



Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

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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

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Find us & follow us at:

www.lapeercountymichigandems.com (web page)

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

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:

November County Committee meeting is 11/13/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.



There is no November General meeting. **Our holiday meeting is December 4.** 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):

January 16, 2026 - Gerlach Bowling Alley, Lapeer. Bowling is \$5.75 per game with free shoes.

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

November 8, 2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner: to be held at the Columbiaville Community Center. **Tickets can be purchased at the door – details in newsletter.**

April 25, 2026 – Comedian Dustin Cole – Adult comedy program (18+) at the Elks in Lapeer.

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 and

building partners at Contest Every Race. The response to these efforts has been great, and we will continue the effort year around.

Please consider these opportunities to volunteer:

*Call Lisa Hile if you can help at the Eastern Michigan Food Bank in Flint. (810-348-0257) Dems meet on Mondays from 4-6pm but other times are available.

Member Spotlight – Who is Becky Fitts?

By Becky Fitts



Hello, my name is Becky Fitts, I am a Mom of two boys a published writer and author, community builder and a proud Democrat

I got involved in politics as a young adult in Jackson County, Michigan as my Dad was politically active and a Union Representative. He taught me that if you do not stick up for the people then no one will stick up for you. I am a member of the Communications Committee and PAC Committee and write the member spotlight each month. I am also the Communications Secretary and if you are sending emails or call the Lapeer Dems, I am probably the one you are interacting with.

I am a veteran and served as a reservist in Lansing for 3 years, being honorably discharged medically with a torn ACL. I have worked extensively with Decriminalize Nature, The women’s initiative campaigns and am a LGBTQ + rights ally. I believe that bodily autonomy is a basic human right and fight tirelessly to inform people about it. I am politically progressive as I would like to see better ways of voting and believe that we should be using things like rank choice voting. I would also like to see more variety in the ballot box and support the end of a two-party system.

I like working with others who also support the basic rights of all human beings that every woman, man, and child are entitled to. Whether it be using a person’s preferred pronouns, women’s healthcare and reproductive rights or harm reduction and drug decriminalization; your body, your choice.

My favorite political quote is: “What other people say about me is none of my business” by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Gigi Griffith Honored at Best of the West Democratic Fundraiser



On October fourth, twenty-twenty-five our very own Gigi Griffith had the honor of being awarded the 9th District Congressional youth activism award from Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist at the Best of the West fundraiser in Grand Rapids MI. She also got to meet and have her picture taken with former Secretary of Transportation and Mayor of South Bend Indiana Pete Buttigieg. This is a great honor, and a celebration of all the work and ingenuity Gigi puts forth for our club and the greater Democratic Party. We are honored to have a member recognized for her great work. Congratulations Gigi Griffith for all your efforts and representing The Lapeer Dems in such a positive way.

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

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

Dems Work Projects Helps Lapeer Community



Democrats are quietly trying to help the less fortunate in Lapeer County. We can all agree that food is expensive, rent can take half of someone’s monthly income and it is getting harder to provide for your family. This summer and fall personal care items were collected for LACADA, school supplies were donated to the Lapeer Schools and volunteers are working in Genesee County at the Eastern Michigan Food Bank. It is hoped that these small gestures of kindness will help Lapeer County residents who are struggling and let them know that someone cares and wants to help. The philanthropic arm, of the Lapeer County Dems, hope to continue these acts of kindness thorough out the up-coming year. (Published in Lapeer County Press, Sunday October 19)
By A. Harrand



Dems working at Foodbank of Eastern Michigan and removing bittersweet at Seven Ponds Nature Center.

Our Secretary of War and Dangers to Women in the Military

By Anita Harrand

Secretary of War, no longer the Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, is at war with “fat generals, beards and women in combat.” Since November of 2024 he has stated, “I’m straight up saying we shouldn’t have women in combat roles. It hasn’t made us more effective, it hasn’t made us more lethal, it has made fighting more complicated,” He added: “As the disclaimer for everybody out there, we’ve all served with women and they’re great.” (Newsweek on line 11/13/24)

He does not feel women are physically qualified to serve in combat. From an episode of the “Shawn Ryan Show” He thanked Ryan for a chance to “clarify” his view about women in combat roles , saying he was referring to jobs for which “strength is the differentiator” adding: “Give me a female pilot all day long. I’ve got no issues with that.” (Jan. 2025)

In his book “The War on Warriors” he further states, “I am going to say something politically incorrect but that is a perfectly commonsensical observation, Dads push us to take risks. Moms put the training wheels on our bikes. We need moms, but not in the military, especially in combat units.” CNN & AP reported the Pentagon is terminating a decades-old advisory group that offers recommendations on how to support women serving in the military, including past suggestions that women needed properly fitting body armor and appropriate health care.” ((9/30/25)

Hegseth said his policy will be to ensure that “every designated combat arms position returns to the highest male standard.” But he was careful to say that the policy is not an effort to block women from serving. He said, “If women can make it, excellent. If not, it is what it is.” Jenn Bennie, an Iraq War veteran and former combat helicopter pilot, said she agrees with Hegseth’s comments. “That is the standard I upheld when I became a Navy pilot in 2001. It was a pilot standard and it benefits everyone, including women who have met the universal requirement.”

It was in 2015 that then Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered all military jobs be open to women. Carter said then that the military could no longer afford to exclude half the population from the high-risk military posts and that any man or woman who met the standards should be able to serve.

Interesting to note is that before 1991, women were barred by law from flying combat missions and serving on naval combat ships. Noting the performance of female pilots in the Persian Gulf War Congress rescinded the laws and by 1994 women were allowed to serve in most roles not involving direct ground combat. Gary Solis, a former Marine Corps prosecutor and military judge who taught laws of war at universities, stated, “It was needed and I don’t believe it weakened the military.” (Flint Journal, 10/2/25)

An interesting peek into history is that George Washington’s ideal military leader was more statesman than warrior. He believed that military power must be exercised under moral constraint, within the bounds of public accountability, and always with an eye to preserving liberty rather than winning personal glory. While Hegseth states, “(Military soldiers) you kill people and break things for a living. You are not politically correct and don’t necessarily belong always in polite society.

What I found most interesting about Pete Hegseth is that he is a member of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC), an arch conservative network of Christian congregations. He recently shared a video on social media about its pastors arguing women should not have the right to vote. CREC constitutional documents provide insight into its conservative teachings, including that marriage can only be between a man and woman, that there are only two sexes, that women should not be “mustered for combat” and that women should not have the right to vote. (Washington, AP, 8/12/25)

My question: Is Pete Hegseth’s policy based on Washington’s politics, best military preparedness or the rules of his church?

"Blackhawk Downtown - The Military Lands in Chicago"

By Rob Solomon “Advocates Against”

It is the dead of night in a city under siege. The sound of military helicopters, distant at first, grows louder until the entire building shudders from the power of their blades. Masked soldiers rappel from the sky to storm residences, battering doors off of brackets as they drag terrified occupants into the streets. Men, women, and children alike are zip-tied and left shivering on the sidewalk as agents armed with assault rifles raid each and every apartment. In an instant, dozens of families are traumatized forever, their security shattered by a government determined to scare its citizens into submission. Welcome to Chicago.

"Operation Midway Blitz" brought I.C.E., the F.B.I., Blackhawks, and general chaos to the streets of another U.S. city this October. The overnight assault was hailed as a triumph by the Trump administration. It was another bitter defeat to the rule of law, particularly due process and probable cause. In apprehending a single violent criminal gang member, over 300 innocent people were violently detained without being suspected of any crime. This tradeoff is morally and **constitutionally** indefensible. Imagine police arresting half of Columbiaville (population, 701), or most of Otter Lake (357) in random pursuit of a single criminal offender. Would supporters be so dismissive if the upheaval was closer to home? Historically, our nation has held that even an innocent life upended in pursuit of criminal suspects is one too many.

The administration seems sadly emboldened by its "success." Addressing assembled military leaders, the president suggested that U.S. cities could regularly be used as active training sites, bringing military missions to Main Street, America. As boots hit the pavement the potential for violent encounters with the public inevitably increases. Already, there have been several instances of injury, some, where eyewitness accounts and recorded evidence seem to contradict official accounts. Safety and training are clear concerns. The accidental discharge of a firearm used by an agent to smash a car window - injuring a federal marshal - is one of several alarming developments.

If it seems reasonable to object to this haphazard interpretation and application of immigration law and the disregard of Constitutional protections, ICE strongly disagrees. Video and reports have emerged of the violent and unwarranted detention of peaceful protestors at detention centers across the country. Many face trumped up charges that could threaten both their personal and literal freedom. Those who raise their voices against these violations have been met with a stream of invectives and accusations. Somehow, seeking to protect the most vulnerable in our society has been equated with "supporting terrorism" by those who would continue the abuses.

Those who supported or participated in the massive "No Kings" event on October 18 witnessed the power of peaceful protest. Marchers were committed to defending rights and principles that our opponents do not always seem to fully appreciate or understand. As pacifists, we must hope that our arguments will compel the most militant among us to see the error of unfocused aggression. To the peaceful, it should be obvious that a job that drags crying children from parents begging for mercy is a terrible occupation. An employer that would make such demands deserves all the scorn that a civilized society can muster.

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 Speakers: Jocelyn Benson (Michigan Secretary of State) – candidate for Governor, Elaine Nolton is the MC and Ray Poole is candidate for 9th Congressional District seat.

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

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.

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: Anita Harrand at aharr76@hotmail.com or Alex Diedrich at apdiedrich@gmail.com