



Lapeer County Democratic Newsletter

November 2024

Volume 4, Number 40

In This Issue

- A new format.
- 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

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Find us & follow us at:

www.lapeercountymichigan.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:

There will be no November General Meeting.

Join the Lapeer Dems on December 5th for a holiday get together. A ham will be served and our potluck starts at 6pm. Free will donations will be collected for Habitat for Humanity our 2024 selected charity. This is a time for relaxing and socializing. Dinner will be in the Lincoln Room at the Lapeer Center Building, Lapeer.



Democratic Slate of Candidates

President: Kamala Harris

Vice President: Tim Walz

US Senate: Elissa Slotkin

US House: Clint St. Mosley

Michigan House

District 65: Shirley Tomczak

District 67: Anissa Buffin

District 98: April Osentoski

Township Offices:

Mayfield Treasure: Leslie Getz

Marathon Township Supervisor: Dennis Hogan

Marathon Township Trustee: Sandi Glesenkamp

Burnside Township Treasurer: Charlotte Babb

Deerfield Township Treasurer: Kris Sutton

Deerfield Township Trustee: Denise Tolen

Oregon Township Trustee: John Knowlton

SC4 Trustee: Penelope Peck & Mukund Wankhede

Mott Community College Trustee:
Ann Figueroa, Perci Whitmore, Kenyetta Dotson and/or Andrew Watchorn

State Board of Education:
Theodore Jones & Adam Zemke

Michigan State University Board of Trustees:
Rebecca Bahar-Cook & Thomas Stallworth III

University of Michigan Board of Regents
Denise Ilitch & Shauna Ryder Diggs

Wayne State Board of Governors:
Rasha Demashkieh & Mark Gaffney

Michigan Supreme Court:*

Judge Kyra Harris Bolden (Incumbent)
Kimberly Ann Thomas

***(Please note these candidates are runny as non-partisan, so look for their names on the ballot).**

Lapeer County Convention to be Held 11/9/24 at 10 am

What is the County Convention? – It is the time and place for Lapeer County Democrats to elect members of the County Committee and Party Executive Board. These people will set policy and create a direction for our party for the next two years.

To vote at the County Convention or to hold office, one must be a member of both the Michigan Democratic Party (30 days prior to Convention) and the LCDP. (There is an exception to the 30 day rule for candidates for office and Precinct Delegate's; they can join up to the date of the convention.)

- The County Convention date and rules were announced at the Sept. general meeting and nominations for the above positions were taken at the October general meeting.
- A nominating committee has been selected and is busy contacting interested people. Nominations can be made at the County Convention.

Lapeer Dems have been Busy this Election Season

In case you haven't noticed we have has really spiffed up our Facebook presence and number of followers has increased to about 1400. If you like to know what is going on in the world of politics – take a look. Our Internet presence has also been updated and improved. Many Dems have also been out canvassing the Lapeer area – over 30 volunteers have been out in Lapeer County and more than 2100 doors have been knocked. Thank you to Becky, Gigi and Gayle. Thank you to those who assembled packets for the walkers!

Karen Rykhus had a table at the Senior Expo and met over a hundred seniors who attended. Dems marched in parades in North Branch, Lapeer, Metamora, Romeo and Imlay City. Over 20 Dems manned tables at Lapeer Days, Imlay City Summer Fest and the Hispanic Festival. Our Political Action Committee has overseen all our political activities and mailed postcards with our Democratic slate to about 15,000 Lapeer County residents who were strong to leaning Democrats and Independents. Our Democratic slate was published in the LAView which

reaches 30,000 Lapeer residents and the Tri-city Times which reaches Imlay City and Almont residents. It was also published in the Good News Newsletter of Lapeer.

We had a postcard addressing party and completed 200 “get out the vote” cards for the Michigan Democratic Party – about 30 people attended. Large signs have been put up across the county and small signs distributed through the office. Individuals have been busy making phone calls to discuss the Democratic candidates and encouraging people to vote. Your newsletter reaches over 400 people and published articles about candidates and issues. Your party has spent its money wisely and put a lot of effort into reaching out to the community. If someone says they didn’t know there were Democrats in Lapeer County they obviously didn’t have their eyes open.

Don’t forget it isn’t just the President on the ballot! Local township elections, several millages, and school boards are up to vote on as well:

Almont Township Renewal of Millage for Fire Department Operation

Village of Clifford Police Protection Millage

Almont Community Schools Sinking Fund Millage Proposal

Township of Hadley Sale of Spirits and Mixed Spirit Drink

Lapeer Community Schools Candidates

Township and County of Lapeer Candidates

Kamala Harris Plans You May Not Know

You may know that Vice President Harris has made housing affordability a central part of her campaign. What you may not know is that unlike her opponent, she has an actual plan, not just a concept of one. From her Policy Book of Economic Opportunity, I have highlighted some details of the Vice President’s plan you may not have seen to get excited about. (Disclaimer: The following sections have been shortened/edited for length - please look at <http://www.kamalaharris.com> for the full text.)

Unlocking 1.2 million new affordable rental homes through historic incentives for the private sector. As the demand for affordable housing continues to outstrip supply, the Census Bureau has reported that more than 21 million American renter households spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent—representing almost half of the renting households in the country. The most significant existing federal policy lever to address the affordable housing crisis is the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), a tax credit that helps make it financially viable for private and non-profit developers to build affordable rental housing. Vice President Harris will unlock the potential of the building industry by expanding this proven tax credit to significantly expand affordable rental supply by more than 1.2 million new affordable homes, which will reduce rental prices.

Creating a new tax credit to rehabilitate affordable housing for homeowners who want to stay in their communities. There are currently no federal tax incentives to help homeowners rehabilitate their homes and keep them affordable, nor to support the construction of affordable homes that will be owner-occupied. Vice

President Harris would fill this gap by creating a new Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit, which would support the new construction or rehabilitation of over 400,000 owner-occupied homes in lower income communities. The credit would only be available for single-family affordable homes that will be occupied by the owner, with the goal of supporting individuals or families that wish to set down roots in a community—not supporting private equity homebuyers that simply seek to turn a profit.

Building up supply through the first-ever tax incentive for building affordable homes for first-time homebuyers. This would provide significant tax relief for homebuilders who build homes sold to working families and meaningfully change the economics of building homes that are within reach for younger families. This would complement the Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit, which encourages investment in homes that would otherwise be too costly or difficult to develop or rehabilitate. The National Association of Homebuilders commended this proposal, noting that it will “help builders to construct badly needed new homes and apartments.”

Launching a \$40 Billion Local Innovation Fund for Housing Expansion. Vice President Harris’s plan would provide state and local governments, and private developers and homebuilders, funds to invest in innovative strategies to expand the housing supply. This could include financing the construction of new housing paired with efforts to reduce regulatory burden and cut red tape, employing innovative building and construction techniques to lower costs, and using self-sustaining financing mechanisms to scale new housing construction. Simultaneously, Vice President Harris will continue working to facilitate mass transit-oriented development and energy efficient homes to lower costs

Taking on algorithmic price fixing, which distorts markets, and ending unfair practices that help large corporate landlords dramatically raise rents. One major price-setting company bragged that their rent-setting software was “driving” significant rent increases—noting that few landlords would be “willing to actually raise rents double digits within a single month by doing it manually.” That’s why Vice President Harris is calling on Congress to pass the Preventing the Algorithmic Facilitation of Rental Housing Cartels Act, to crack down on companies that contribute to surging rent prices by making these unfair practices illegal under antitrust laws.

Stopping Wall Street investors from buying up and marking up homes in bulk. The “share of investor purchases” made by large investors with portfolios of 100 properties or more grew from 14 percent in September 2020 to 26 percent in September 2021, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies. Further, large institutional investors disproportionately buy up homes in communities of color and low to moderate income communities. That’s why Vice President Harris is calling on Congress to pass the Stop Predatory Investing Act, to curtail these practices by removing key tax benefits for major investors that acquire large numbers of single-family rental homes. (Submitted by Alex D.)

Important Dates and Deadlines for the General Election 2024 – Don’t Miss Out!

- 10/21 Last day to register to vote online or by mail to vote in November election. After this date you can register in person with your local clerk, up until 8pm on Election Day, November 5th.
- 10/26 to 11/3 Early-in-person voting period for the November Presidential Election.
- 11/4 at 4pm is last day to request absentee ballot in person at local clerk’s office.
- 11/5 Presidential General Election.

Thank You Spaghetti Dinner Fundraising Committee and Workers

Laura Mikus reported that 114 dinners were served at the Lapeer Democratic Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser held on October 3rd. A good profit was made for future political action activities. Laura, Karen, Heidi, Jim, Rose and other committee members and volunteers set up the room, cooked the pasta and sauces, baked the cookies and then helped with the clean-up. There were lots of new faces eating pasta and enjoying the evening. Thanks to everyone who helped with publicity, set up and clean up. Go Dems!



Voter Protection Hotline – Report problems voting and other problems.
Call 1-833-648-6837 or 833-MI-Votes

Voting – A Right and a Responsibility

As we approach the end of, possibly, the most consequential election since the 1930s, it is worth our time to remember why we do this “voting thing” and what it means for our future. The US, of course, uses both direct

elections where voter ballots are counted and determine the victor, and indirect elections for President (the Electoral College), where our votes are actually cast for a slate of “electors” who, in turn, cast their ballots for a candidate for President and Vice-President.

While criticized at times, the Electoral College was an essential and key ingredient in gaining support for the new US Constitution and is populated by the total count of any states US Senators (2) plus the number of US Representatives as determined by population.

By placing strict population as a secondary element in the election of the US Executives, the founders designed a system providing balance between the heavily populated states in our early history and those still in their infancy. Without such balance, it was unlikely to impossible for the smaller states to accept the Constitution and thus launch our Republic.

In addition to the 535 Representatives and Senators drawn from the states, in 1961 the 23rd Amendment added 3 electors for the District of Columbia, thus ending a period where citizens residing there had no voice in the selection of our President and Vice-President. (Notice the current lack of Congressional representation for DC means those residents still suffer from “taxation without representation” even today).

Still, voting for representation was dramatically limited under the original Constitution where only white males owning property were enfranchised with voting rights, a condition that remained in force from 1787 through 1870 with the degree and type of property ownership varying between the states per local custom. Degree and scope of changes to these standards was also varied among the different states through those several decades.

Following the Civil War, of course, the 15th Amendment to our Constitution delivered the right to vote to Black males but no provision was made for women or any Indigenous Americans. Those improvements had to wait until 1887 when Native Americans, who disassociated from their tribe, became eligible while in 1913, elections for the US Senate became direct elections rather than Indirect and controlled by state legislators.

Not until 1920 were women granted the right to vote regardless of race and in 1924 voting privileges were extended to all Native Americans regardless of tribal affiliation. Still, there were many restrictions, limits, and statutory prohibitions in place from poll taxes to property ownership and multitudes of devious techniques used to keep the levers of power in the hands of those white males who had always run their states.

From the earliest times, US voting rights and processes were matters handled at the state level and so it continues today where we see ongoing battles over voting access as certain reactionary political factions work to limit, restrain, and disenfranchise our people.

It is this battle, this war; that makes our decision to vote ON or BEFORE November 5th so critical and so completely necessary. No change will happen, no progress will be made and no freedom will be secured until and unless every single one of us express ourselves by selecting the women and men we know will defend our rights in our townships and cities, our counties, and states and, most critically, to sit in our uniquely American House of Representatives, Senate and Office of the President.

If you have not yet voted – there is time! If you have not yet voted – know YOU ARE NEEDED! (Submitted by Gary F.)

Supreme Preview

Give a warm welcome back to the Supreme Court that has just recently come back into session. It really was nice having some time not to worry about what they would do next while the Court was on vacation. Alas, that time was too short lived and a few more important cases are yet to be decided in 2024.

The first case to keep track of is San Francisco (city) vs the Environmental Protection Agency. This is the first major environmental case of the term, centering on how the EPA can enforce the Clean Water Act. The agency has instructed the city of San Francisco to better manage its sewage and storm water discharges under the Clean Water Act. Pollutants have been discharged at unacceptable levels in the bay and into citizen's homes and businesses, over the past several years, resulting in the EPA issuing penalties to the city. The city has challenged the regulations are not specific enough for the EPA to issue penalties. While this may sound like a small and insignificant issue, how the Supreme Court resolves this issue will determine how the Clean Water Act is applied across the country. A ruling in favor of the city of San Francisco may open the door for polluters across the country to damage our waters without any threat of consequence.

Another firearms case has reached the Supreme Court, this time addressing the issue of so called "Ghost Guns". Ghost guns are "firearms parts kits" that can be purchased online and assembled into a functional firearm within minutes. Ghost guns were produced with the intention of skirting regulations with standard firearms. Ghost guns were sold without serial numbers or background checks, therefore untraceable, since they were "only gun parts", until 2022 when the Biden administration issued a rule clarification regulating them as standard firearms. "From 2016 through 2021, there were approximately 45,240 suspected privately made firearms [ghost guns] reported to ATF as having been recovered by law enforcement from potential crime scenes, including 692 homicides or attempted homicides. (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives)". Manufacturers of ghost guns have challenged that existing statutes do not apply to the weapons to continue profiting by selling untraceable weapons to criminals. Were the government to lose, the presence of these weapons in crimes around the country could skyrocket once more. (Submitted by Alex D.)

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.**

Deadline for the newsletter is 18th of every month.

Send submission to the editors:

Anita Harrand at aharr76@hotmail.com

Alex Diedrich

Lapeer County Democratic Party needs your financial support.

Please send your membership donation to:

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

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

