



# Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

April 2025

Volume 5, Number 45

## In This Issue

- 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

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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:

April County Committee meeting is 04/10/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.



There is no April General meeting. Meetings are held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building. Bring a dish to pass for the pot luck supper prior to the meeting. General meetings are open to all.

## Upcoming Social and Fundraising Events for Lapeer County Democratic Party

### Social Events (Mark your calendar):

8/9/25 Dems Annual Picnic at the home of M. Monson.

### Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

April 24, 2025 Spaghetti Dinner in Lincoln Room of the Lapeer Center Building (see details below)

July 24-26, 2025 Biennial Yard Sale in North Branch

## Dems Need Volunteers for Spring Expo

On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> the Lapeer Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Lapeer Community Spring Expo. This event is a free family fun day and Lapeer County Dems will have a table as in years past. The event runs from 11am to 3pm. If you have time to help with set up on the 27<sup>th</sup> or spend a couple hours manning the table please call or text Rose Bogardus to volunteer – 810-358-2304.



## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in Lapeer

Lapeer Democrats invite you to our Spaghetti Dinner Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 4:30-7:00pm. The dinner will be held in the Lincoln Room at the Lapeer Center Building (425 County Center St. Lapeer). Plan to join us for a night of good food and conversation. Take-out meals are available.

Donation of \$17.00 (Children under 10 are free.) Dinner includes: salad, garlic bread, cookies drinks and choice of:

\*Spaghetti with Meatballs and Sausage

\*Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce

\*Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo

You can pay for your meal by cash, check or credit card.

## LCDP 2025 Garage Sale July 24-26 – After May 1<sup>st</sup> Donations Accepted!!

**Jim and Heidi Waid of North Branch will be hosting the Dems garage sale this year, during the month of July.** Donated items can be dropped off starting May 1st, by appointment only. You can reach Heidi by calling 248-224-4142 or Jim at 248-217-9566 to schedule a drop off time and date. The Democratic Party will not be accepting any electronics, chemicals, books, mattresses, or clothing. Your donations will not only help you declutter your home, but it will help the Democrats to raise money for our future battles, and it allows someone else to get what they need/want at a reduced price. It sounds like a win, win situation to me! We look forward to seeing all of your treasures. You can also call Laura Mikus for information 810-664-5650.



*Join the Michigan Democratic Party, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Chair Curtis Hertel, and elected leaders from across the state.*

*Get your tickets at [Michigandems.com](https://michigandems.com)*

## The Rule of Law is Leftist Now, Apparently

By Alex Diedrich

It's no secret to anyone that the courts have become very, very busy in Trump 2.0. There are currently over 100 active litigations against the administration, and likely many more will follow. I'm sure many of you, like us, have not been able to keep up with where they all stand due to the sheer volume of lawlessness. While the administration is still obeying court orders, the judicial branch is our strongest institutional bastion left against this authoritarian agenda. We have included a few higher profile cases to highlight where they stand at the time of this writing.

One group keeping track of all of this litigation is the non-profit Lawfare. We have linked their Trump Administration Litigation Tracker to help stay you stay up to date. <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/projects-series/trumps-first-100-days/tracking-trump-administration-litigation>

## Khalil vs Joyce

On March 8th ICE arrested and detained a Mahmoud Khalil, a US green card holder, based on his role in the Gaza campus protests at Columbia University. He was NOT accused or charged of any crimes when he was detained. He was immediately sent to an ICE holding facility across the country in Louisiana, without a court hearing. The case has recently been moved from Louisiana to the District Court in New Jersey, with a hearing scheduled for April 8th

## Washington vs Trump – birthright citizenship

On January 20th, the Trump administration decided to pretend the 14th Amendment to our Constitution was just a suggestion, and not law of the land. By executive order, Trump attempted to create broad exceptions to citizenship for persons born in the United States. This order was immediately challenged by state attorneys general and multiple other litigants. A nationwide injunction was filed by multiple district court judges. Currently, the appeals courts have denied removal of those injunctions, and the appeal for that action is up at the Supreme Court.

## JGG vs Trump- illegal deportation to El Salvador

On March 16th, the Trump Administration deported a number of Venezuelan migrants to a horrific prison in El Salvador. This was done without any due process. A judge also instructed the administration to turn the planes around when it was discovered, and this order was ignored. The administration defended their actions by invoking the Alien Enemies Act, which was last used to justify imprisoning Japanese Americans in internment camps during WWII. It can only be invoked in wartime, which we clearly are not. Currently, the judge is investigating the violation of his order.

## The Fight for our Right to Read Continues, Patterns Emerge

By Susan Hough

Over the last month, some of the newest Lapeer District Library (LDL) Board members, self-identified conservatives, have been speakers at the Lapeer County Tea Party and held forth during Library Board meetings and County Commissions meetings.

At the March meeting of the LDL Board, the Conservative Majority (let's call them CM) quickly, over the objections of LDL Board members Bill Marquardt and Perry Vale, fired Anne Seurnyck of Foster Swift, widely considered to be the top Library law attorney in the state. In Ms. Seurnyck's place, they retained local firm Rickard, Denney, Leichleiter, Childers and Bosch. (The Denney Group) Although the website of the Denney Group touts their expertise in Religious Freedom, Municipal Law and dog bites (among other things) they mention no expertise in Library Law.

At the same meeting, the CM introduced an amendment to the LDL Board Bylaws to add Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer to the meeting order. This change to library bylaws will be voted on at the April 17 LDL Board meeting.

Several patterns are beginning to emerge in messaging from the CM Board members:

- The CM say they are not book bannings or burnings. They just want to protect children by limiting the materials they can access in the library without parental involvement. (Distinction without a difference.)

- The CM says they want to protect vulnerable children who don't have responsible adults in their life from what the CM judges to be pornography. (This is important because "vulnerable" is a term used in Library Law to describe groups that may need protection from sexually explicit materials in the library.)
- The CM says children have access in the library to images that would be pornography if they were photographs instead of drawings (Misleading/inaccurate statement.)
- The CM says children are being sexualized, which leads to trafficking and sexual abuse of children. To fight this, they say the community must ensure children can't view images that are pornography, no matter where those images are housed in the library. (Again, pornographic materials aren't available in public libraries. And a few books are causing the sexualization of children?)
- The CM asks who are these people who wouldn't want to protect children? (Those damn liberals – they're pedophiles and groomers!)
- "If the community knew about these books" they would never pass another library millage, says the CM. (Repeat this often enough and the community will never pass another millage.)
- And finally, the CM and Prosecutor John Miller have emphasized that dissenters must be respectful in their comments and they will only reply to respectful questions and comments. (Remind you of the reprimand on Zelenskyy by Trump et al in the Oval Office?)

Despite their protestations that there are "no plans to target specific books and pull them off the shelf," the CM very clearly has plans to target specific books and flag them or limit access to them. We are waiting for a requested list of the titles that are of concern to the CM, although books mentioned in their comments to date seem to be primarily those with LGBTQ+ themes.

In a bright spot for the fight against censorship, at the March 27 Lapeer County Board of Commissioners meetings, the Commissioners voted 5-2 to appoint Ms. Bonnie Lawrence to fill the vacant seat on the Library Board. (Commissioners Scott McMahan and Kevin Knisely voted for another self-identified Christian conservative.) Ms. Lawrence's term will end December 31, 2028. Although the CM will undoubtedly still work to bring censorship to our district library, this signals that the majority of County Commissioners feel the board requires balance and is leaning away from single focus applicants.

Understanding the CMs messaging is key to building a meaningful resistance to censorship in our libraries. Your presence at upcoming LDL Board meetings supports the LDL Trustees who are fighting censorship and sends a powerful message to the Conservative Majority as they attack our right to read.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. The May meeting is held at the DeAngeli Library, all others are held at the Lapeer Center Building.

Additionally, you may be interested in following a newly formed community group, **Fight 4 the First Lapeer**. This is an anti-censorship, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment group working to protect freedom to access information in our district library, and which will be building an effort to support the future Lapeer District Library millage requests. They can be found at [www.Fight4theFirstLapeer.org](http://www.Fight4theFirstLapeer.org) and on Facebook at *Fight 4 the First Lapeer*.

## The Economic Boycotts Are Working and New Boycotts are Set to Begin!

By Dr. Dante M. Pirouz

Money is power and companies are learning the hard way that turning their backs on DEI policies and cozying up to the horrific initiatives of the current administration will result in angry American consumers taking their valuable dollars elsewhere.

Economic boycotts against categories such as fast food and gas and against companies like Target, Amazon, Nestle and others who have rolled back the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives have been ongoing since February 2025 organized by grassroots organizations like the People's Union USA and spread across social media channels.

The impact has been significant. Target has experienced an 11% decline in sales and 5 million fewer customers while Costco, which has fought to maintain its DEI initiatives, has seen an increase of 7.7 million customers.

Below are the upcoming economic boycotts this spring. Voters are encouraged to shop instead at locally owned stores or to recycle; reuse or trade with others and the NAACP is recommending that people shop with Black-owned businesses and other brands that still have DEI programs.

## UPCOMING ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

- Walmart boycott from April 7th - April 14th and May 20th - 26th
- A 1-day general economic blackout, asking shoppers to avoid spending any money, including fast food and gasoline on April 18th
- General Mills boycott through April 21st
- 40 day "Target Fast" through April 17th and June 3rd - 9th ([targetfast.org](https://targetfast.org))
- Amazon boycott from May 6th - 12th
- McDonald's boycott from June 24th - 30th

## Fight Back with Simple Actions to Push against Trump's Agenda

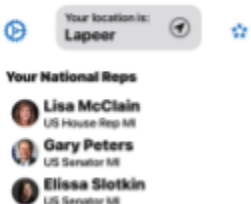
By Theresa Kennedy

The 5 Calls app is a simple yet dynamic tool that helps us make a difference by connecting users with elected officials so we can share our thoughts about important issues. It's very easy to use and designed to help you stay informed and take action on things that matter to us, especially at this time when changes are happening so quickly.

I used to feel unsure and even a little intimidated when considering calling a congressional office. I wasn't sure what to say or if my comments were having an impact. Then someone suggested 5 Calls in a Facebook post.

I learned that phone calls are the most effective way to make our opinions count. Emails and letters take time to process but phone calls are immediately logged by congressional staff. Regular call tally reports are shared with congress people so they definitely know when their constituents feel strongly about an issue! And the app makes it so easy that I can make three calls on my coffee break at work - and still have time for coffee! (Read more at [5calls.org](https://5calls.org).)

## How It Works



The screenshot shows the top of the 5 Calls app. At the top, it says "Your location is: Lapeer" with a location pin icon and a star icon. Below that, under the heading "Your National Reps", there are three entries: Lisa McClain (US House Rep MI), Gary Peters (US Senator MI), and Elissa Slotkin (US Senator MI). Each entry includes a small circular profile picture and the name and title of the representative.

When you open the app, it will show a list of current issues that you can call about. Each issue has a brief description and contact information for the people you need to call—in



Lapeer, for example, it lists Senator Gary Peters, Senator Elissa Slotkin, and Representative Lisa McClain.

The app provides you with a script, so you don't have to worry about what to say. Just follow the script, make the call, and let your voice be heard!

## Benefits of using the 5 Calls app



**Easy to use:** The app guides you step by step and provides scripts, so you don't need to memorize anything.

**It makes a real impact:** Each call helps influence decisions that affect your community.

**Stay informed:** It keeps you updated on important issues and makes it simple to take action.

**Convenient:** You can make calls from anywhere, any time, making it easy to participate in democracy.

**It's a simple, powerful way to have your voice heard!** Just open the app and choose the topic that's most important to you, and then follow the prompts!

How to find and download the 5 Calls app

### For Android Users (Samsung, LG, Google Pixel, etc.):

1. Open the Google Play Store:
  - a. Look for a small icon on your phone that says "Play Store" (it looks like a colorful triangle).
  - b. Tap on it to open the app store.
2. Search for the 5 Calls App:
  - a. At the top of the Play Store, there is a search bar.
  - b. Tap on the search bar and type "5 Calls" using the on-screen keyboard.
  - c. Press the magnifying glass or "search" button.
3. Find the App:
  - a. You should see the 5 Calls app appear in the list. It has a logo with a phone and the number 5 on it.
  - b. Tap on the app name to open its page.
4. Download the App:
  - a. On the app page, there will be a button that says "Install" (it's usually green). Tap on that button.
  - b. Wait a few moments as the app gets downloaded and installed onto your phone. You may see a progress bar while it's downloading.
5. Open the App:
  - a. Once the app is downloaded, you will see the word "Open" on the same screen. Tap on "Open" to start using the app.
  - b. You can also find the app by looking for the 5 Calls icon in your apps list (the page where all your apps are displayed).

### For iPhone Users (Apple Phones):

1. Open the App Store:
  - a. Look for an icon that says "App Store" (it's a blue icon with a white "A" made out of sticks).
  - b. Tap on it to open the App Store.

2. Search for the 5 Calls App:
  - a. At the bottom of the screen, you will see a magnifying glass or "Search" option. Tap on it.
  - b. In the search bar that appears at the top of the screen, type "5 Calls" and press the "Return" key or "Search."
3. Find the App:
  - a. The 5 Calls app should be listed in the search results. It has a logo with a phone and the number 5 on it.
  - b. Tap on the app name to open its page.
4. Download the App:
  - a. On the app's page, you will see a cloud icon with an arrow or a button that says "Get" (it's usually blue).
  - b. Tap on "Get" and it will start downloading. You may need to confirm the download by entering your Apple ID password or using Face/Touch ID.
5. Open the App:
  - a. Once the app finishes downloading, you can tap on "Open" to start using it immediately.
  - b. Alternatively, you can find the app on your home screen and tap the icon to open it.

## Backlash Starting – Let's Contribute!

By Gary Foster

Most Presidents – the normal ones in our past – enjoy a honeymoon after entering office that lasts a few months until actions from the White House start to irritate, annoy or disturb his supporters and those in the middle of the spectrum.

Less than 15 days from the Inauguration, 1,200 people gathered – mostly Republicans but many independents and some Dems – at the "Principles First" conference to start planning responses to the monstrous first proclamations from this President and co-President Musk.

Around the country, people began reacting to the inane, insane and completely bonkers nonsense this President is and has been spouting; Canada as a 51st state; Greenland invasion; Panama Canal takeover – and then the draconian slashing of jobs, imposing tariffs (on our friends!), and deportation of long resident persons that followed.

The backlash has been substantial and severe – particularly in the Republican heartland where the dependence on Medicaid, crop sales, education funding and belief in honest government runs the highest. Republican members of Congress are afraid to hold town hall meetings or meet those who voted for them. Farmers who voted for this President are preparing bankruptcy petitions while hiding from neighbors and friends the severity of the trouble.

A Missouri farmer, and Trump voter, has paid \$4,250 more in fertilizer and supply costs already this spring and will pay \$13,250 more in three annual cycles because of Canadian tariffs, a total hit of \$18,500 which eliminates his profit for the year on several products while prices for his corn, wheat and soybeans tank from demand diverted to other countries and tariffs completely eliminated his \$85,000 market for wood from his walnut trees.

Teachers across the South are in a panic because, of course, the largest percentage of Education Department funds are dispersed in the 5 southern states, the same states where recipients of Medicaid payments run as high as 1/3 of the populations.

In Kansas, 900 people attended a town hall meeting with their Republican Congressman and stared at an empty stage when he refused to face the people who elected him.

And there is so much more it's impossible to list all the people – many supporters of this President – who are going to suffer the most from his slash and crash policies of destruction.

So what's to be done? We are – temporarily – shut out of the House and Senate. Our ability to respond is limited except it's not.

First, we remember at all times – this past election was a 2% election. This President won by the slimmest of margins and the voters represented in that sliver are among those about to suffer the most.

Second, we craft an EFFECTIVE message of economic renewal. We work alongside our appointed and elected representatives, our local, county and state Democratic leadership to design a program that cares about the lower income, under-employed and those saving to buy a home and build a family. That's where the election was lost and where the next one must be won.

Finally, we use the power of our voice and our pen. Our voice includes social media – Facebook and all the other methods for sharing opinions are critical outlets that reach the younger voters to remind them that better choices exist and we can make them. Point out, gently perhaps, the promises made by this President are proving to be lies and the pain he dishes out so easily is not shared by his Republican buddies.

Letters to the Editors of all our papers are a crucial link to others of the like mind. The County Press, Flint Journal, Detroit Free Press and News are key outlets to remind the independent voters of the chaos being inflicted on our citizens. National papers, as well, are receptive to “voices from the hinterlands”.

Where there are rallies, be in attendance. Where there are meetings, participate. Where there are people, talk and listen. We will not win by yelling – we will win by being good neighbors, good friends and sympathetic alternatives to the scorched earth policies being visited upon us.

Then, as they say, rinse and repeat. Do it over and over again. We have two years to drive home the message to our 2% neighbors that this Congress is not their friend. Let's do it.

## **I Heard from a Friend – Carolyn Medland (A Previous Member of LCDP)**

As I was carrying an anti-Trump sign at an outdoor event, a person driving by screamed at us, “majority rule!” If they were trying to say most of the country doesn't agree with me, I think they are very wrong.

Start with the election, though Trump said he won “bigly,” the numbers say not. If you add all the Harris voters with those who voted for a third-party candidate, that number is bigger. More people voted for someone else than voted for Trump. What has happened since the election? I looked at 15 polls of approve/disapprove Trump yesterday. Nine of the 15 poles were disapprove.

Lastly, yesterday on TV, a pollster was talking to numerous voters in Michigan who HAD voted for Trump. When asked if they would again, NONE of them re-picked Trump.

Maybe this is because the guy who said he would bring down the price of eggs isn't focused on that at all. He has turned over the trimming of our bureaucracy to some teenagers with a sledge hammer. And, now Putin is Trump's trusted friend and Canada, Mexico, and most of Europe hate us.



We did not vote for chaos or a dictator, but we now seem to have both. (Carolyn and husband Gary are currently living in Denver, Colorado)

## The Lapeer Democratic Party Needs Your Participation

The Lapeer Dems are making plans for 2025. To help elect Democrats in Michigan and get the word out about what MI Dems are doing, we need everyone to volunteer to help on a committee. Here is a list of committees you can join:

- Political Action
- Social events/Outreach
- Membership
- Bylaws
- Fundraising
- Communications (newsletter, Facebook and Social Media)

If everyone adds their talents and time to the party we can do great things. If you have not already volunteered, please contact our Chair, Alex, at [apdiedrich@gmail.com](mailto:apdiedrich@gmail.com). Thanks for supporting your party.

## 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](http://www.LapeerCountyDemocraticParty.com) 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.

