



Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

Feb. 2026

Volume 6, Number 55

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

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.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:

February County Committee meeting is 2/12/26 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.

The February General meeting is 2/26/26. Meetings start with a potluck at 6pm, meeting at 6:30 pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building.

Upcoming Social and Fundraising Events for Lapeer County Democratic Party

Social/Community Events (Mark your calendar):

Saturday, February 28 – Pop Up Pantry at the Lapeer Center. See below for details.

May 7th, Pizza and Trivia at Twisted Axis in Lapeer.

July 25th Democratic Picnic at Monson Home. Details TBA.

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

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

April 25, 2026 – Four Comedians including Dustin Cole. Adult comedy program (18+) at the Elks in Lapeer, 6-9pm. Light refreshments and alcohol by donation.

September 19 Annual Dinner at the Elba Township Hall.



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.

LCDP Pop Up Pantry in Lapeer!

Lapeer Democrats have logged hundreds of volunteer hours in 2025 and 2026 to earn points and raise food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. LCDP is planning a Pop up Pantry with the help of a certified partner (LICA). LCDP hopes to distribute \$1000 worth of food which is much needed by members of our community. The LCDP will set up the Pop up Pantry at the Lapeer Center Building from 10 am – 1 pm on February 28th. About 30 volunteers are needed. If you can help, please contact Alex Diedrich at 734-478-7864 or apdiedrich@gmail.com. Volunteers will be needed starting at 8:30 am, watch your emails and the website to sign up to volunteer!

Volunteer shifts at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan are continuing. Shifts are Mondays from either: 2-4pm or 4-6pm, alternating weeks. Contact coordinator Lisa Hile at 810-348-0257 for up to date times and watch your emails!



Are you a Member of the MDP?

The Democratic Electors of the State of Michigan are hereby notified that by the direction of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, the **2026 State Endorsement Convention of the Michigan Democratic Party** will be held in Detroit at Huntington Place on **Sunday, April 19, 2026**.

The purposes of the MDP's 2026 Endorsement Convention shall be to endorse Democratic candidates to the November General Election in the following contests: Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Supreme Court, State Board of Education, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University Board of Governors, and University of

Michigan Board of Regents. **All members of the Michigan Democratic Party are encouraged to attend the 2026 State Endorsement Convention. Be sure your membership is up to date.**

Member Spotlight by Becky Fitts



Laura Mikus an inspirational Democrat

Laura has lived and worked in Lapeer a good part of her life. She has been married to Jim Mikus for 55 years; they have three children, five grandchildren and two cats. Laura Graduated from Central Michigan University in 1970 with a degree in education. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, scrapbooking, and traveling. In 1982 she co-founded the Bright Beginnings day care center in Lapeer, MI, the first non-home childcare center in Lapeer County, selling it in 2000 to retire. Bright Beginning is still in operation today.

One of our most inspirational and long-standing members of the Lapeer Democratic Party Laura is the chair of the fundraising committee and also serves on the social committee and is also an active member of the Michigan Democrats. Laura first became politically active in 1968 when she worked as a volunteer going door to door during the presidential primaries campaigning for Eugene McCarthy. She also campaigned for the rectification of the constitution with the twenty-sixth amendment, which was legislation that brought the legal age of voting down to eighteen.

Now days Laura is most concerned about the harmful changes in policies and the lack of concern for laws being upheld by Trump. His hate mixed with despondent attitudes coming from Washington DC from constituents on both sides of the aisle is a huge concern. She says, “Trump is endangering all of us, our health, our environment and how Americans treat each other. He is messing with the future of our country. We need to start caring more about the welfare of everyone.”

Being the kind and inspirational person, she is, one of Laura’s favorite quotes is:

“In a world where you can choose to be anything. Choose to be KIND. “

~Jennifer Duke Lee (Author of “It’s All Under Control”)



Save the Date

Saturday April 25, 2026 from 6-9 pm

Comedy night Fundraiser for Lapeer County Democratic Party

Come and have some fun. Lapeer Elks Lodge

Advance tickets \$25 at the door \$30

Food can be purchased and alcohol by donation will be available.



Bowling with the Dems - a Great Success.

It was a cold night but bowling and friendship warmed the night. Thanks to Ray Coole for joining us. There was a great turnout of Dems.

American Exceptionalism Died in Venezuela

By Alex Diedrich

I started off the New Year recharged by the holiday and a recently developed optimism on a path forward out of the age of Trumpism, maybe even with America largely in better shape than I have feared. January third, the optimism I have been feeling took a major hit with the kidnapping of President Nicolas Maduro from Venezuela. To be clear, I still believe the opportunity to seize the momentum from Trumpism is on a silver platter to those of us fighting for its end. That goal may even be helped by this reckless action in Venezuela that Americans did NOT ask for. My optimism has faltered in recognition that the damage done in 2026 to America's geopolitical position, and our constitutional framework, are colossal.

Several weeks have passed since the attack on Venezuela, so while the situation will continue to develop, the fallout is crystallizing. Here is a brief accounting of facts as they stand. The US kidnapped the Venezuelan president and charged him with drug trafficking crimes. To do so, over 150 aircraft and commandos assaulted Caracas. Venezuelan military sites were destroyed and ~80 Venezuelans were killed, no Americans. Immediately after the strike, Trump stated Venezuela is now under American control, and specifically we would be taking Venezuelan oil and natural resources. Maduro's vice president and regime remain in power and are punishing dissenters harsher than ever. Trump has stated that Nobel Prize winner and rightfully elected Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Machado doesn't have support, despite their election win in 2024. Trump accepted the Nobel from Machado, but seemingly there hasn't been a public US effort to support Machado or otherwise remove the Maduro regime still in power. Oil companies in a meeting at the White House consider Venezuela uninvestable.

The future is unpredictable, but so far those are the most pertinent facts, and the story they write is that of a colossal unforced failure on the world stage. First, if you didn't hear the administration beating their chest over the "Donroe Doctrine", I envy you. Second, the idiocracy we are governed by continues to beggar belief. If a movie featured characters as stunningly stupid as this administration I would walk out of the theater lamenting the terrible writing. A reminder, the Monroe doctrine, the foreign policy of the 5th US President James Monroe, was for the US to oppose European colonial powers expansion into the Americas. Trump's version means claiming the Americas as the US "sphere of influence", and leaving the rest of the world to Russia and China. If that sounds ridiculous, you're right! "A+". What this theory outlines, as I've said before, Trump's version of "America First" means "America Alone". I suppose when your only friend is Jeffrey Epstein, it must make it hard to appreciate the value of friends.

Trumpeting the Donroe doctrine in the aftermath of the Venezuela attack changed the world overnight. Trump acted alone without allies or Congress, and did so not in the name of American philosophy, but his own whims, grievances and wants- in his own words, not conjecture. The world universally condemned it as a violation of the territorial sovereignty of another UN nation, and our administration didn't even offer pretenses of offering to support the self-determination of the Venezuelan people, or express any concern for the Venezuelan people. The administration broadcast to the world the US wanted Venezuelan resources and we would take them because we could- again, in their own words, not conjecture. What this has done, especially in light of the Greenland saga in the month of January, is ensure America does not have allies. Our treaties exist in name only at this point. As evidence, I offer that Canada, France, Germany and others deployed troops to Greenland to defend it from the US. Canada is doubling their defense spending over the next several years. True threats to US security have been rare in my lifetime. Realistically, the only threat has been Chinese expansion. That won't be true much longer. Our erstwhile allies boosting their defense spending is not of benefit when they have reason to take aim at the US.

I mentioned at the top that his action highlighted the degradation of our constitutional republic. Most obviously, Congress has done nothing in response. The Venezuela strike was planned for months. What was happening in that time? Strikes on alleged "Drug Boats". It seems clear these strikes were probing to see if any response from Congress or the public would develop to the illegal use of military force. Not enough has, and that has allowed the Trump administration to cloak an attack on a foreign nation as a law enforcement action, a blatant lie. Eighty Venezuelans were killed; an action of war, and Congress still couldn't act. This complete abdication of congressional power has allowed the executive to develop authoritarian muscles abroad it is already beginning to flex at home with ICE.

So why do I remain at least a little bit hopeful, because these actions are not popular. Americans express over and over they do not want foreign wars, they don't want to invade NATO allies, and they really don't want ICE asking citizens for their papers. We will have one chance to make an argument that we can fix our system in 2026, we must win it.

CRY MORE, LIBERAL

By Rob Solomon

"F% @king bitch"

"Oh, boo-hoo."

These were apparent utterances of ICE "agents" after they fatally shot two U.S. citizens dead in the streets of Minneapolis. These sentiments were shocking to many in a nation mortified by the senseless killings, captured on video and in broad daylight. In reality, this reaction is regrettably on-brand for a political party that mocks empathy and shuns sympathy. When cornered without a moral or logical argument to make, the average MAGA is known to turn quickly to callous disparagement.

"Cry more, libtard," they suggest.

"FAFO," they threaten.

Until recently, it was easy to feel sorry for those who were so witless to mistake kindness for weakness. Lately, the societal cost of such ignorance has become too steep to ignore. For the sensitive among us, the atrocities of this administration become harder and harder to watch. For this very reason, we cannot afford to look away now. A person who peeks at horror movies through spread fingers has no desire to see frame-by-frame footage of a U.S. citizen being brutally murdered. Yet, this is what we have seen - from multiple angles - as we have been compelled to decipher the truth from the lies and distortions of the Department of Homeland Security and Republican officials.

Despite all evidence to the contrary, wife and mother Renee Good was labeled a "domestic terrorist" who had attacked an agent with her vehicle. The shooter, uninjured in witness videos, was reported to have suffered internal injuries, validating claims of self-defense. Independent inquiries into the incident were immediately stifled, and an FBI agent who sought to investigate the shooting has since resigned. Meanwhile Ms. Good's autopsy results were released with details that directly contradict the official DHS version of events.

Even so, we hoped that the tears we shed for this wife and mother would be the last for at least a little while. This tragedy, finally, had to shake the world awake to the inhumanity we had all witnessed. Our tears were in short supply. We cried for those that loved her, forced to endure an unfathomable loss even as her own government worked to smear her name. We cried for the family of six tear-gassed by ICE in an episode that saw

three children hospitalized. We wept for an adorable five year-old boy in a bunny hat was detained and sent off to an ICE facility in Texas.

Still, some managed a few tears of joy as well, inspired by the solidarity shown by hundreds of businesses and thousands of peaceful protestors that poured into the streets of Minneapolis for the "ICE Out" event on January 20. Many were moved by the courage of the religious leaders arrested outside the airport as they protested deportation flights. Those who would drink liberal tears would not go thirsty long.

Now comes the news that ICE agents have again shot and killed a U.S. citizen on the sidewalk. Alexander "Alex" Pretti, 37, was an ICU nurse at the VA Hospital. Video shows that Mr. Pretti attempted to assist a woman who was shoved to the ground by an ICE agent. As he attempted to film them, ICE agents swarmed, attacked, teargassed, tackled, beat and shot him - all within a matter of seconds. Agents then fired several additional rounds into his lifeless body as another stood and applauded. Again, the evidence is clear for anyone brave enough to watch. The DHS hopes that most people won't have the stomach for it.

Already, Kristi Noem has held a press conference to claim that a career healthcare professional was, in fact, a violent "terrorist" who intended to "inflict maximum damage," on ICE agents and approached them with weapon drawn. This overt falsehood does not survive even the most superficial scrutiny. That the DHS has become so brazen in spreading misinformation shows a profound disdain for the intelligence of all Americans. Amid the chaos, comes the terrifying revelation that ICE has authorized agents to conduct warrantless raids door-to-door.

This relentless assault on constitutional rights and human dignity is designed to be disheartening. This administration wants you to be ashamed of your sorrow. It is a strength instead, a sign of a soul that is still striving in a society that has become broken. Those threatening our freedoms want us to cower and to cry alone. The time has come for all that oppose these atrocities to cry out.

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

Precinct Delegate (PD) Qualifications:

Michigan election law stipulates that a precinct delegate candidate must be “a qualified and registered elector residing within, as well as having his or her actual bona fide residence within, the election precinct for which he or she desires to become a candidate on the filing deadline.” With respect to the age qualification, this means that a precinct delegate candidate must be at least 18 years of age by the filing deadline. While a precinct delegate candidate may not serve as an election inspector in the precinct in which he or she resides, a precinct delegate candidate may serve as an election inspector in any other precinct in the county. (MCL 168.677)

(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.)

How Do You Get on the Ballot and Get Elected:

Michigan's primary election is typically held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August. For 2026 this falls on Tuesday August 4, 2026. The last day for your County Clerk to receive your notarized Affidavit of Identity is no later than Tuesday May 5, 2026.

The Affidavit of Identity can be obtained online from <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections> or go to your County Clerk office and request the form. Linda Berker of the Lapeer Dems has also obtained forms.

More topics to follow: Suggested Responsibilities of PD; Digital tools to help the PD, and others.

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