



# Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

January 2025

Volume 5, Number 42

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- Information about LCDP and other news.

## Interesting web pages

<https://www.secure.actblue.com>

***You can make political contributions to LCDP***

<https://www.michigandems.com>

***Home to Michigan Democratic Party***

## Contact Us

Party Chair: Anissa Buffin

Vice Chair: Alexander Diedrich

Secretary: Susan Beal

Treasurer: Patty Bradshaw

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## Find us & follow us at:

[www.lapeercountymocrats.com](http://www.lapeercountymocrats.com) (web page)

<http://www.facebook.com/lapeerdem>

Lapeer Dems meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm (potluck then meeting) in the Lincoln Room at the Center Building, Lapeer.

## Lapeer Democratic Party News:

### Monthly Meetings:

January County Committee meeting is 1/9/25 at 6pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. The January General meeting is 1/23/25 and is held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center building. Bring a dish to pass for the pot luck supper prior to the meeting.



## Welcome New Executive Board Members and County Committee Members

Thank you to these members who will steer the direction of the Lapeer County Democratic Party for the next two years.

Anissa Buffin, Chair

Alexander Diedrich, Vice Chair

Patty Bradshaw, Treasurer

Susan Beal, Secretary

### County Committee Members:

Linda Berker

Rose Bogardus

Lisa Hile

Rebekah Fitts

Gigi Griffith

Dennis Harrand

Daniel Howe

Rhonda Laur

Laura Mikus

Jim Mikus

Dante Pirouz

Shirley Tomczak

Heidi Waid

Jim Waid

April Jakubowski

## LCDP 2025 Garage Sale “Save Your Stuff”

This summer the Lapeer Dems will again have a garage sale fundraiser. Watch for more info. You can begin saving for the sale. Save the dates: July 24-26.

The Lapeer Dems will accept household items, furniture, tools, kid's games, craft items, collectibles and other saleable items. Sorry but we won't be able to accept mattresses, box springs, TV's, computers, books or clothes. Watch for more details and a new location.

## Congratulations Barbara Yockey!

Barbara, a Lapeer Dem supporter, was selected the new mayor of Imlay City. Barbara Yockey is a local attorney with over 40 years of practicing family law, probate and wills, real estate and bankruptcy law. She and her husband have been residents of Imlay City for over 10 years. She has served on the Planning Commission, the ZBA and Housing Board of Appeals. Barbara stated in the Lapeer County Press (12/8/24) "I'm thankful for the confidence that my fellow commissioners have put in me to vote me in as mayor."

## Biden Administration End of Season Policy Grades (Submitted by Alex D.)

I set out to write these grades tongue in cheek for the football playoff season. However, as I was writing this review, I found it difficult to give a good grade. An important caveat I should note, I chose to grade based on what I consider a policy success overall, not what was practically achievable. So if you could win the policy lottery, get what you wanted for every issue, how would the Biden Administration compare?

Post your grades in the Facebook group, or alternatively email them to us to post for you anonymously to discuss.

### *Economic/Domestic Policy: B-*

This is really a mixed bag. The good-- record unemployment, record stock market highs, consistently good expansion of the GDP and fending off a pandemic recession. By funding infrastructure, the CHIPS act, and the American Rescue Plan the United States had the smoothest and fastest recovery of the industrialized world. Steps were taken to combat the power of monopolies, as well as corporate abuses such as junk fees and airline vouchers. However, these undoubtedly positive actions have coincided with persistent inflation and a verified crisis of cost-of-living increases, especially with housing, that have largely gone unanswered by the administration.

### *Climate Change: C*

While still falling well short of goals that climate scientists have said we need to hit, the Biden administration undoubtedly made some significant progress on climate initiatives. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act initiated billions of dollars of funding for lean energy investments, batteries, manufacturing, and supply chains. New fuel economy regulations, caps on emissions, new efficiency standards for many projects, there was a lot to like. However, the United States also under the Biden Administration broke its promise to ban new oil and gas developments on public lands, and the United States is now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world with the highest production we have ever had.

### *Healthcare: C*

In 2020, Biden campaigned on adding a public option to Obamacare, one of its original proposals. Access and cost of care is still a massive issue that was all but ignored in this administration. Don't get me wrong, \$35 insulin is great, Medicare starting to negotiate drug prices is great, but these policies don't even come close to addressing the magnitude of the problem. Especially considering the pandemic, letting healthcare slip out of focus during the first two years of the administration with a democratic majority feels like a massive opportunity to have missed.

## ***Foreign Policy: D***

I expected better. The lone plus in my opinion for foreign policy was coordinating with our NATO allies to aid the Ukrainian people. However, I think the communication from the administration around the war in Ukraine actively undermined the effort and actions were slow. Clearly top of mind to all of us will be the war in Gaza, which expanded to Lebanon and Hezbollah and even direct attacks exchanged between Israel and Iran. The administration has failed to stop the expansion of the conflict, failed to coordinate a ceasefire, and failed to stop the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. All stated policy goals, all without forceful action and the desired outcome for the United States. I fear these failures, on top of the actions of Trump's first term, have done permanent harm to US credibility and soft power throughout the world.

## ***Immigration: D***

Similar to healthcare, immigration went unaddressed for far too long. The Biden administration continued questionable policies from Trump's first term, such as attempting to refuse asylum seekers based on COVID rules after the pandemic restrictions were lifted. There were no plans to protect Dreamers, pathways to citizenship, or reform of legal immigration. The administration did not take action until it was time to campaign for 2024, letting the issue fester until it was a huge problem, and a political albatross around the neck of all democrats. The fact that the executive orders taken in 2024 dramatically reduced the numbers of migrants at our borders created the perception that the issue could have been fixed at any time, and Biden just didn't want to. A perception that is hard to disprove.

## **So what is next?** (Submitted by Gary F.)

The results from the election pose difficult questions for Democrats across the nation and, in particular, here in the Blue Belt of the Upper Midwest. It is fair and right that we ask ourselves and each other what is next for our Party and Country.

As a disclaimer, please know the thoughts, ideas and observations here are my own and not those of the LCDP or any others affiliated with the Democratic Party. Fortunately, we are allowed (unlike the other Party) to have independent thoughts and ideas to freely share.

First then, let's look at what we DON'T do – we don't buy the bunkum hokum and crap about this being a blowout election – it was not! This was a 2% election in all the Blue Belt states as well as Georgia, North Carolina and others which is not a “mandate” or “great victory” by any means.

Second, we shouldn't buy into all the hysteria and pundit-driven chatter in the media telling us the Democrats are done forever; have no future or no path to recovery. That trash talk is meant to sell headlines, magazines and internet clicks, not to represent truth.

After a deep breath (ok, a few deep breaths), we now get back to work by honestly recognizing what went wrong.

- We forgot a core Democratic message: the economy and the working class voters are central to Democratic victories.
- We let the other side paint our agenda for those people with less education, fewer job prospects and a bleaker future than others.
- We let the other side define us according to our “identity politics” instead of defining ourselves as THE defenders of the working class voter.

Our fix is in our priorities. We will never (ever!) abandon our defense of the LGBT+ community or lose our commitment to just and fair immigration policies, open and inclusive educational practices, protecting workers against corporate abuses or defending reproductive rights.

We must, however, put the economy as our number 1 message. Oddly, the national economy at the time of the election was stronger, more stable and more productive than it has been since before the pandemic. Inflation was declining and jobs were plentiful but we never sold that message.

We let our opponents define the economic failures, focusing on continuing inflation which bites us and home affordability that is a genuine problem. Unfortunately, our candidate was allowed to be tied to the current administration that inherited the pandemic-driven troubles and never was able to separate herself from that.

In four years, the economy is owned by the other side and we must be prepared to hammer home every economic problem as his and we don't wait until then – we start now! Even before the inauguration, our letters to the editors warn neighbors of the coming tariffs (inflation producing, creating job losses), deportations (food inflation resulting, shortages inherent) and we KEEP TALKING about him and his policies.

We put the blame where it belongs – Republican Senate, Republican Dysfunctional House and irresponsible, ridiculous cabinet picks led by that chief Republican who pursues policies bad for our country.

It is critical we start now – Michigan has a US Senator up for election (who has proven vulnerable in the past), and our triple leaders of Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General on the line in 2 years. We know – we ALL know – the GOP is going to be coming after all 4 seats with a vengeance and probably with the best candidates we've seen in years.

We can't count on them self-destructing as they have recently or nominating unelectables so we must start to define them NOW with their own irresponsible policies.

On our side, we have to find new talent to run in our elections for the State House, Senate and leadership seats. We learned in the races lost by Curtis Hertel and Carl Marlinga that those honorable old war horses are not candidates who can win votes from the younger generations. We need fresh names – one finding in Senator-elect Slotkin's race was people thinking of her as a "new face".

The emergence of Clint St. Mosely was just such a fresh face that gives us hope and here's one person thinking Clint would be a fine candidate at the State Senate level (since he lives in a "bad" Congressional district). We need more "Clints", more of that dedication, that kind of determined approach to take advantage of what should be a chaotic 2 years in Washington.

With Mayor Duggan likely running for Governor as an independent we will need strong focus on what our three leaders (Whitmer, Benson, Nessel) will be doing and whether voters will consider Peters a "fresh voice" or an "old war horse". These decisions will be made above our pay grade of course but we can weigh in – at the county level and with the State party. Our voices are our strength.

Finally, perhaps most of all, is we don't stop working, meeting, networking, persuading and urging our friends, families, neighbors and total strangers on the correctness of our positions and the blame for the failures in GOP Washington. Politics are cyclical – the likelihood for their plan in Washington will boomerang and very heavily against them. We must be in position to capitalize and recapture Lansing and the US House in 2 years.

## Michigan Legislators Busy Approving New Bills (Submitted by Anita H.)

Bills signed by Governor Whitmer: (There are probably a few this writer missed)

1. HB 4127 and 4128 were signed into law. The law makes it illegal to open carry a firearm at polling locations across the state, at local clerk offices, at early voting locations and at absentee ballot drop boxes during elections. The laws apply to election day for polling locations, during early voting periods and for 40 days leading up to elections for drop boxes and clerk offices. Exceptions include: police officers and people with concealed carry licenses.
2. HB 5683 and 5684 give estheticians and cosmetologists more flexibility in the range of services they can offer.
3. MI law now requires drivers to stay 200 feet from snowplows or face fines.
4. HB 4132 & 4133 will work to reduce crashes and protect construction workers by implementing work zone safety cameras in marked areas.
5. HB 4928, 4929, and 4930 will allow school buses to be equipped with a camera system that will track violators who fail to stop.
6. Approved bills to extend unemployment from 20 to 26 weeks.
7. In October HB 5503 added \$125 million to School Aid money for fiscal year 2025 supporting per-pupil school safety and mental health in districts across the state.
8. Also in October, SB 567 and 568 will implement the science of reading strategies in public school curricula to increase literacy. It also ensures that all MI schools test and support students with dyslexia.

Bills that have yet to make it to the floor for a vote: (These and several others are now dead.)

1. A MI bill would require students to fill out FAFSA or “opt-out” forms to graduate. The Free application for Federal Student aid unlocks grants and student loans that many students know nothing about.
2. MI Democrats have advanced a bill that would require all MI students to attend kindergarten.
3. HB 6034 and 6035 the “Freedom to read” bills have been brought to committee and are now looking for enough votes before coming to the House floor. Approved by House but not voted by Senate.
4. Michigan is one step closer to opening up the governor’s office and Legislature to public records requests after a state House panel advanced legislation. The legislation passed the Senate in June. Currently Michigan and Massachusetts are the only states to fully exempt their governor’s office and lawmakers from FOIA laws.

## Pardon Me, But We Need to Discuss Hunter Biden’s Pardon (Submitted by Alex D.)

Joe Biden pardoning his son Hunter has been controversial, to say the least. Hunter Biden was convicted of lying about drug use when he acquired a firearm, tax evasion and filing false tax returns. On December 1st, Joe Biden granted his son a full, unconditional pardon, going back to January 1, 2014, “For those offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in”. This is incredibly and unusually broad for a pardon, as it includes crimes not even charged or alleged at this point.

I suspect the pardon was written this broadly to remove the possibility of an incoming Trump Department of Justice persecuting Hunter Biden out of retribution. With Trump’s threats, there is certainly merit in that fear. With that being said, was a pardon the right thing to do? I think certainly many parents would choose to protect their child in the same situation. However, Joe Biden is not just a parent, he is the president, and I believe that is an obligation to a higher standard than any other parent.

While campaigning against the incoming felon in chief, Joe Biden democratic politicians lectured daily on the importance of the rule of law; that no one is above the law. We pointed to Hunter Biden going through the legal process without protections from his father as evidence the system is working, hard evidence that justice could be trusted. Evidence that the prosecutions against Trump were not frivolous or corrupt, conducted by a truly blind Lady Justice. Evidence that Joe Biden set on fire with this pardon and accompanying statement. In his

statement, Joe Biden accused the prosecutors in his son's case of treating Hunter harshly out of politics. Despite Joe Biden's previous public statements that he would not pardon Hunter, he never ruled it out. I am furious.

My issue is not with the pardon itself. I think it is likely Hunter would have faced additional persecution from a Trump loyalist DOJ. My issue is that Joe Biden's statement sounded exactly like Trump. We as Democrats have spent years defending the indictments against Trump as not politically motivated and the system playing out, operating as it should. I still believe that to be the truth, but it is certainly less convincing now. With such a sweeping pardon, and the fact that Joe Biden continuously lied when he said he wouldn't do it, Biden look just as corrupt as Trump. When we have been trying to make an argument that we are the party of moral integrity that means we actually need to have integrity. The majority of Americans believe that all politicians are corrupt, and that Democrats and Republicans are all the same. This is why.



## **Official Call to Convention for the Michigan Democratic Party's 2025 Spring State Convention**

**Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.**

The Democratic Electors of the State of Michigan are hereby notified that by the direction of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, the 2025 Spring State Convention of the Michigan Democratic Party will be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

At the 2025 Spring State Convention, Michigan Democrats will gather by congressional district to elect district officers and members to the State Central Committee. Members of MDP constituency group caucuses will meet and elect their leadership. On the Convention floor, Democrats will vote by congressional district to elect a Chair and two (2) Vice-Chairs of the State Central Committee.

All members of the Michigan Democratic Party are encouraged to attend the 2025 Spring State Convention.

### **An Overview of the 2025 Spring State Convention Timeline**

**Saturday, December 7**

The Michigan Democratic State Central Committee approves the Call to Convention.

**Friday, December 13**

The Michigan Democratic Party emails the Call to Convention to all members. This Call will also be available on-line at [michigandems.com](http://michigandems.com).

**Thursday, January 23**

Membership deadline to be eligible to vote at the 2025 Spring State Convention.

\*Does not apply to Precinct Delegates, Democratic Nominees, or Democratic Elected Officials.



Thursday, **January 23**

Deadline for candidates seeking high level office at the MDP to file their candidacy.

High level office includes Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Democratic State Central Committee as well as Chair and Vice-Chair of a Congressional District.

Sunday, **January 26**

Deadline for MDP chartered constituency caucuses to request a meeting room and time at the Convention.

Saturday, **February 8**

Deadline to hold County and District Conventions.

Sunday, **February 9 by 7 PM**

Deadline for County and District Convention Chairs to submit resolutions and committee members to the MDP.

Tuesday, **February 11 at 6 PM**

Convention Credentials Committee meets virtually.

Tuesday, **February 11 at 7 PM**

Convention Rules Committee meets virtually to consider rules for the Convention.

Wednesday, **February 12 at 6 PM**

Convention Resolutions Committee meets virtually.

Wednesday, **February 19 at 9 AM**

Credentialing Window Opens for the 2025 State Convention.

Saturday, **February 22 at 2 PM**

The credentialing window closes.

Saturday, **February 22**

Spring State Convention held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

## **News about the newsletter**

This newsletter is published monthly and is available by email to all members. **All members are encouraged to submit articles and information to the newsletter.** Submissions for the newsletter should be 800 words or less and need to be sent by email to the editors by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Send submission to the editors:

Anita Harrand at [aharr76@hotmail.com](mailto:aharr76@hotmail.com)

Alex Diedrich at [apdiedrich@gmail.com](mailto:apdiedrich@gmail.com)

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## **Lapeer County Democratic Party needs your financial support.**

Annual dues renewal is December for the year 2025. If you want to mail your membership please send to: Lapeer County Democratic Party, PO Box 185, Lapeer MI 48446.

Here are other ways to pay your LCDP dues:

1. Pay at Act Blue: <http://www.secure.actblue.com>

2. You can visit our Facebook page: <http://www.Facebook.com/LapeerDems>
3. You can visit our website: [Lapeer County Democratic Party](#) Locate the “Get Involved” button.
4. You can fill out the attached form and mail with a check to the LCDP office:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone &/or Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal membership\_\_\_\_ New membership \_\_\_\_\_

Membership types: \_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Grassroots Supporter (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lapeer Activist (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lapeer Leader (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount of Your Check

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you wish to become a member by way of an “in-kind” contribution. We will contact you.

Thank you for joining us to ensure everyone has an opportunity to achieve the American dream, be paid a living wage, have basic health care, get a quality education without going into massive debt, and live in a clean/safe/justice-oriented world.

