
- III. Credential Report & County count
 - A. Chris Herweyer reported that a quorum was present (7/19)
 - B. 3CD Attendees at the meeting from the various counties:
 1. Kent: 7
 2. Ottawa: 8
 3. Muskegon: 6
- IV. Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- V. Approval of Minutes (4.19.26) - Minutes approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- VI. Reports
 - A. Chair's Report - Donna Pennington shared that there is a lot going on politically here in Michigan with the upcoming elections, as well as with other recent updates from our state government.
 - B. Secretary Report - Chris Herweyer shared that since our last meeting, Congresswoman Hillary Scholten has become the de facto nominee for 3CD and it is incumbent upon us as a party to work together over the next 114 days.
 - C. Treasurer's Report - Richard Williamson shared his report electronically. Our State Account currently has a balance of \$613.52 and our Administrative Account has a balance of \$1,035. Richard is prepared to file our campaign finance report later this month.
 - D. Communications Report - Linda Riepma gave an update on 3CD's social media presence and the reach of the newsletter. Our newsletter emails average about a 35% open rate. She also shared that our next newsletter featuring a video of Gary Stark giving his remarks on party unity will be sent out soon.
 - E. Scholten Campaign Report - Emma Lofgren shared that the Scholten Team has over 50 interns this summer through the Democracy Summer program, 2 of whom are in attendance at this meeting. New yard signs are also available. Emma has a sign-up sheet to request them. Canvassing has begun and their team is working to support other candidates for the primary.

- VII. Old Business - none
- VIII. New Business
 - A. MDP Nominating Convention - Donna Pennington shared that the MDP Nominating Convention is on Saturday, August 29 at the Lansing Center. The call to convention has been published and is available at michigandems.com/convention.
- IX. County Democratic Party Reports
 - A. Kent - Kim Gates shared that over 150 people attended their most recent meeting last week. She shared that they are working with the MDP's One Team and that the working relationship with the team this year has been substantially better compared to previous cycles. The party has also formed a number of constituency caucuses over the past couple of years, bringing the total up to 9 now. The party has also distributed and earmarked over \$70,000 to local candidates for this upcoming election.
 - B. Muskegon - Susan Fabrick shared that the party has held several fundraisers recently and has been working with One Team as well, echoing Kim's statements about this being a greatly improved relationship as well. They have been working to set up a more robust precinct organizing and precinct captain program. They have also created a Voting 101 handout for an information source to get out to voters as well as some listening sessions that are being scheduled at senior living facilities across the county. They are also opening up a new office in Muskegon Heights shared with Rebecca Amidon's State Senate campaign soon.
 - C. Ottawa - Larry Jackson shared that the party has been working on increasing their social media presence and opening up a new office in Grand Haven to help center campaigns. There are several flip opportunities in the county that they are particularly focusing on. The Annual Picnic fundraising has gone well (and the event starts after this meeting).
- X. State Central Report - Christine Baker shared that at the most recent MDSCC meeting, the official August Call to Convention was approved. The meeting also addressed concerns regarding how remote voting might work best going forward at State Conventions and the Rules Committee is working on recommending some solutions. With the Resolutions Committee, there are continuing issues regarding what kind of language should be used about certain hot-button issues on the campaign trail. They also approved encouraging a No vote on 2026 Prop 1 for a Constitutional Convention.
- XI. Good and Welfare
 - A. Ellen Beal shared that the party was charged an additional \$375 for the bus due to the lateness of leaving the convention in April.
 - B. Dennis Murphy encouraged people to only write-in candidates who have officially filed to run as a write-in.
 - C. Amy Masko shared that there is a need for additional poll watcher/challengers in a number of rural townships.
 - D. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at the MDP Nominating Convention at the Lansing Center.
- XII. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.