



# Lapeer County Democratic Newsletter

August 2024

Volume 4, Number 38

## In This Issue

- An article for everyone.
- 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:

Secretary: Susan Beal

Treasurer: Jim Mikus

Contact us at:

810-664-2006

[lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com)

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## Find us & follow us at:

[www.lapeerdemocrats.com](http://www.lapeerdemocrats.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.

## 9th Congressional District News:



## Democratic Candidates in the North Branch Fourth of July Parade.



*Pictured: Leslie Getz, April Osentoski, Shirley Tomczak & Clint St. Mosley*

## Democratic Slate of Candidates in the 2024 Election

President: Kamala Harris & Vice President: ?

US Senate: Elissa Slotkin & Hill Harper

U.S. House: Clint St. Mosley

MI Supreme Court:

Judge Kyra Harris (D-Incumbent) & Kimberly Ann Thomas (D)

MI House:

District 65 Shirley Tomczak

District 67 Anissa Buffin

District 98 April Osentoski

Mayfield Township: Treasurer Leslie Getz

## Clint St. Mosley for Congress



Contact: Clint4Congress@gmail.com (248)-325-8820/(910)-540.9090

<http://www.clint4congress.com>

*Building a Better way*

### *Did You Know?.....*

- There were 206,000 new jobs in June and unemployment was 4.1%. These are Biden's policies at work.
- These states have ballot proposals for abortion protection: Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, South Dakota, Arizona, and New York.
- A new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs (2024), states 7 in 10 Americans think abortion should be legal in most cases.

## **Vote for Leslie Getz for Treasurer for Mayfield Township**



[getz4mayfieldtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:getz4mayfieldtreasurer@gmail.com)

Facebook: Getz4mayfieldtreasurer

Phone: (810)-667-3353 (landline)

## August 6 Primary – What You Will See

**Early voting for the August 6, 2024 primary begins nine days prior to election day, July 29th, and ends the Sunday before the election, August 4th.** For more general information on the early voting process, visit the Michigan Secretary of State website or click on:

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>

Early voting locations are often different than your regular location and some are combined for efficiency. **The simple way to find your early voting location is to visit the Michigan Secretary of State website** or right click on the link: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index#early-voting-search-section>

## North Branch Parade a Success for Dems!



The parade was well attended with walkers – about 20 people showed up. We did hear applause and clapping as we walked through town, and unfortunately a few negative comments. Everyone enjoyed the walk and said, “At least everyone knows there are Democrats in Lapeer County.” Hope to see more Democrats at the parades: **Imlay City Summer Fest (8/10/24)**, **Lapeer Days (8/17/24)** and **Metamora Country Days (8/24/24)** – Show your spirit!

## Vote for Anissa Buffin – State Representative D67



A proven leader – a strong Democrat!  
Facebook/BuffinisBetter      810-200-3795



## Thanks for the support!

I would like to thank everyone who attended my fundraiser at tilted Axis. I am humbled by the attendance and generosity of everyone.

I will continue to canvas and get the word out on my candidacy for Representative for District 67. We are in trying times and leadership for everyone and equality for all is more important than ever. I look forward to representing you in Lansing!

Thank you all again. Anissa Buffin



## The New Campaign 2024

Let us, first and foremost, thank President Biden for his half century of dedicated service to our country. Like so many Democrats before him, Joe Biden has carved a legacy of considerate and caring devotion to improvement in the lives of working women and men across our nation.

Focusing on a brilliant future, our Democratic leadership has unified and recognized our Vice-President Kamala Harris as the natural standard bearer prepared to bring us victory this fall.

Vice President Harris has already launched her high-energy, well designed campaign to contrast her superb career as a prosecutor of criminals with an opposing candidate, a convicted criminal himself. She promises us exceptional attention will be on those key issues we know are central to middle-class, pragmatic voters everywhere – reproductive rights, health care costs, union support and protecting the immigrant, migrant and LGBTQ+ communities from further assault from the radical right.

With Vice President Harris at the lead, a strong Democratic Senate candidate, our US House candidate Clint St. Mosley and the trio of State House candidates we nominated, this November will be a celebration after we work so very hard for victory the remainder of this campaign season. (submitted by G. Foster)

## Partisan Ballot Information

The August 6 primary ballot is very limited for Democrats in Lapeer County with only one contested race but is critically important to build momentum for the general election. Our contested race is the vital seat in the US Senate now held by our retiring Senator Debbie Stabenow.

### *On the US Senate ballot are:*

Hill Harper, a lawyer, union organizer, actor and single father who owns a well-known coffee shop in Detroit. Raised in the Midwest by two doctors, Hill learned early on the importance of public service, and that the

purpose of life was to make life better for everyone.

Elissa Slotkin a third-generation Michigander, was a national security specialist for the CIA who served 3 tours in Iraq, later serving on the National Security staff of both Presidents Bush and Obama. She currently serves in the US House of Representatives for Michigan's 7th District.

Also on the ballot county wide is Clint St. Mosley, our **US House candidate** for the 9th District which covers all of Lapeer County plus points south and east of us, and our **3 State House of Representative candidates**, Anissa Buffin, April Ostentoski and Shirley Tomczak. In **Mayfield Township** only, our candidate for **Treasurer** is Leslie Getz.

Primary elections are serious business and a great chance for our Democratic community to send a strong voice to the County leaders that we are here and we will be heard!

## The Supreme Court Decided Monarchy Actually Wasn't So Bad

First a disclaimer. These are massive legal decisions that I cannot fully do justice in this form. I encourage you to seek further analysis for the full scope of just what happened in July 2024.

In case you missed it, Chief Justice John Roberts rang in America's anniversary of our independence with a remarkable declaration of his own on presidential immunity. Along with granting the President rights above the law, the Supreme Court has been busy dismantling well, everything. In the Loper Bright and Corner Post decisions, the Court has severely limited and threatened every government agency's ability to function. These decisions among others in this term will radically change American governance for decades to come.

Starting with the decision that got the most attention in the press, in *Trump v United States* the Supreme Court officially determined a United States President is above the laws of our nation: "Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity [...] And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts." (Justice Roberts, *Trump v United States*). The first thing that is very important to establish is this decision grants immunity from **criminal** prosecution. This is very different from previously decided cases that upheld presidents are immune from **civil** liability and damages from their decisions as president. For a fictitious example, say, today the administration cut off all trade deals with the rest of the world, and numerous American companies went bankrupt as a result. The President may have caused that damage, but he would not have any legal liability for this policy decision. A government must make governing decisions to function, so we can all agree this is sensible.



Where we lose all credibility of sense in *Trump v United States*, is where the Supreme Court extends this immunity to crimes that the president may commit. To the Roberts Court, it is more important that the President can make whatever decisions they want than worry about a little old thing like laws: "Such an immunity is required [...] to enable the President to carry out his constitutional duties without undue caution" (Justice Roberts, *Trump v United States*). When this case was proceeding through the lower courts, an example cited was What would happen, if the President ordered Seal Team Six to assassinate his rival, is that immune? For the answer I now reference Justice Sotomayor in her dissent: "Orders the Navy's Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organizes a military dissenting coup to hold onto power? Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon? Immune. Immune, immune, immune." (Justice Sotomayor, *Trump v United States*). On that joyful note, let's continue through the conservative fever dream that was this Supreme court term.

A theme of the Roberts Court is overturning precedents. In *Loper Bright v United States* and *Corner Post v Federal Reserve* the Roberts Court overturned the 40 year old Chevron Doctrine and severely undermined the ability of government agencies to regulate. The Chevron Doctrine in essence stipulated that if a law passed by Congress is not sufficiently specific to address a particular question, a government agency could within reason determine how Congress intended the law should be interpreted. This framework has meant that government agencies are able to regulate their areas of expertise, otherwise known as functional governance. By overturning this doctrine, this power of interpretation is turned to the judiciary, in my opinion out of indulgent self-importance. "Perhaps most fundamentally, Chevron's presumption is misguided because agencies have no special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities. Courts do." (Justice Roberts, *Loper Bright vs Raimondo*). This is part of a larger effort by this hyper-partisan court to destroy the government's ability to regulate at all.

In *Corner Post v Federal Reserve* authored by Justice Barrett, the Court essentially abolishes the statute of limitations to challenge agency regulations. In this challenge the Court re-defined how statute of limitations work in the following way: Instead of 6 years from when a certain regulation has gone into effect, the clock on challenging a rule now starts when a potential "harm" has occurred. The implications of this are hard to overstate, especially in combination with other rulings. With this new standard in place, a company can challenge any government regulation, no matter how longstanding a regulation may be, at essentially any time. *Corner Post* is a cudgel of this conservative court allowing bad faith efforts to target our entire administrative system, and with Chevron overruled, many of these efforts are more likely to be successful.

There are many more decisions from this term I do not have time to cover, but hopefully in highlighting these three I can make my point abundantly clear. This current iteration of the Roberts Court is a radically conservative activist court. As time progresses we will come to see

exactly how much damage has been done, likely too late. Again, it must be emphasized emphatically and repetitively when we vote in November for President, we also vote for an opportunity to correct a wildly powerful, and largely unchecked, judiciary. In summary, to quote Justice Sotomayor once again “With fear for our democracy, I dissent.”  
(submitted by A. Diedrich)

### Vote for Shirley Tomczak – State Representative D65



A hard working Democrat!

FB/Shirley Tomczak for Michigan District 65  
(810)-200-3795

***Participate in Democracy***

### Ballot Proposals Information

Three Millage Proposals are on the August 6, 2024 ballot:

**Lapeer County EMS Renewal** – this six year renewal would maintain the current high level of EMS availability countywide for all residents of Lapeer County. The ballot millage request \$1.1814 per \$1,000 of assessed value on your property, which includes an additional \$0.3 mills above the current assessment.

**GLTA Transportation Renewal** – this five year renewal would maintain current operations of the Great Lakes Transportation Authority in the City of Lapeer and Lapeer, Deerfield, Elba, Mayfield, and Oregon Townships. It only appears on the ballot in those locations. The millage is \$0.2401 per \$1,000 of assessed value of your property.

**Veteran Affairs Millage** – this new six year millage would support operations of the Lapeer County Office of Veterans Affairs. This millage is \$0.185 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The previous millage supporting Veterans Affairs has expired.

### Information from Move On.org About Project 2025

**“The team that created Project 2025 is chock full of former top Trump administration officials and one of its key architects is the Republican National Committee's 2024 platform policy director.**

So when Trump says that he has "no idea" who's behind Project 2025”, we know it is total BS. As always, Trump is lying through his teeth.

After embracing the Heritage Foundation and Project 2025 whole hog, Trump is running scared because the polls show Americans reject this dangerous plan which Trump posted on Truth Social. We can't let Trump gaslight the American people.

Tying the Republican Party to Project 2025's policies that would strip away our remaining rights and freedoms, hurt middle-class and working-class families, and dismantle our democracy is the BEST opportunity we have to defeat Trump and MAGA this November. Supporting Harris for President in 2024 will make sure Project 2025 never happens.

But polls show that, right now, 77% of Americans say they know "little or nothing" about Project 2025. We have to get the word out and educate open-minded Americans who don't want to lose their freedoms!  
(submitted by A. Harrand)

## Vote for April Osentoski – State Rep. for D98



Let's work together to make the Thumb the best it can be!

Share what's important to you at [AskApril.org](https://www.AskApril.org)

***Rise Up and Vote!***

## How to Read Online Headlines... Without your Head Blowing Up

Growing up in an era when newspapers were generally honest, held their biases to the editorial page and printed, facts as facts, was delightful. The same era, where TV news was news and not ranting talking heads, where Walter Cronkite and David Brinkley were reliable sources dedicated to first class information sharing was a golden age of journalism in America.

Today, my head blows up looking at online headlines to the point many days, I just don't look (for more than a minute, anyway). Each day, I have to remind myself I am not looking at responsible journalism meant to inform and educate – I am looking at the worst examples of journalistic greed and political pandering.

Daily, I have to remind myself of two critical truths: online headlines are meant to gather "clicks" ("eyeballs" as they say) so they make money and to promote the extremists or outcasts in either political party who can't earn honest publicity by good work.



I learned, through great pain, that speculation words like “should” “would” “might” and others get “eyeballs” by proposing ridiculous theories completely unsupported by the underlying story. I learned, even more painfully, that ANY headline that suggests “Two Leading Democrats/Republicans... will never tell you who those “leaders” are or will name obscure and unknown party members certainly not qualified to be considered “leaders.”

Don’t let your head blow up! A headline claiming “Obama and Pelosi Secretly Decided...” is garbage – no one knows what was “secretly” decided and sources, “close to”, are neither “sources” nor “close to” anyone.

Remember with every word you read – that headline is making someone money because you’re reading it and is giving some unpopular politician a whiff of attention he/she can’t earn through hard, smart, capable performance in the job held. (submitted by G. Foster)

## LCDP Welcomes the College Dems

Our County Party has recently connected with the Michigan College Democrats, currently led by Jacob Welch out of Grand Valley State University. If you have a college student – or a “will-be” college student – let them know the campus organization would welcome their participation and have them email Jacob Welch @ [jacob@micollegedems.org](mailto:jacob@micollegedems.org)



### Join or Renew Your Membership

#### Membership Levels

Student \$10  
Grassroots Supporter \$20  
Lapeer Activist \$50  
Lapeer Leader \$100

Help us make a positive difference in our County. Join us to ensure EVERYONE has an opportunity to achieve the American Dream!

#### Choose an amount:

Your contribution will benefit Lapeer County Democratic Party (MI).

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100

\$

#### Make it monthly!

Yes, count me in!

✓ No, donate once

#### Checkout

Have an ActBlue Express account? [Sign in to give faster.](#)

Pay at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lapeer-dems-membership#basics>

## Focus on Local Governments

As the Lapeer County Democrats gear up to have a greater impact in our community, we are emphasizing the work done at our most local government level – the towns, cities, townships and villages of Lapeer County. Try and attend your local government meetings.

### *Local Meeting Times for Township and Village Boards– Local Meeting are the Backbone of American Democracy*

#### *Townships:*

*Arcadia - 2nd Tues 7pm (7:30 after March)*  
*Almont - 2nd Mon 7pm*  
*Attica - 2nd Th 7pm*  
*Burlington – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 7pm*  
*Burnside – 4<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm*  
*Deerfield – 2nd Mon 7pm*  
*Dryden – 2nd Tues 7pm*  
*Elba 2nd – Mon. 9am and 4th Mon. 7pm*  
*Goodland – 2nd Tues 7pm*  
*Hadley – 2nd Tues 7pm*  
*Imlay Twp – 3rd Wed 7:30pm*  
*Lapeer Twp – 2nd Mon 8:30am (odd) 6:30 (even)*  
*Marathon – 2nd Wed 6pm*  
*Mayfield – 2nd Mon 5:30pm*  
*Metamora – 2nd Mon 7pm*  
*North Branch – 2nd Tues 1pm (odd) 6pm (even)*  
*Oregon – 2nd Tues 6pm*  
*Rich – 2nd Mon 6pm*

#### *Villages and Cities:*

*Almont – 1st & 3rd Tue 7:30pm*  
*Clifford – 3rd Tues 7pm*  
*Columbiaville – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 6:30pm*  
*Dryden – 1st Tues 7pm*  
*North Branch – 1st Thu 7pm*  
*Otter Lake – 1st Mon 7pm*  
*Imlay City Commission - 1st and 3rd Tue 7pm*  
*Lapeer City Commission – 1st and 3rd Mon 6:30*  
*Metamora Village – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 7pm*

*Lapeer County Board of Commissioners – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 9am*

## *News from the Lapeer Democratic Party*

### Upcoming Events of LCDP

LCDP County Committee Meeting is the second Thursday of the month. (Second floor of Lyric Mall in downtown Lapeer)

General Meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month and is usually held in the Lincoln Room at the Center Building in Lapeer. Potluck at 6pm and meeting at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

### Mark Your Calendar

Spaghetti Dinner 10/3/24 from 4:30-7:00pm in the Lincoln Room of Center building, Lapeer.

Holiday Party 12/5/24



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## *News from Lapeer County and Michigan*

Michigan Election Dates:

1. 8/6/24 Primary Election
2. 11/5/24 General Election



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

Please send your payment to:

Lapeer County Democratic Party, PO Box 185,  
Lapeer MI 48446. Or renew online at

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

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### **News about the newsletter**

This newsletter is published monthly and is available by email to all members. If you don't have email it can be mailed.

**All members are encouraged to submit  
articles and information to the newsletter.**


Deadline for the newsletter is 18<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Send submission to the editors:

Gary Foster at [gfooster@umsuca.com](mailto:gfooster@umsuca.com)

Anita Harrand at aharr76@hotmail.com

Alex Diedrich



*Quote of the  
day*

*Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous  
than ignorance. George Bernard Shaw*