# SAGINAW COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY



**JULY 2025** 

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# INDEPENDENCE DAY: A LEGACY WORTH HONORING

This July 4th, America stands on the threshold of a momentous milestone: the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. As we begin a year-long countdown to 2026, it's more important than ever to remember what Independence Day truly represents — and to reject efforts to distort or diminish its meaning.

In 1776, a bold group of men signed their names to a document that would change the course of human history. The Declaration of Independence was not merely a political statement — it was a proclamation of liberty, birthed through bravery, sealed with sacrifice. Our Founding Fathers risked everything to sever the chains of tyranny and establish a government rooted in the God-given rights of the individual.

The spirit of sacrifice reemerged during the Civil War, when a new generation of Americans — North and South — faced unimaginable loss to determine the future of the nation. Under the leadership of Republican President Abraham Lincoln, the Union stood firm, not only to preserve the United States but to fulfill its founding promise that

# "all men are created equal."

In the face of division, the Republican Party became the moral compass of the nation, championing liberty, human dignity, and national unity. ...continued on pg 2

# UPCOMING EVENTS.

## Prayer Committee Online Prayer

Tues, July 1st, at 11:00

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

(Closed Meeting) Saginaw GOP HQ Thurs, July 10th, 6pm

#### **General Membership Meeting**

Saginaw GOP HQ Thurs, July 10th, 7:30pm

## Prayer Commmittee Online Prayer

Tues, July 15th, at 11:00

#### Strike up Family Fun Education Event

Stardust Entertainment Ctr. Mon, Aug 4th 6-9pm

#### **GOLF OUTING**

Green Acres Golf Course Bridgeport Sat., Sept. 6th

#### **Lincoln Dinner**

Saginaw Country Club coming in October

## 8th Congressional District

Ladies Christmas High Tea

A Statesman's Pour Saginaw Club Saturday, Nov 22nd at 4pm

# "Independence Day"

Out of that crucible was born a political movement that continues to this day — one rooted in faith, freedom, and the belief that America's best days lie ahead when guided by its founding principles. From ending slavery to expanding opportunity, the Republican Party has remained committed to protecting the promise of the Declaration.

Now, as we approach the semiquincentennial — the 250th anniversary of our independence — we are called once more to rededicate ourselves to the great American experiment.

# This celebration should be a time of unity, remembrance, and patriotic resolve.

Yet disturbingly, some choose this sacred day to divide. Activist groups try to hijack July 4th for political theater — protests that twist our founding ideals into slogans of contempt. Rather than honoring our legacy, they attack it. Rather than promoting liberty, they promote discord. This is not patriotism — it is provocation. And it dishonors every patriot, past and present, who has sacrificed for the blessings we enjoy today.

Independence Day is not about perfection — it's about perseverance. It's about having the courage to build a republic where liberty triumphs over tyranny, where power rests with the people, and where true self-government requires more than protest; it calls for citizens to actively engage, participate, and take responsibility for shaping their communities and nation.

As Saginaw County Republicans, we embrace that legacy with pride. We honor our Constitution, our Founders, our veterans, and every generation that has stood firm for American freedom. From 1776 to 2026 and beyond, we will continue to stand for Faith, Family, and Freedom, while always putting America First!

Happy Independence Day.

May we never forget

what it took to make this land free—
and what it will take to keep it that way.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **OFFICERS**

LORI PATTERSON Chair
Vice-Chair

DENNIS KRAJNIAK Treasurer KAREN ABATE Secretary

REBECCA YAGER Youth Chair

#### STATUTORY MEMBERS

#### **STATE SENATORS**

KEVIN DALEY (DIST 26) ROGER HAUCK (DIST 34 (DIST 35)

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVES

BRIAN BEGOLE (DIST 71) MATTHEW BIERLEIN (DIST 97) TIM KELLY (DIST 93)

#### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MARK PIOTROWSKI (DIST 1) RICH SPITZER (DIST 3) TRACEY SLODOWSKI (DIST 5) DENNY HARRIS (DIST 6) JOHN L. KACZYNSKI (DIST 7)

#### PRIMARY WINNERS

REP. ANNETTE GLENN JASON WISE

JAMES M. GRAHAM CHET ATKINS

HERB JANKOWSKY JANE COLLINS

WALTER J. RIBBLE JAMES SHEPLER

TERIE ELBERS ROBERT ZELLE

#### **ELECTED MEMBERS**

JODY BECKER **AMY CARL** JIM CONGER JANET DENEEN JIM FLINT **BRIAN FORBES** SEN. MIKE GOSCHKA **SUZANNE HALL** SEN. ROGER KAHN **NATE LIST DAVID MAY RANDY NORTON BRAD PYSCHER** TOM ROY RICHARD SMITH **COLE STARKE** JANET STONEY **JASON TUNNEY EZEKIEL ZELLE PHIL ZAROO** 

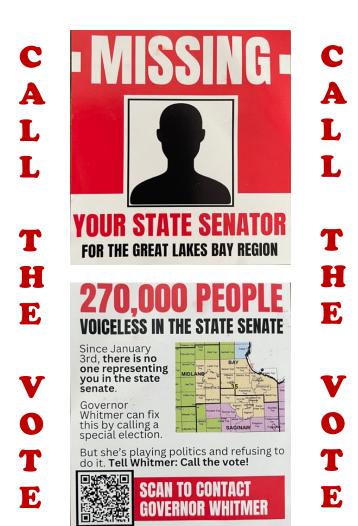


in the

Saginaw Co Republican Party

Just click this link: PAY DUES OR DONATE

**Donations Encouraged!** 





while we connect
 with people shaping
 Michigan's Education System

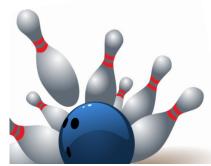
Featured Speakers at 6:30pm:

Rep. Tim Kelly (Pist 93)

Michigan House Appropriations Committee
Chair of School Aid & Dept of Education Subcommittee

Nikki Snyder, RN

Michigan Board of Education





Monday., August 4th 6-9PM

Stardust Entertainment -VIP Room-3750 Bay Rd, Saginaw

> ∳30/adult person ∳50/adult couple ∳15/kids

INCLUPES FOOP, SOFT PRINKS
WITH AN OPTION TO BOWL
7-9PM
Ball and Shoes included

All those under 17
MUST have a
responsible adult present
with them at this event

A QR Code will be posted on our website soon so that you can RSVP and purchase your tickets.



Paid for with regulated funds by the Saginaw County Republican Committee, PO Box 698, Freeland, MI 48623 Not Authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

School Supplies for needy students in our community will be collected at this event, or can be dropped off at the Saginaw GOP HQ at 4607 Bay Rd., Saginaw



Saginaw County Republican Party

# GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Green Acres Golf Course Bridgeport, MI

WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



## RANK CHOICE VOTING

If the petition circulator does not comply with all of the requirements of the Michigan election law for principle and will not be counted.	petition circulators, any signature obtained by that petition	on circulator on that petition is
INITIATIVE PETI	TION	
AMENDMENT TO THE CO		
Constitutional amendment to guarantee voters in Michigan the right to: rank candidates in order of pr major offices receive a majority of votes to be elected; receive timely notice of changes to polling pla and accessible paper ballots, preserved for certification, recounts, and audits; vote for eligible write-in days before the general election.	reference in most federal, state, and certain local election ces or voting procedures; cast a ballot if in line at the tin	ne the polls close; use secure
For the full text of proposed Article 2, §§§ 4A, 5, and 11, see the reverse side of this petition. Provisions of existing constitution altered or abrogated by	the proposal if adopted: Art. 2, § 5.	
We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the county of	spectively petition for amendment to constitution.	
It will complice and counting	s affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan is Perfittions and the Michigan is Perfittion in Perfettion in Perfettion is Perfittion in Perfettion i	
The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine	CIRCULATOR – Do not sign or date certificate un	
signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.	(Signature of Circulator)	(Date)
If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the	(Printed Name of Circulator)	
undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as it personally served on the circulator.	(Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) Do not er	nter a post office box
WARNING – A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a	(City or Township, Stale, Zip Code)	
person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.	(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resi	ident of Michigan
	(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resi	ident of Michigan

Two months ago, when President Trump visited Warren, Michigan, he gave us a warning we cannot afford to ignore:

#### "You must never allow ranked choice voting to be here."

This morning far-left activists will take a critical step toward silencing the voices of everyday Michiganders. The Board of State Canvassers is expected to approve the petition language for a *constitutional* amendment that would force ranked choice voting into our state elections.

#### This is how they plan to rig the system.

Ranked choice voting isn't about fairness—it's about *control*. It's a backdoor move by the Democrat Party and their powerful allies to confuse voters, manipulate outcomes, and erase the voices of anyone who dares to challenge the status quo.

#### Why? Because they're losing support—fast.

From their attacks on women's sports to their defense of chaos in our streets, Democrat policies are driving people away in droves. And they know it. That's why they're pushing ranked choice voting: to stop voters from turning to alternative candidates and to **lock in their political power**—no matter how unpopular their agenda becomes.

-Runstad, email to MiGOP body, 27 June 2025.





#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Thomas Roy

Email: Thomas@SaginawAreaFireworks.com

Date: June 26, 2025

# Saginaw Area Fireworks Presents Annual July 4th Flag Raising Ceremony on Court Street Bridge

Saginaw, MI – The Saginaw Area Fireworks is proud to announce its annual Flag Raising Ceremony on Friday, July 4, 2025, on the historic Court Street Bridge, marking the start of Independence Day festivities with patriotic pride and community spirit.

We invite **volunteers to arrive between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM**. Volunteers will receive a limited-edition "Raise the Flag" T-shirt, while supplies last.

At 10:00 AM, the breathtaking 80' x 50' American flag will be raised over the Saginaw River. As the flag ascends, local vocalist Diane Makl will perform the National Anthem. Following the anthem, State Representative Tim Kelly will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, honoring our nation and those who serve it.

The celebration continues with a musical performance by **Amanda Oster**, providing a festive and uplifting atmosphere for attendees.

After the ceremony, **Kona Ice** will be on-site near the **Ojibway Island entrance**, offering **free Kona Ice** to all participants as a refreshing thank-you for attending.

**Golf carts** will be available on both sides of the bridge to assist anyone needing help reaching the top of the bridge.

#### Important Traffic & Parking Notice:

- The Court Street Bridge will be closed all day on July 4th.
- Erza Rust Drive will be closed to through traffic.
- · Attendees may park on Hamilton Street and walk up from the west side of the bridge.
- Alternatively, participants can enter from Fordney Street (off M-46) on the east side of the bridge.
- Golf carts will be stationed on both approaches for easy access.

This event is proudly **sponsored by Delta Steel**, **Mike's Wrecker**, **and McNally Crane**. Special thanks to **Special Olympics Area 22** for their ongoing support and participation.

The Saginaw Area Fireworks extends heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers, sponsors, and community members who help make this powerful moment possible. Let's raise the flag together and celebrate freedom with pride!



# THE 2025 LINCOLN DINNER THIS OCTOBER AT THE SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE THE SAGINAW COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EVENT OF THE YEAR

WATCH FOR DETAILS COMING SOON

CONTACT AMY CARL OR KAREN ABATE
TO SPONSOR, DONATE, OR OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE



# \$169.2 MILLION BOND PROPOSED FOR SCHOOLS



The Saginaw Township Board of Education has approved an application to the Michigan Treasury for a \$169.2 million bond proposal to fund school building improvements, renovations, and modifications across the district. This money would be used for capital improvements only and not the day-to-day operation of schools.

This appears to be a \$2.85 mill tax increase, which, if approved, would cost a Saginaw Township homeowner about \$11.88 per month for each \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The proposal is expected to be put before voters on the Nov. 4th ballot if the Michigan Treasury approves it.



Currently Saginaw Township Homeowners are taxed for the following in Winter: Senior Citizens, Mosquito Control, County Parks, Castle Museum, Event Center, Animal Control Sheriff Service, Children's Zoo, 9-1-1 Authority, Hospital Debt, Health Dept, and Roads. On the Summer Property Tax bill are Township Allocated Millage, Voter-Approved Police Millage, Fire Protection, Universal Pump Station, Street Lighting, and Refuse.

This new millage can only be assessed if the citizens of Saginaw Township vote to pay for this tax increase.

In 2023, citizens formed a committee to Vote No, fighting against a \$250 million. That campaign was successful.

Watch for public meetings and forums that may provide additional information and/or allow for public comment.

# SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, NOV 22ND 4PM

Two Extraordinary Events bring the entire Eighth Congressional District Together at the historic

## SAGINAW CLUB

# Ladies of the Eighth High Tea

a festive afternoon of elegance and conversation enjoying fine teas, elegant delicacies and gracious company and featuring a guest whose warmth, wisdom, and behind-the-scenes glimpse into her journey is an inspiration to many



#### AND

# The Statesmen's Pour

a gentlemen's gathering with fine spirits and ales, paired with thoughtfully prepared fare and meaningful conversation on the future of Michigan, its leadership, and the path ahead featuring a speaker with a unique perspective

# **AX MI TAX Petitions**

are available for signing at the Saginaw GOP HQ 4607 Bay Rd

https://www.axmitax.org

# COMBATING MISINFORMATION: Tools Every Conservative Should Know

In today's media landscape, where headlines move faster than facts and social media spreads rumors like wildfire, it's more important than ever for conservatives to be well-informed, critical thinkers. Misinformation isn't just an annoyance—it's a strategic tool often used to confuse voters, divide communities, and weaken our constitutional values. But we're not powerless. With the right tools and habits, every Republican can be a champion of truth.

#### Why Misinformation Matters

Fake news isn't always obvious. Sometimes it comes in the form of twisted facts, cherry-picked statistics, or out-of-context video clips. Unfortunately, these falsehoods are often used to discredit conservative leaders, distort legislation, or stir up outrage before the facts are known. As Republicans, we believe in personal responsibility—and that includes the responsibility to verify information before spreading it. Doing so strengthens our credibility and equips us to push back against biased narratives.

## **Five Tools Every Conservative Should Know**

- 1. Fact-Checking Sites (Use Carefully):
  - RealClearPolitics, JustTheNews, and The Federalist offer grounded conservative analysis.
  - Use non-partisan sites like Ballotpedia or GovTrack to verify legislation and voting records.
  - Beware of "fact-checkers" with known bias—always read critically.
- 2. Official Sources Over Social Media
  - Don't rely on Facebook or Twitter posts for news—go straight to official press releases, candidate websites, or the legislature's own site.
  - For Michigan, visit: www.legislature.mi.gov to track bills and votes directly.
- 3. Think Tanks and Policy Centers
  - Groups like The Heritage Foundation, Mackinac Center for Public Policy, and Hillsdale College's Kirby Center provide in-depth conservative perspectives grounded in facts and scholarship.
- 4. Ask Local Leaders
  - If something seems off, reach out to your local Republican leaders. Misinformation thrives in silence—let's talk to each other first.
  - Don't hesitate to email the Saginaw GOP at saginawgopsecretary@gmail.com with questions or concerns. We will do our best to point you in the right direction for reputable information.
- 5. Be a Trusted Messenger
  - When you find the truth, share it. Correct bad information kindly but clearly.
  - Encourage others to follow reliable sources, subscribe to the county newsletter, and attend meetings where they can hear facts firsthand.

#### **A Final Word**

We can't control the media, but we can control our response to it. Conservatives across the country are waking up to the power of truth and the importance of discernment. When we're equipped with facts, we can defend our values, challenge falsehoods, and inspire confidence in our movement.

Let's be the voice of reason in a noisy world—and help others find the truth, too.

## WE REMEMBER OUR HISTORY...

In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant (R) called for construction of a canal across Panama. Such a canal would cut Atlantic-to-Pacific voyage time by 1/3 and eliminate the dangerous journey around South America. He sent 7 survey expeditions to explore the route. An American company tried & failed to cross Nicaragua. Then in 1881, a French company tried, but went bankrupt, due to finances, engineering problems & worker fatalities.

During the Spanish-American War, an American warship steamed around the Cape from California to the Caribbean, re-igniting public enthusiasm & adding a military justification. With the acquisition of island territories in the Caribbean & Pacific in 1898, a canal became vital to U.S. national security. But Congress was split over which route to finance—Nicaragua or Panama? President William McKinley (R) appointed a commission that recommended Nicaragua. But, after McKinley's assassination, President Theodore Roosevelt (R) reinstated the commission to push for Panama.

On May 2, 1902, Mont Pelee on Martinique erupted, killing 30,000. A Nicaraguan volcano (Mt. Momotombo, about



100 miles from the proposed route) erupted days later. Congress voted for the Panama route!

In response to delays by Colombian nationalists (Panama was still part of Colombia), Secretary of State John Hay threatened to build in Nicaragua. Colombia responded, signing a treaty for a 100-year lease on a 6-mile-wide strip of land, in January 1903. When Colombians protested the unfavorable terms, the Senate in Bogotá rejected the treaty. An infuriated Roosevelt told Hay: "I do not think the Bogotá lot of jackrabbits should be allowed permanently to bar one of the future highways of civilization."

Determined to break ground before his reelection in November, 1904, Roosevelt landed troops in Panama 6 times to protect the transit zone. Fortunately, Panamanians had a long history of rebellion against Bogotá. In October 1903, the U.S. Navy sent warships to Panama's coast. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, a small, disorganized Panamanian army secured a nearly bloodless victory—in the shadow of U.S. naval guns—and declared independence. The U.S. quickly extended recognition, and on November 18, a canal treaty was signed with the new Republic of Panama.

Construction of the 51-mile canal began in March 1904. Yellow fever & malaria had stopped the French, but strenuous efforts were made to combat mosquitos—newly discovered to be carriers of both deadly diseases (*probably by* 



*Michiganders!* ). Even so, 1000s of workers died over the 10 years it took to build the canal. Still, the canal was completed **2 years ahead of its 1916** target date!

On August 15, 1914, the *U.S.S. Ancon* was the first ship to pass through the completed canal—in 9 hours and 40 minutes! The Panama Canal was vital for expanding American global power, and it produced advances in engineering, technology & medicine. Thank you, President Theodore Roosevelt!

**Footnote:** In the 1960s, disputes over revenue & control soured relations with Panama. In 1977, Jimmy Carter (D), arguing that the size of modern warships made the canal obsolete, signed a new treaty committing the US to withdrawal, in exchange for permanent neutrality. The treaty was ratified by Congress amidst bitter political debate (Sen. Robert Byrd (D,WV) cast the deciding vote). Panama took full control December, 1999. President Trump has expressed concern over high transit fees & China's presence at both ends of the canal, revealing that Panama is close to breaching its treaty obligations.

Dear Michigan Conservatives,

Are you ready to make a difference in your local community? Whether you're running for municipal office or supporting a conservative candidate, this **4-Week Online Campaign Training** equips you with the tools, strategies, and confidence to win on Election Day!

#### Why Join This Training?

This comprehensive program, designed specifically to focus on every element you need to run a successful municipal campaign:

- Campaign Strategy, Research, & Planning: Build a winning plan tailored to your community.
- Fundraising: Learn proven techniques to secure the resources you need.
- Messaging: Craft a compelling message that resonates with voters.
- Voter Contact: Master outreach methods to connect with your electorate.
- Election Day Success: Organize and execute a flawless Election Day operation.

#### **Program Details:**

- **Duration**: 4 weeks, fully online for your convenience starting July 14 at 7:30 PM.
- Who Should Attend: Candidates, campaign managers, volunteers, and conservative activists.
- Why It Works: Led by experienced campaign professionals, this training provides practical, actionable insights to help you compete and win in Michigan's municipal races.

#### Why Now?

Local elections shape our schools, communities, and values. As conservatives, we must stand united to promote principled leadership. This training empowers you to carry our shared values to victory in city halls, school boards, and beyond.

#### How to Join:

Register <u>HERE</u> today to secure your place in this game-changing program. Don't miss your chance to gain the skills needed to win in 2025 and beyond.

#### Together, we can build a stronger, more conservative Michigan.

We can't wait to see you in the training!

Shared by:

**Terie Elbers** 

MI GOP State Committeewoman

With the Approval of:

**Lori Patterson** 

SCRP Chairman

P.S. The Fight for conservative values starts at the local level. Sign up now and let's win these races together!





# An Appeal from MIGOP Chairman Jim Runestad

#### Dear Fellow Republicans,

State law requires that election inspectors (also known as election workers) be hired in equal numbers from the two major political parties. For the 2024 Presidential Election, Detroit hired 4,500 inspectors. However, **only 12% of them were Republicans.** Why so few? While the law requires party balance, that balance can only be achieved if enough qualified applicants from each party are available.

Despite strong recruitment efforts in 2024, too few Republicans applied, completed training, and showed up to work. **The bottom line: If we want election oversight, we have to show up and provide it.** Those who work as election inspectors in 2025 will be given priority for hiring in the critical 2026 election. **This is a paid position, with daily pay ranging from \$300 to \$600**.



To apply click here: <u>Detroit Election</u> <u>Inspector Application</u>

By using this link we will be able to maintain a record of who has applied so that we can accurately track of the number of Republican applicants.

Let's keep the pressure on and do our part to ensure clean and fair elections.

Apply now: Detroit Election Inspector Application

Sincerely, **Chairman Jim Runestad** 

P.S. If you have any questions, please call or text Marian
Sheridan at 248-225-1846.