



# Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

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Volume 5, Number 53

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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

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## Find us & follow us at:

[www.lapeercountymichigandemocrats.com](http://www.lapeercountymichigandemocrats.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:

December County Committee meeting is 12/11/25 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.



The December General meeting is **December 4.**

Meetings are held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building. See holiday event info below. 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.

Lapeer Dems take a Caribbean Cruise January 2026 – look for details below.

### Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

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 this opportunity 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 2-4pm or 4-6pm but other times are available. **Lisa is Chairwoman for this project and hopes the party can raise enough money for a pop-up food pantry in Lapeer in January. Each volunteer gets a food credit for the time they work for the Lapeer Democratic Party – do one day or several and help your neighbors!**

## Come to the Dems Holiday Celebration December 4<sup>th</sup>



Ham is on the menu and beverages are provided – bring a dish to pass. Join in the “Ugly Sweater Contest” and for more fun bring a \$5 (maximum) gender neutral, white elephant gift to exchange. The Social Committee will have you playing games and meeting other Dems in the party. Our charity for this year is Holiday Depot, making sure every kid has Christmas in Lapeer. If you can, bring an unwrapped gift, gift card or cash will be accepted. The party starts a 6pm and continues until 9pm. This is a good time to see if your Lapeer Democratic Party dues are expiring.

## Come Join the Lapeer Dems in the Lapeer Parade of Lights December 5, 2025

Lapeer Democrats are joining the parade of lights this year! The **parade is Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6 p.m.** Line up at 5 p.m. on Nepessing St., East of Saginaw St.

Contact Parade of Lights Volunteer Captain Dan Howe at [dhowe01@icloud.com](mailto:dhowe01@icloud.com) to participate in the parade and decorating with the Dems!

## Lapeer Dems Fundraiser a Success



The Dems Annual Fundraiser held at the Columbiaville Center and Banquet Hall on Nov. 8th was a HUGE Success. It was wonderful seeing a roomful of like-minded people. We sold 101 tickets to this event. The room looked elegant, the food was delicious and the speakers were outstanding! It was a fun way to spend a Saturday night.

A special thanks to our speakers, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Adam Hollier, Ray Pooley, and Eileen Nolton for spending part of their evening with us. Thanks to all the people who donated items for the Silent Auction and wine for the Blind Wine Draw. All your donations were greatly appreciated. And of course, thanks to those who bid on items and wine.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who worked on putting this event together...publicity, ticket sales, getting speakers, decorations, Dems Store, Silent Auction, Blind Wine Draw preparing and serving food, set up and clean up. All your time and energy made this evening a real success.

## Dems Social Event – Bowling in Lapeer



January 16th bowl with the Dems at Gerlach's Bowling Center in Lapeer, starting at 6:00-9:00. We will be playing either 2-3 games at \$5.75 each game, per person. The shoes they are

providing to us for free. They will have food and beverages for sale at their concessions stand. The Dem's will provide a dessert. If interested in joining us please call Heidi 248-224-4142 to be added to the list. All skill levels are welcome and please wear a democratic shirt with pride and a smile!

## Do you Like Taking Cruises – Join the Lapeer Dems

The Social Committee is planning a 9-day Eastern Caribbean cruise to the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, departing January 29th, 2027. We will be escaping the cold Michigan winter for some fun in the sun. The current Black Friday sale price is \$1,284 per person, based on double occupancy. This is for an interior room. If you would like to splurge for an upgraded room, you have that option. These prices may go up since it's their current promotion. If we have at least 16 guests (8 cabins) or more we may be able to get a reduced group rate. Time is of the essence for us to get in at these prices. If this is something that you're interested in please contact Heidi Waid to be added to the list. You can call Heidi at 248-224-4142, or a/cil [soldbyHeidiW@gmail.com](mailto:soldbyHeidiW@gmail.com). Here is a link for more cruise details. <https://www.hollandamerica.com/en/us/find-a-cruise/c7e09a/i714> (This trip is not financially supported by LCDP, it is a social event for those individuals who are interested.)

## **YOU CAN'T SPELL "INEPT" WITHOUT "EPSTEIN"** *Trump's Ham-Handed Response to Unfolding Crisis Becomes an Appalling Spectacle*

By Robert Solomon, "Advocates Against"

The Trump Administration is stumbling to contain another crisis of its own creation, proving once again that a kingdom of clowns is still a circus. His campaign promise to swiftly release all materials related to the "Epstein Files," was quickly abandoned, but not forgotten by the voters. Tarnished by leaked letters, dubious timelines and shadier associates, the president has lashed out at those who continue to press for answers.

Between naps and the misogynistic berating of female reporters, Trump has managed to mutter some of his favorite lines, such as "democrat hoax" and "witch hunt." Traditional Republicans - once the self-proclaimed defenders of children everywhere - have apparently taken up contortionism to rationalize staying under the tent.

Up first, is Pam Bondi and her Magical Desk of Mystery. By placing the Epstein Files on an ordinary office desk "on my desk for review," the talented Attorney General appeared to make them vanish into thin air. The files astonishingly reappeared when Trump said the magic word (Bill Clinton) weeks later.

Not to be outdone, GOP surrogate and Megyn Kelly left audiences in stunned silence with her amazing ability to twist the facts like a balloon animal. She suggested that Epstein was not an "actual pedophile," since he "liked 15-year-old girls" and wasn't "into, like 8-year-olds."

If you thought the clown car was empty, there stood FBI Director, Kash Patel at center stage, claiming that there is no credible evidence that Epstein trafficked victims to anyone but himself. This was probably news to convicted Epstein co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell, who currently is serving a 20-year sentence for sexually abusing and trafficking children.

As he considers a pardon for Ms. Maxwell, Trump has repeatedly and publicly wished her well. A prison transfer has allowed her privileges that would make a free society envious. When her pampering and private time with puppies from a prison service dog program came to light, the prison responded by firing those responsible - for telling on her.

While, all of the misdeed and misdirection might pass as some form of entertainment, this is clearly not the greatest show on earth. This lunacy sadly serves a sinister purpose. These efforts confuse the narrative and

provide cover for those who support the administration but cannot defend its actions. Cynical GOP strategists hope that the media spotlight will soon chase the next scandal, allowing perpetrators to again escape accountability. As conservative influencers claim Epstein is "ancient history," they hope to discount victims' suffering and make us question their stories. They continue to make a farce of this tragedy in an effort to shield the guilty from justice.

Characterizing the Epstein Files as a cold case is both insulting and ignorant. The recidivism rate for crimes of this nature is alarmingly high, and that measures only those that have been convicted and punished for their crimes. The idea that a rich and powerful cabal of abusers has voluntarily disbanded after realizing their moral failing is profoundly naive. The greater likelihood is that they will continue to abuse children until they are forced to face consequences. Out of respect for the victims, and to prevent additional abuses, we must continue to demand the release of the complete Epstein files.

## Election 2025 – What Happened and What We Learned

By Gary Foster

The few elections held in November this year gave great hope to Democrats, independents, and reasonable moderates in the other party, that the right-wing, authoritarian shift the nation has suffered is coming to a close. That hope, however, is conditioned on learning the lessons and winning message from the candidates that swept into office.

Results in Virginia, New Jersey and Georgia gave us a script for success that can't be ignored in critical 2026 elections. Leaving New York's mayoral race aside – the city is simply not representative of the country and so many issues are local that not much is instructive from it – we can understand much of American voter's attitudes and priorities looking at the others.

In all three states, affordability as an issue was a ringing win. In Georgia, Democrats won 2 open state-wide elections for Utility Regulator positions, the first Dems to win seats on that body in decades. Both candidates stressed utility costs and overall cost of living stresses hammering average households in groceries and general consumer stores. This focus, disciplined and sustained, delivered the Dem candidates the highest margin of victory for statewide elections in over twenty years and should drive the message in their critical US Senate re-election campaign next year.

Both New Jersey and Virginia shared this disciplined and focused message on affordability, cost of living issues and (interestingly) highlighted their candidates being "practical" and "centrist". Both candidates, of course, took issue with the brazen policies from the White House, particularly in Virginia where 300,000 government jobs are at risk. Neither candidate made significant noise about the more absurd policies being enacted and did not get drawn into the temptation of being "not Trump".

Key issues in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court races where Democrats held all open seats, were protecting abortion rights and same sex marriage which are widely perceived as threatened by the President and his lackeys on the US Supreme Court and, importantly, are very strongly supported by voters in both political parties. Little time or energy was spent on trans-gender rights specifically, not because the candidates aren't supportive (they are) but because those issues are much more divisive with little of the economic connection of the others.

Affordability; cost of living; practical; centrist, these watchwords echoed through the electorate and were repeated in exit polls everywhere elections were held. Abortion rights and same sex marriage ran in a high second tier of concerns for voters while everything else simply did not resonate with anyone, anywhere.

So how do we apply this lesson in our own crucial elections for Governor, US Senator, US House and the Michigan legislature in 2026? First, we understand deeply that being "Not Trump" is just not enough. Everyone knows our candidates are "Not Trump" – waste no time talking about it. Second, we know every minute spent

talking any issue but “affordability” – the economy – or abortion rights and same sex marriage is a minute absolutely wasted. These are the only issues that matter to people today.

We know the last Presidential election – a 1% election that we lost by such a small margin that it is still painful to consider – was lost by not focusing on a strong, forward message about the economy. That was a tough issue in 2024 because it implied criticism of our incumbent President but it was still the right issue and is almost the only issue for 2026.

Tariffs are driving higher costs and shortages which is naturally attributable to the President and can be crafted into the affordability discussion used, particularly, against the Congressional candidates who supported him and failed to act to protect average Americans (see: John James in St Clair Shores, Tom Barrett in Lansing, Lisa McClain, Lapeer). Addressing the policies, and not the President himself, while demonstrating how those policies directly drive higher food and consumer costs is a winning formula.

We have to watch for unemployment to become an underlying theme in economic arguments as well. In Texas last year, 24 major layoff notices were issued with 1,300 job losses tallied. Layoffs in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina have been recorded, all connected to rapid cost increases due to tariffs. Unemployment in Texas is up to 4.7% and is creeping up all around the country so can become an issue most acutely for the younger, non-college educated workers who comprised nearly the entire 1% of the voters Vice-President Harris lost in 2026.

There is room also for challenges to the barbaric ICE raids by Trump goons all around the country which are depriving people of civil liberties and Americans of due process protections but this issue must be handled carefully and with certain focus on the question of “fairness”. Simply railing against the raids, Gestapo-like uniforms and overt partisan retribution against Democratic communities will back fire against us.

Fairness, however, is always a winning issue and it will be easy to demonstrate the ICE raids as “unfair”, particularly in Latino and Hispanic communities. Vice-President Harris lost a significant number of those voters to the Republicans in 2026 and all polling shows we have a chance to win them back with a strong message on the economy (“affordability”) and restoring fairness in treatment of immigrant Americans.

Michigan Democrats have, potentially, very strong candidates prepared to run for the US Senate and Governor, while a busload of very viable, new faces are lining up to take on our pitiful GOP US House members in multiple marginal districts. In choosing our candidates in primaries and conventions, we must remember the big lessons of 2024:

1. old dogs should retire and new ones can win
2. rhetoric and high-flown chatter lose and specific, practical, disciplined messages win

We can win in 2026 and be at the front of the anti-authoritarian, radical right counter-revolution which must be waged. Michigan, with Pennsylvania and a few other key states, will be a major battleground in the war for America’s future and the preservation of Democracy across this land. The great grand experiment launched by our founding fathers 300 years ago can be preserved and strengthened by us, in our backyards, on our telephones, with our social media and our letters to the editors.

We can win but we must work.

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