



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

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Find us & follow us at:

www.lapeercountymichigandems.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:

January County Committee meeting is 1/8/26 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.

The January General meeting is the 22nd. Meetings are held at 6pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building.

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. See note below to sign up.

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

Saturday, January 31, 2026, Breakfast with the Dems. (See below for details)

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



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.

Pop Up Pantry in Lapeer!



Lapeer Democrats have logged hundreds of volunteer hours in 2025 to support the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. **Targeted for late January, we will be looking to set up a pop-up pantry to distribute much needed food to our community. Exact date and location are still TBD, keep an eye on your emails for updates coming soon!**

Volunteer shifts at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will be resuming mid-January. Shifts are either: 2-4pm or 4-6pm, alternating weeks. Contact coordinator Lisa Hile at 810-348-0257 for up to date times!

The Dems Holiday Celebration on December 4th was Fantastic!

The Social Committee did a great job, thanks to all the workers. A pile of toys was collected for donation to Holiday Depot – thanks to all those who donated. The ham and macaroni cooked by Heidi was delicious and thanks to all the other cooks! Becky Fitts won the “Ugly Sweater” contest – it was lots of fun to see the holiday clothes. This year our games were holiday trivia and we all felt like winners.

The Lapeer Dems were the Stars of the Lapeer Parade of Lights December 5, 2025



Lapeer Democrats joined the Parade of Lights this year! The parade was Friday, December 5, 2025. Thanks to Dan and Tim for heading up the parade committee and thanks to Linda B. for getting the truck and driving. It was nippy out but a fun walk. This is how Lapeer Dems get known in town.

We are the best party in town and we know how to have fun!

Dems Social Event – Bowling in Lapeer



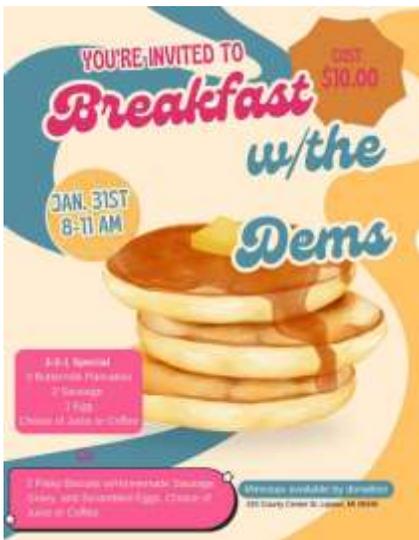
democratic shirt.

January 16th bowl with the Dems at Gerlach's Bowling Center in Lapeer, starting at 6:00 pm and going until 9:00 pm. 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

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 ail soldbyHeidiW@gmail.com. Here is a link for more cruise details. <https://www.hollandamerica.com/en/us/find-a-cruise/c7e09a/i714> (This social activity is not sponsored by the LCDP but is purely a social event.)

JOIN the DEMS for PANCAKE BREAKFAST



When: Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Where: Lapeer County Center Building in the Lincoln Room

Two Menu choices

1. 3 pancakes, 2 sausages, scrambled eggs, choice of coffee or orange juice (\$10.00)
2. Sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, choice of coffee or orange juice (\$10.00)

Join the Dems for a good breakfast, some fun and help our fundraiser!!

New "Department of War" Grows Harder to Defend

By Rob Solomon

Pete Hegseth, screwdriver in hand, climbed a step stool to swap out the signs at the Pentagon. With all the flair of a former FOX News commentator, the "Secretary of War" ratcheted up a spectacle that has already cost taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion. Still, there was some hope that like Pete's new makeup studio, the changes would be mainly cosmetic. Instead, the Department of War has been solidly focused on attacking the foundations of our democracy, threatening our Constitutional freedoms, and tarnishing our national dignity.

For nearly 250 years, our country has stood proud in ideals promised in ink on paper - The Constitution of the United States. The rights we have enjoyed have persisted because there have been those willing to die to defend them. We accept this horrible sacrifice, only because we know there is no other alternative to our survival. The men and women who serve have stood as the last line - defending us all from those who would threaten our peaceful prosperity. In renaming the Department of Defense, the administration has signaled an aggressive shift in philosophy that has many observers alarmed.

Even as the president has publicly pleaded for a peace prize, the Department of War has been eager to expand its power both domestically and abroad. Already, we've seen Blackhawk helicopters raiding an apartment building in Chicago as the administration suggests U.S. cities be used for military training exercises. Dubious domestic deployments of the National Guard have led to several tense and violent encounters with the public and protestors.

Recognizing the brewing potential for disaster, a small group of Senators led by decorated Navy veteran Mark Kelly and Michigan's own Elissa Slotkin, a former CIA Intelligence Analyst, released a video statement. In clear terms, they reminded service members of their duty to the Constitution, and highlighted language in the military oath regarding the duty to refuse illegal orders. This act alone caused Hegseth's Pentagon to launch a formal command investigation into Kelly, a former combat pilot and astronaut. Slotkin, meanwhile, faces an inquiry by the FBI's Counterterrorism division. The president himself has called the Senators "traitors" while amplifying calls for their public execution. Politicians on both sides of the aisle were quick to condemn the response as an assault on the First Amendment rights. Still, the investigations continue, with the consequences unclear.

A department tasked with the mission of waging war will quickly find conflict. As the New Year begins, the United States sits on the brink of battle with Venezuela. A president that has repeatedly criticized the Geneva Conventions has unilaterally ordered strikes on Caribbean fishing boats allegedly carrying drugs to the United States. Concerns regarding the legality of such actions were heightened when reports emerged that commanders had ordered second strikes on survivors left clinging to disabled wreckage at sea. Under oath, the Admiral overseeing the operation claims to have acted under his own authority.

Despite promises of transparency surrounding the incident, the administration has since retracted offers to release video evidence. In recent days, the United States has seized an oil tanker departing from Venezuela, while Trump has declared fentanyl a "weapon of mass destruction," as apparent justification for military intervention. All of this occurs without Congressional oversight or approval.

There is a fundamental difference in asking young patriots to fight to defend us, and directing them to kill in our name. The former remains the sad price of freedom, the latter a travesty on our account. We should honor our military by allowing them to serve with the purpose and integrity that the Constitution intends.

Precinct Delegates – Building the Party and Winning Elections

(Information for this ongoing article is gathered from Precinct Delegate 101 (Karl Sime), Oakland County & Midland County Democratic Parties and www.michigan.gov – Precinct Delegates information).

By Anita Harrand

What is a precinct?

The precinct is the smallest political unit in the country and all voters in a precinct vote at one location. The precinct is where elections are won and lost. It is your neighborhood. You know the people and you know what issues are most important to them.

A Precinct Delegate (PD) is:

- An elected official that represents the Democratic Party interests of a voting Precinct or district.
- Elected to represent the views of people within their precinct at party meetings or conventions

(Also known as a Precinct Volunteer or Captain, the only difference being the Precinct Volunteer/Captain assumes all roles as a Delegate, but is not elected.)

What does a Precinct Delegate do, in general?

- Serves as a two-way communication conduit between county party chair and voters in your precinct. A PD is a Democratic window to voters.
- Is a community organizer, informing, connecting, energizing voters and helping them get registered to vote.
- Ensures that their community concerns and preferences (through voter contact) are voiced in the party's decision-making processes.
- Supports party candidates – local, state, and federal with a focus on voters
- Votes at conventions – elects MDP leaders
- Help resolve voting issues and know changes in voting laws
- Promotes Democratic values and strengthens the party's presence in each precinct.
- Your county Democratic Party may have their own set of expectations.

(A precinct delegate is all about how much effort you put into it...you are invited and supported to do whatever you can.)

More topics to follow: PD Qualifications, How do I get on the Ballot and get elected? Suggested Responsibilities of PD; Digital tools to help the PD, and others.

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT, DO IT YOURSELF- RUN FOR OFFICE!

By Alex Diedrich

The only way to change your community is to start. At every level, we want to encourage citizens of Lapeer to lead. Our nation is crying out for change, and the Lapeer Democrats are seeking candidates to create it. If you think you may want to run, the LCPD can get you started. If 2025 elections showed us anything, it showed us that voters are listening; if we engage in those conversations, we can change minds and win. It is time to give every race our best shot. Join the Fight!

If you're on the fence, we encourage you to check out resources/organizations such as Run For Something, Contest Every Race, Vote Save America, and the National Democratic Training Committee for more information.

The following is a non-comprehensive list of races looking for candidates like you!

Michigan State Senate Seats:

State Senator District 26

Incumbent: Kevin Daley (R)

State Senator District 24

Incumbent: Ruth Johnson (R)

Michigan State House Representative Seats:

State Representative District 98

Incumbent: Gregory Alexander (R)

State Representative District 67

Incumbent: Phil Green (R)

State Representative District 65

Incumbent: Jaime Greene (R)

Federal Seats:

US House 9th Congressional District:

Incumbent: Lisa McClain (R)

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