



Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

Oct. 2025

Volume 5, Number 51

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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

Contact Us

Party Chair: Alexander Diedrich

Vice Chair: Rose Bogardus

Secretary: Susan Beal

Treasurer: Patty Bradshaw

Corresponding Secretary: Becky Fitts

Contact us at:

810-664-2006

lapeerdemocrats@gmail.com

P.O. Box 185

Lapeer, Michigan 48446

Find us & follow us at:

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:

October County Committee meeting is 10/09/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.

The October General meeting is 10/23/25. Meetings are held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building. General meetings are open to all.



Upcoming Social and Fundraising Events for Lapeer County Democratic Party

Social Events (Mark your calendar):

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

November 8, 2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner: to be held at the Columbiaville Community Center. **Ticket reservations due 10/31 – details in newsletter.**

Date TBA - Pancake breakfast (Details to come)

LCDP Democrats Work

Democrats Work is an initiative to strengthen our ties to our community as a party. These community service actions demonstrate our commitment to community and Democratic values at a local level. These initiatives also keep the LCDP grant funding with our party building partners at Contest Every Race. The response to these efforts has been great, and we will continue these efforts year round. Please consider these opportunities to volunteer this month:

*Call Linda Berker if you can help at St. Paul's Food Kitchen & Pantry in Imlay City. (810-348-8664)

*Call Lisa Hile if you can help at the Eastern Michigan Food Bank in Flint. (810-348-0257)

*Call Anita Harrand if you want to help cleaning up Invasive Species at Seven Ponds Nature Center on Sunday October 12 from 1pm to 4:30p. (810-688-2771)

Member Spotlight

Gigi Griffith

By Becky Fitts



Gigi Griffith is our super volunteer, and a voting board member. She has lived in downtown Lapeer for the past 15 years but her Grandparents lived in Hadley so she visited Lapeer regularly as a child.

Gigi is a very busy woman who is disabled but works tirelessly as a volunteer within our community her busy schedule includes doing good works not only for the Democrats, but she also works with the Friend of the Library (deAngeli Branch), The Downtown Development Association, Holiday Depot, Lapeer Pride, Lapeer Literacy Center, and the League of Women Voters. She is an active member of Spiral Church, and a founding member of the "Fight for the First" movement. She is passionate about being a member of the Lapeer Community and is supporting it by giving time and care to those within it. She is an amazing woman and a beacon of light within our community.

Gigi has always been a Democrat at heart because in her words, "the Democrats are the party of equality, justice and equity; believing in kindness, and compassion."

Gigi considers herself as a Progressive Democrat who follows and falls in line with party leaders like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She is concerned with the rise of fascism and white supremacy and believes that the Democrats are on the first line of defense when it comes to fighting the battles against these toxic and vile societal views.

Her main goal within the party is to help out however she can and is a member of several committees within the Party. If you want to know what is going on, Gigi is the person to ask. She knows "all the tea of the town" and is probably one of the most interesting and most informed persons within our Community. So, stop and have a conversation and get to know this super volunteer of the Lapeer Community and The Lapeer Democratic party.

Foreign Policy in Trump 2.0- Trump First, America Alone. Where Do We Go From Here? Part 1

By Alex Diedrich

In 2025, we witnessed a radically new approach to the world in Trump 2.0. A central theme of the entire administration is corruption, which we will do a deeper dive on in a later issue. For today, we will focus on the profound nature of the shift and what that may mean moving forward. Disclaimer, I am not a foreign policy expert. I mean to reflect on how we talk about foreign policy to other citizens, and how we need to adapt when

Democrats hold positions of power again. This is the first of a much larger series. For this issue, we'll take a look at China policy, and save the Russia Ukraine War, and the new American pastime of taking out fishing boats with cruise missiles for next time.

First China: Trump ran on being tough on China. It has also been a common refrain of right wing commentators that the Russia-Ukraine conflict is a distraction, and China should be our focus. With that, I find the weakness of the administration dealing with China somewhat surprising. The United States has been competing with China economically over business practices and intellectual property, over influence in Asia and Africa, and technology such as the race for AI, and independence of Taiwan. Trump has failed on all fronts in the last 9 months.

Nationally a dominant political talking point by both parties has been the decline of manufacturing in the US, and the loss to China and others overseas. It was a point of pride in the Biden administration that manufacturing jobs had increased- a trend that has reversed in 2025. Critical new sources of manufacturing jobs were to be found in both electric battery production and renewable energy. Advancing battery development is the future of the automotive industry around the world, and it is a race the US has been losing to Chinese manufacturers. Despite a trade war in the world to reshore manufacturing, as soon as Republicans held control of Congress, they passed the Big Beautiful Bill- stripping all of the subsidies and initiatives into battery plants and other renewables. This is already stalling production of new facilities and jobs, and it has all but guaranteed China will have a monopoly on electric vehicle batteries and it could allow immense control over the world automotive market moving forward, which is extremely worrying here in Michigan.

I truly hate to take you back to this place, but remember DOGE and the dismantling of USAID? Sorry we're going to quickly talk about it one more time. A significant amount of the news coverage focused on the wasted food, wasted medicine, and general chaos; all very important moral catastrophes. What got less coverage was that the US has been in a duel for influence with China in developing regions and their "Belt and Road" initiative. By destroying USAID, we have left these regions with China as their only alternative for support, a decision I suspect we will come to regret in the future.

Soon after coming into office, Trump reversed the Biden ban on the sale of AI chips to China. There are several reasons why this is important. I don't want to get too technical, because well, I don't know enough about computer chips, but the key reason we need to care is these chips are an essential component to developing artificial intelligence learning modules. Right now, the most advanced chip technology is with American companies like Nvidia, and the development of AI is a massive national security threat. The only thing worse than owning AI, is someone being able to deploy it better than us. Second, the administration takes 15% of the profit on export of chips- an export tax, which is blatantly unconstitutional (we keep using that word, does it mean what we think it means?). The message is clear that this administration will sacrifice American interests as long as there is a payoff, which is a new feature, not a bug, of this corrupt administration.

I hope you didn't think I would forget about the tariffs. In the first Trump term, we witnessed a catastrophic failure of tariff policy with China resulting in a complete boycott against American soybean farmers, leading them to financial ruin. Oh wait, that's BOTH Trump terms. On September 25th, Republican Senate Majority leader John Thune announced there will likely be another farmer bailout due to the collapse of the Chinese market. So, no lessons learned. A key difference this time is Trump also declared tariff war against the rest of the world, which has started trading without us. Reversing course will be much harder this time.

On September 29th- despite the semiconductor producer TSM building new manufacturing thanks to the Chips Act, the Trump administration threatened to withhold support from Taiwan unless they moved >50% of their production to the US. Pause a moment, and reflect on the insanity of that. An impossible ultimatum to a key US ally, holding protection against China for a ransom. Sickening! If only he could show that level of grit towards an actual rival.

Pictures from SOS – What a Great Day!



November Fourth is Election Day in Lapeer – Who is running for Mayor?

By Anita Harrand

According to the Lapeer County Press (7/25/25) and the LCDP meeting here are the three candidates:

- A. Bryan Cloutier is Director of the Oxford Public Library and President of the Friends of the deAngeli library. He also serves on the Lapeer Zoning Board of Appeals. He chose to run for mayor because he believes his professional background can be an asset to serve the City of Lapeer. “I am interested in working on planning and zoning issues, strategic planning for economic development, addressing our aging infrastructure and fiscal sustainability”, said Cloutier. In addition to being director and CEO of the Oxford Public Library, he is president of the Rotary Club of Oxford, sits on the Michigan Library Association’s Legislative and Advocacy Committee and on the Board of Directors at the Four County Community Foundation. He has also served as Village of Oxford Planning Commission Chair, DDA Design Committee Chair and was elected to the Village Council. He lives in the City of Lapeer.
- B. Mindy Schwab is the owner of Professional Alcohol and Substance Screening in downtown Lapeer and is a member of Lapeer Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board. She was raised to give back to her community and now has a desire to serve the City of Lapeer. “I own a business, I own a building downtown and I live in the city I love. I believe if you’re part of a community, you should be involved to get things done for the people and make things better,” said Schwab. She wants to build relationships and trust, look at the issue of industry in the city and work on prioritizing critical needs for the city.
- C. Jeremy Hing is a software engineer by profession, but his life’s work has always centered on serving people and building bridges. For eight years, he and his wife dedicated themselves to mission work across Latin America, improving lives through education, community development, construction projects, and disaster relief. He and his wife have co-founded a nonprofit; supporting survivors of

human trafficking – through mentoring, counseling and intake services. Hing is committed to “restoring trust in local government, ensuring it honors the promises it makes, and putting the needs of Lapeer’s citizens first.” He hopes to address housing issues, mental health issues, preserving Lapeer’s heritage. He lives in the city of Lapeer.

Thank you to the candidates for attending the LCDP General Meeting and discussing their views on major issues facing the City of Lapeer.

If you missed seeing the candidates, The League of Women Voters will be hosting a candidate forum for the City of Lapeer Mayoral race on Thursday, October 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the deAngeli Branch Library in Lapeer – Please come to hear from the candidates.

This will be an important vote – what values are you looking for in a new mayor? It is important that all Lapeer city residents cast their vote. Your vote is your voice!

While traveling through Anchorage, Alaska: a First Amendment Wall

It looks like everyone in the US is fighting for our rights and freedom!



LAPEER DEMS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Columbiaville Center and Banquet Hall
4620 Water Street, Columbiaville

Doors open at 6 pm.

- Dine at our Sweet and Savory Hors d'oeuvres!
- Mingle with other Dems
- Buy that special item at the Silent Auction
- Purchase a surprise bottle of wine at the Blind Wine Draw
- Stock up at the Dems Store
- Listen to the Guest Speaker

For reservations: \$30 per person in advance, \$35 at the door

Make checks payable to Lapeer County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 185, Lapeer MI 48446
Deadline: October 31, 2025

Can you help with the following?

Can you help us with the following?

1. **Silent Auction** – we are looking for new items or gift cards or baskets.
2. **Blind Wine Draw** – Isn't it fun to select a bottle of wine, not knowing what it is?
It may be your new favorite! You can help us by donating a bottle (at least \$15 value) for this event.

Please call Laura or Jim Mikus at 810-664-5650 to arrange for dropping off your **wine bottle** or **silent auction** item. These items will be collected from October 1 – 25.

3. **Program Book** – Please consider buying an ad in the program book. It's a great way to advertise your business, to recognize important people in your life or people you greatly admire, or just say what's on your mind! Call Rose Bogardus at 810-358-2304 for information about placing an ad in the program book. All ads must be sent to Rose by October 6.

Use this form to reserve your party tickets.

Party RESERVATIONS are DUE by October 31

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number of tickets at \$30.00 each _____ Ticket total \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Send your check, payable to "Lapeer County Democratic Party",
P.O. Box 185 Lapeer, MI 48446.

THANK YOU! And see you there.

Get Tickets

LAPEER COUNTY DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Party Reservations are DUE by October 31st

Save \$5 by paying in advance!
Tickets will be \$35 at the door.

Online Pay

Scan QR Code to our ActBlue

If you reserve your tickets at this website, you will
get an "e-ticket" emailed to you.
You do NOT NEED to print this out.
We will have a record of your purchase!

Thank you and see you there!



Place your ad in the program book!

This is a great way to honor your loved ones, a special person in your life, or some public figure that you greatly admire!

Or to speak what's on your mind!

ALL ADS ARE DUE by October 6!

Program Book ads available for purchase:

Full Size ad is 5 ½" x 8 ½" Please select your size choice

Inside front cover	\$125.00	5 ½" x 8 ½"
Inside Back Cover	\$125.00	5 ½" x 8 ½"
Outside Back Cover	\$125.00	5 ½" x 8 ½"
Full Page	\$100.00	5 ½" x 8 ½"
Half Page	\$75.00	5 ½" x 4 ¼"
Quarter Page	\$50.00	5 ½" x 2 1/8" or 2 ¾" x 4 ¼"
Business Card Size	\$35.00	

• Please Email your artwork to RoseBogardus@charter.net no later than October 6, 2025

• For payment, please send a check payable to "Lapeer County Democratic Party"

Mail it to P.O. Box 185 Lapeer, MI 48446.

• For questions about the ads, call Rose Bogardus at 810-358-2304

Thank you!

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](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.