



# Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

July 2025

Volume 5, Number 48

## 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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Vice Chair: Rose Bogardus

Secretary: Susan Beal

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## Find us & follow us at:

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

July County Committee meeting is 07/10/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.

The September General meeting is 9/25/25. Meetings are held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building. General meetings are open to all.

**No General Meeting in July or August.**

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

### Social Events (Mark your calendar):

8/2/25 Picnic - See details below.

### Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

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

October 4, 2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner: to be held at the Columbiaville Community Center. (Details to come)

November 8, 2025 Pancake breakfast at Lapeer Elks building. (Details to come)

## LCDP Picnic

Come join the LCDP Picnic on August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12-4 pm at Cramton Park, Lapeer (south/east side of M24 and Genesee Rd.) – next to the tennis courts. LCDP will provide meats, beverages, plates, napkins and utensils. No alcoholic beverages allowed, park rule. We will



have games to play. We just need people to bring a dish to pass and outdoor chairs, unless they want to sit at the picnic tables. If you bring a mayonnaise based dish please bring ice to keep it chilled. (Per Social Committee)

## Join LCDP at the North Branch Fourth of July Parade

Come and join the fun at the North Branch Parade. Parade starts at 11 am at the North Branch High School parking lot, line up at 9 am. Walkers and riders must park at the North Branch Elementary School parking lot on the corner of Jefferson and Brush Rd. Wear your red, white and blue clothes. Walkers will pass out copies of the Declaration of Independence and American flags. Come early at 8 am to decorate the float at the Elementary School parking lot.

**We are looking for volunteers to walk in parades in North Branch (7/4), Lapeer Days (8/15) and Metamora (8/23) this Summer!** Email us at [lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer to walk/ride in the parade and/or engage with voters at the booth in Lapeer Days. Our theme for the parades this year is the Declaration of Independence, as a reminder that America doesn't have Kings!

## 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 by appointment only at the Waid home. If you have just a few small items, no more than a couple of boxes, you can drop them off at Jim and Laura's home -- 164 Lincoln St in Lapeer -- on Wednesdays from 1 to 6 pm. These special drop off days are: July 2, July 9 and July 16. For larger items you can reach Heidi by calling 248-224-4142 or Jim at 248-217-9566 to schedule a drop off time and date. All donations must be dropped off by Tuesday, July 22.

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. **Volunteers are needed to set up, sell and clean up – contact Heidi or Laura to help or use the signup genius in the 6/10/25 email you received.** You can also call Laura Mikus for information 810-664-5650.

## Serve Our Society/Lapeer Democrats Work Projects

The Lapeer Democrats will be reaching out to various non-profit groups to support their activities. Our current project will be to help LACADA (Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Abuse). Lapeer Dems are asked to bring needed supplies to help residents of LACADA. You can bring supplies to the garage sale for collection or drop them off at the Dem Office on July 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.

Here is a list of needed supplies: SHELTER NEEDS • Gift Cards (gas stations, Walmart, Meijer, Kohls, Aldi) • New Underwear for women in all sizes • New Adult Pajamas, all sizes • New Pillows • Laundry Baskets • Adult Coloring Books • Journals and Planners PERSONAL CARE NEEDS: • Hair Conditioner • Hairbrushes and combs • Shaving Cream • Hairspray • Hair curling irons/straighteners FOR INFANTS • Pack n' Play sheets • Halo Sleep Sacks CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS • Drinks & Snacks: Juice boxes, individually wrapped snacks. • Children's Playroom: Sturdy and durable new items including trucks with trailers; Playskool and Fisher-Price educational toys • Art Supplies: Colored pencils, fabric paints/markers, washable markers, colored gel pens; coloring books KITCHEN ITEMS & CLEANING NEEDS • Disinfectant wipes and sprays • Large kitchen trash bags • Large Ziploc/storage bags • Paper products; toilet paper, paper towel and facial tissue • Laundry detergent, liquid preferred • Dishwasher detergent, liquid preferred • Bathroom Cleaner; toilet bowl, and shower.

## “No Kings” Rally in Lansing on June 14<sup>th</sup> (photos by Ryan Fitts)



### *Contest Every Race*

By Becky Fitts

In 2022, Democrats competed in less than half of the partisan races held in the United State, and Republicans won more than 80% of those we did compete in.

Yes, this is a problem. Democrats are failing to run for critical local and state offices across the country. But not only are we failing our party we are failing ourselves by not having candidates in every race.

This is why the Lapeer County Democrats are working with, and have accepted a grant from, *Contest Every Race*. And LDCP will be promoting community driven action through *Democrats Work* programs like, read-ins at the library, helping out with Habitat for Humanity, the Eastern Michigan Food Bank and more. We are looking for causes and community engagement so, we can be seen, heard, meet new people and encourage them to join our community. It is our hops that some will be eligible and able to contest every race held by a Republican in office and to continue to fill those seats that are held by fellow Democrats.

To keep this grant, we will be looking for work projects, and opportunities to volunteer at each month. We are asking members if you have a local group, a not-for-profit, or community-based project that is near and dear to your heart or could use a group of compassionate people to help out we would love to hear from you. You can email [LapeerDemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:LapeerDemocrats@gmail.com) with any suggestion or inquiries about the grant and the work programs taking place in the up-coming year. We are always looking for good people, who are up to meeting, participating, and enjoy doing good within our Lapeer County community. Please, come join us, bring a friend, a family member, a neighbor and of course have fun helping others in a democratic way, through volunteering. In the words of Jimmy Carter, “To be true to ourselves, we must be true to others.”

So, make sure to make time, to help out the Lapeer Democrats by spending some time helping others in our community. By coming together to work, we will be helping the Lapeer Democrats create a community of leaders that can *Contest Every Race*.

## Happy-ish Independence Day

By Alex Diedrich

In this year, we celebrate the 249th anniversary of American Independence. This year, more than any other I can remember, I find myself poring over these words with a new lens. The United States of America is closer to being ruled by a King than we have been at any other point in our history during the past 249 years. Even when our country was torn literally in two by slavery, the confederate states when creating their new government kept many of our founding principles and separation of powers. After Franklin D. Roosevelt broke the two presidential term precedent sent by George Washington, we passed the 22nd amendment to make that precedent law. All of this to say, since the inception of our nation Americans have been skeptical of power concentrated in the executive, in one man. Many of our countrymen are forgetting lessons long learned - war with Iran, tariffs, other explicitly congressional powers being branded by one man without the consent of Congress. As of this writing, there are still US military troops on the streets of LA over the protestations of the Governor of California. US citizens have been deported. Non-citizens in this country, many legally, were trafficked to a death camp in El Salvador. Masked law enforcement agents without identification arresting persons including US citizens without warrants. Elected Democratic officials handcuffed, assaulted and arrested for small displays of defiance. We can't allow these acts to become lost in the never-ending tsunami of new transgressions. These government overreaches are not normal, and we need to act like it. If you are like me, you probably also feel like you need some inspiration in a dark era. This time reading through the Declaration, it doesn't feel like ancient history, it feels like a pertinent reminder that we need to stay vigilant and active in this Republic, if we are to keep it.

### The Declaration of Independence (abridged)

**In Congress, July 4, 1776**

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America**, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. [...] To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

[...]He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.



**He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.**

**He has obstructed the Administration of Justice,** by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

**He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.**

**He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.**

**He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.**

**For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:**

**For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:**

**For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:**

**For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:**

**For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:**

**For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:**

[...]We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

## **America Still Doesn't Want a King-**

We are far from the only ones who have noticed our budding authoritarianism. Many of us made it out to the *No Kings Rallies* on June 14th, and it was a fantastic display of the democratic spirit that still embodies the American ethos. **4-6 million** Americans joined *No Kings* demonstrations around the country; thank you to everyone who was able to attend and make it **one of the largest protests in the history of the United States**. We connected with so many other Americans who are ready to stand up and speak out. This is how we work together to get back to building the America we want to see. By now, I expect many of you have heard the 3.5% rule. There is an observation from Harvard authoritarianism researcher Erica **Chenoweth that non-violent protests involving 3.5% of the population have never failed to enact change**. On June 14th we were around halfway to the 11 million people we need to bring about that change. Indivisible, 50501 many other organizations that brought on *No Kings Rallies* are keeping their eyes on that target. Honoring the memory of

the great civil rights hero John Lewis, we need to keep making Good Trouble. On July 17th, Americans need to keep marching. Details coming here: (<https://goodtroubleliveson.org/>)

## SOS- Serve Our Society August 28th

It's only been five months. We have seen our Senators assaulted, our Representatives arrested, the military in our streets, violent perpetrators of political violence pardoned, and our Bill of Rights ignored. These are facts, not rhetorical hyperbole.

We need an overwhelming rejection of this American dystopia. We need to build a coalition now, in 2025 that is loud and proud enough to drive our elected officials into action, or drive them out in 2026.

To that end, we must fight in every part of the state, and take the fight to the heart of the enablers. We should not allow any "safe seats," we must force them to feel the pressure we are living under and force change.

We are inviting all candidates and organizations aligned with the rule of law, and the unalienable rights of all persons to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness in these United States to join us on August 28, 2025, at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds.

At this convention, we will connect citizens and activists to the candidates we want and need to bring about change. In addition, we will:

- Provide training on how to be local political leaders and precinct delegates
- Provide training on how to step up and run for office
- Provide opportunities for citizens to engage with our candidates
- Provide live music and food trucks and have a good time saving our democracy
- We have ambitious goals, and we need you there to accomplish them.

To volunteer, we invite you to our weekly SOS planning meetings  
here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84139520175?pwd=RlmXy5LpeoZObfjBGzbbpbhflKMMP6.1>

You may also contact: Alexander Diedrich- Chair Lapeer County Democratic Party  
[lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com) or [apdiedrich@gmail.com](mailto:apdiedrich@gmail.com) 734-478-7864

Lisa Hile- Political Action Committee Chair Lapeer County Democratic Party  
Rural Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party Immigration Committee Chair  
[lisahile2256@gmail.com](mailto:lisahile2256@gmail.com) 810-348-0257

## Lapeer City Mayor and City Commission Elections

The Mayor for the City of Lapeer and a seat for the City Commission are open contests in 2025. While these are non-partisan positions, the Lapeer County Democratic Party encourages all those who share our values with a will to serve, to run for office. If needed, we can provide candidate training to support your run. The Deadline to submit petitions and affidavits is July 22.

## Application for County Library Board Trustee Seat Open Now, Closes October 31<sup>st</sup>

The Lapeer County Commission has opened applications for the Library Board seat open at the end of this year. This is a county wide seat, so anyone inside the Lapeer District Library service area is eligible to apply. It is more important than ever, that thoughtful candidates committed to upholding library law and principles apply. Look for the application on the Lapeer county website.

# May Showers and Solar Power

**By Rob Solomon “Advocates Against”**

When we arrived for our official and outdoor tour of the DTE Lapeer Facility on May 21, we were told by Jeffrey Haines, Site Manager, that we were the first group of visitors not to enjoy clear sunny skies for our visit. As it turns out, we were the lucky ones. An overcast and rainy day was perfect for learning about and dispelling some of the major misconceptions surrounding solar power generation. The weather did absolutely nothing to dampen the spirits of the DTE team, who were excited to share the experience and knowledge.

As several local townships and municipalities work to define rules for converting traditional farms to solar operations, public opposition has been vocal - and sometimes misinformed. A common objection is that harvesting solar energy in climates like Michigan's would be inefficient or unfeasible. It is simply not so according to our guides and the humming equipment all around us. Though once better-suited to hot, sunny and dry regions, solar capacity has improved to be viable even in areas with limited or inconsistent sunlight. There we stood without a trace of the sun in the sky, listening to the whirl of power-producing solar equipment.

DTE currently relies on solar energy mainly as a "spot" energy source, and it comprises a relatively small percentage of total capacity. However, the addition of this alternative energy source is already creating more reliable service by boosting capacity during periods of high consumer demand. As the technology improves, DTE anticipates that a significant portion of total production will come from solar. As solar farms become more prevalent, one concern is the environmental impact and disruption to neighboring communities.

The machinery itself was shockingly quiet - comparable to the noise of a large household generator. We were able to converse and ask questions of the team while standing only a few feet away from the loudest part of the array. We learned that the decibel levels are closely monitored and that setback requirements have been successful in blending with ambient noise levels where facilities are near residential areas. To demonstrate this, tour guides took us on a short ride across the facility where we were able to observe the natural barriers and native plants that were installed to provide additional protection from noise and preserve the character of the neighborhood. Along the way we saw deer and other wildlife apparently enjoying the sanctuary of the site.

Jeffrey and his team assured us that almost all of the concern regarding solar production stems directly from misinformation. Other than the paneling, the facility looks any most other power stations one might visit. The solar panels are a silicate composite, and do not release any chemicals or byproducts into the ground or air. Damaged panels are recycled and replaced. Solar paneling is situated amid indigenous plants, creating a natural look and feel and reducing the need for grounds keeping and maintenance.

Finally, we got to perhaps the biggest question of all. What happens if land - especially farmland - is converted for solar harvesting and the owner of the property want to convert back to an active farm? Again, the response was encouraging. Land used for solar farming can be arable again within only 12-months of ceasing operations, usually in time for the next growing season. This stipulation is apparently part of DTE lease contracts with local land owners. Recently developments suggest that solar vs. crop farming may not be an "either / or" proposition. Researchers are exploring the viability of mixed use farms where crops are integrated with solar energy generating equipment.

Similarly, the United States is not forced to select a single source of energy as we plan our future. Ever-increasing demand will require improvements to efficiency or threaten national energy independence goals. The most exciting thing about solar is that we have only scratched the surface of its potential. Already, researchers have developed panels that capture reflected light from ground sources, including snow. The panels being installed today are exponentially more efficient than those of just a few years ago.

As we thanked our hosts for the information and invitation, it seemed clear even on a cloudy day that solar power can be an important resource for the people of Lapeer. The Lapeer Solar Facility site tour showed one possible path forward, and how corporations like DTE are implementing emerging technologies.

## 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.

