



Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

May 2025

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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

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Find us & follow us at:

www.lapeercountymichigan.org (web page)

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

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:

May County Committee meeting is 05/8/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.



The May General meeting is 5/22/25. 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 changed to Crampton Park in Lapeer. More details to follow.

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

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

October 4, 2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner - Mark Your Calendars

Speakers for 5/22/25 General Meeting Will Be “*Braver Angels*?”

“As a grassroots movement, Braver Angels seeks to spread its message of depolarization primarily by connecting local community groups. We will have a red-leaning and blue-leaning representative from the local Michigan Braver Angels group come share about their efforts to seek common ground and ways we can participate in bridging the partisan divide.”



Come and Join the LCDP for a Pizza Trivia Night May 13th

Bring a friend and enjoy a night of trivia, pizza and prizes at Tilted Axis in downtown Lapeer. For LCDP members cost is \$10, for non-members \$15 (cash or credit card). Pay membership that night and pay member fee for Trivia Night. Pizza, salad and sodas will be provided. We will meet upstairs in the Tilted Axis from 6-8pm. Alcohol not included but can be obtained downstairs in the bar. Come and play as a team – win prizes! There is no RSVP needed just show up.

LCDP 2025 Garage Sale July 24-26 – After May 1st 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)

Guest speaker- JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois



50/50/1 Demonstration By Becky Fitts

I loved seeing so many people taking to the front lawn of Michigan's State Capitol (Lansing) April 5, 2025, for the 50/50/1 demonstration against Trump. Civil rights, LGBTQ+, First Amendment, and environmental policies and voters rights were all represented at the demonstration as people came out in droves to tell Trump that we are not an oligarchy. We are not a dictatorship. We are a democracy and run by the people and our voices will be heard. But honestly, a picture can say what 1000 words cannot. So here is a collage put together of demonstration photos you all have sent us.

Thank you to everyone who has made signs listened to speeches, music or marched in all kinds of weather over the last few weeks across the United States. As Cory Booker stated at the end of his now historical speech to the Senate on the first of April, "the power of the people is greater than the people in power."

What We Learned from the April Special Election Results in Florida and Wisconsin

By Alex Diedrich

First, I would like to offer an acknowledgement and thank you to those who volunteered their time to make calls and send cards for these elections. Every effort to fight for our values is critical. Win or lose, the margins of election results influence the policies and messaging of both parties.

In swing state Wisconsin, Trump won the state by under 30,000 votes in November, <1%. Susan Crawford, the liberal aligned candidate for the Wisconsin Supreme Court won by 10%. This was the most expensive state Supreme Court race ever, with Elon Musk notably and very publicly contributing over 10 million dollars against Crawford. You may have noticed Elon has been in the news with DOGE less in the last few weeks, and this electoral repudiation of his interference in our elections is likely a major reason why. Even more importantly, Crawford's election likely preserves access to abortion in the state of Wisconsin. In the not-too-distant past, Wisconsin suffered the worst Republican gerrymander, granting them supermajorities at the state level despite being a virtually 50/50 state. The 4-3 liberal majority on the court will prevent Republicans from attempting to bring back these unfair maps. Crawford's victory has been huge for the people of Wisconsin, and is an encouraging result for upcoming elections around the country later in 2025 and 2026.

Turning to Florida, these are likewise encouraging results, though defeats. Republican candidates won the Florida 1st and Florida 6th districts by 32 and 33 points, in fall 2024. Those gaps closed significantly to 14 points in April. These results came before "liberation day" tariffs and resulting stock market crash, before it was publicly known Kilmer Abrego Garcia was deported against court orders, and all the other April Trump Administration chaos. In deep red districts Democrats performed 18/19 points better less than 100 days into this Autocratic shit show of an administration. Even given our typical advantage in special elections, this is a sign that Democrats should be on full court press against this administration at every opportunity.

"People have freedom of religion, not freedom FROM religion." - Notably, NOT Thomas Jefferson

By Rob Solomon, Advocates Against

Those words - often falsely attributed to our famous founding father - are an alarmingly obvious recipe for religious tyranny. Shockingly, they were publicly repeated by a newly appointed Lapeer District Library board (LDL) trustee as an argument against the continued separation of church and state. The misrepresentation, shared at the April 17 LDL board meeting, should be alarming to all proponents and defenders of 1st Amendment rights.

The idea that the board has the authority to restrict access to books, authors and subject matter they find objectionable based on religious beliefs is in violation of the First Amendment. Moreover, it is not the duty or mission of the board to act in this capacity. Ironically it WAS Thomas Jefferson who advocated for the inclusion of the Establishments Clause in our Constitution, prohibiting the creation of a national religion, or the passage of laws favoring any religion over another. This applies, of course, to local governmental agencies, including those actions of the LDL board.

Unfortunately, the challenges facing Lapeer County libraries are not limited to questions of constitutionality raised by the actions of the LDL board. On March 31, 2025 the President of the United States issued an Executive Order targeting funding for The Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS), effective immediately. According to experts, the order has already resulted in furloughed IMLS workers and drastic cuts

to Federal funding. Worse still, the order will apparently "claw back" grants that were previously awarded and included in library budgets for 2025 (this fiscal year).

Without access to these funds, many local libraries will be facing unanticipated budget shortfalls in the year ahead. The LDL received some funds from the IMLS indirectly through Michigan's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program. The board has not yet commented on the expected impact of the IMLS Executive Order on the LDL system. Trustees have also not indicated whether there are plans to address any budget deficits that might result; or if shortfalls would result in cuts to services and resources available to the public. Since the principle duties of the LDL board are to advocate for needed funding and resources, we believe that the LDL board should be obligated to provide some guidance on this matter.

In a positive development, the LDL board did vote to amend and preserve public comment periods at upcoming meetings. The decision was made after consideration of feedback from constituents in attendance. We hope that those who are concerned with financing and funding, as well as ongoing 1st Amendment debates, will take the opportunity to respectfully share opinions. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15th at the deAngeli Branch of the Library at 921 West Nepessing in Lapeer. To speak to a member of the Lapeer County Democratic Party about your concerns in the meantime, please contact us at lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com.

Investing in Our Digital Future: Why Underground Cable Matters

By Theresa Kennedy

There have been recent discussions by the Lapeer County Commissioners about internet service—and the decisions made in the coming months will shape our community's future for years to come.

Fast, reliable internet isn't a luxury anymore—it's essential for work, education, healthcare, and daily life. As we look ahead, it's critical to advocate for solutions that will deliver lasting value and true reliability.

While satellite options like Starlink offer basic coverage for remote areas, they cannot match the speed, stability, and long-term potential of underground cable. Fiber and coaxial networks provide faster, more dependable service and are much less vulnerable to weather disruptions. Once installed, they can be easily upgraded as technology evolves.

Most importantly, investing in underground infrastructure keeps control in local hands. By building a system that serves Lapeer County directly, we gain greater power over pricing, service quality, and access—and avoid depending on distant corporations to meet our needs.

According to The County Press (August 26, 2023), Lapeer County has \$13 million available from American Rescue Plan funds, and a new broadband plan is in development. Decisions will be made soon. We must be ready to stand up for the strong, community-driven future we deserve.

(This is Part 1 of 2. Next month, I'll outline specific ideas for Lapeer County—and share a call to action for how we can move this forward together.)

Twenty-five Hours and Five Minutes, Cory Bookers Protest

By Becky Fitts

Cory Booker, Senior Senator, from New Jersey made history again starting on March 31st and ending April 1st. Not only is he the first black U.S. Senator from the great state of New Jersey, but on the last day of March he stood in a one-man protest, starting the longest speech in United States Senate history.

Starting his speech off by quoting the great John Lewis; “Get in good trouble”, “necessary trouble.” “We cannot give up now.” Senator Booker continued this speech for 25 hours and 5 minutes before he finally released the podium. This was an heroic speech in protest against the action of Donald J. Trump and his administration and the dismantling of our government by Elon Musk and his goons known as DOGE.

Here are some highlights from this heroic speech over the two-day period of this historical speech canceling out Strom Thurmond’s speech to the Senate in 1957 opposing the civil rights movement. As stated above, it started with a quote from the great John Lewis, a civil rights leader. He then spent several hours reading letters he had received from constituents who wrote him about Donald Trump’s policies that are harming them personally. He spoke of his roots as a minority citizen, a descendant of both slaves and slave owners. A quote that hit home and referenced the speech of the segregationist and racist Senator Strom Thurmond’s historically long speech sixty-eight years ago, Senator Booker stated, “I’m here because as powerful as he was, the people are more powerful.” This statement was not only a dismantling of the racist rhetoric spewed out in 1957 but also a call to us as citizens to stand together against the harmful policies and actions being taken by the Trump administration in the breakdown of our country.

Personally, I am proud to stand beside Senator Cory Booker (NJ) in his triumphant and history making speech that gives support to every United States citizen being harmfully affected by Trump and his gang of goons but also taking Strom Thurmond and his toxic rhetoric out of the history books as the longest standing speech held on the Senate floor. Thank you, Senator Booker, for standing with the people and your fellow Democrats.

UPCOMING ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

Companies which avoid taxes, have poor labor practices, those lobbying against worker rights or manipulative pricing during inflation, exploitation and unethical practices are the focus of the boycotts. For more information you can go to: thepeoplesunionusa.com/consumer-awareness.

Second Amazon boycott May 6th - 12th

Second Walmart boycott May 20th – 26th

Target boycott June 3rd – 9th

McDonald's boycott from June 24th - 30th

Companies that are a focus for boycotts include: Amazon, Walmart, nestle, Monsanto, Coca-Cola, Chevron, Nike, Meta (Facebook), Google/Alphabet, Comcast and others.

Satirical Poetry from a LCDP Member (Bob Pirog)

I hear there's supposed to be some egocentric created celebration declared in The Rose Garden (soon to be renamed The DOGE Garden) so, with apologies to Don Mclean's 'American Pie', the following is my take. Enjoy or not:

It seems like a long, long, time ago
But can't remember when daily news
Sometimes made me smile.
I feel that if there's a chance,
We'd soon be rid of Trump and Vance
Then maybe we'd be happy for a while.

But everyday I'm made to shiver
With every executive order that's delivered.
Bad news on the TV screen,
Hoping for something to intervene.
And now I want to decry,
"You can't do this to our Allies!",
But rationality has been cast aside
So, this'll be the day American Alliances died.

Bye, bye to the American Ally.
Would've drove a new Chevy to the levee
But the tariffs were too high.
A group of 'good ol' boys' bought all the risky lies
And now, this'll be the day American Alliances died.
This'll be the day American Alliances died.

State of Michigan officials say they will provide ex-federal workers access to unemployment, job search and community resources.

Go to: Michigan.gov/FederalWorkerHelp

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. 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 18th of each month.

Send submission to the editors:

Anita Harrand at aharr76@hotmail.com

Alex Diedrich at apdiedrich@gmail.com

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.

