

# Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



September 2025



## Let's All Commit to Participation and Membership

*By Kathie Elliott.* This fall, CCDP has a great line up of events and speakers to keep you inspired and in the presence of others who share your values. Once we get through December, we

will be marching headlong into the next election year. I challenge you to increase your own momentum and strengthen your commitment now to the work we must

do in 2026 to promote and elect the best candidates and to pass important ballot initiatives. One meaningful way to do this is to attend at least three meetings or events with CCDP the remainder of the year. That's just one activity a month!

You may not understand how important it is to be present at social events and meetings or to [renew your membership](#) in this non-election year, but your participation and engagement with CCDP helps shape our ground game for next year. The leadership team is about to begin strategic planning and budgeting for 2026. The decisions we make will largely be based on the volunteer assets we have. For example, we will need to decide whether and when to host postcard writing events, which includes assigning volunteers to open the office as well as budgeting for all the expenses associated with mailing postcards. However, we'll be able to do this only if people step up and commit to doing the work. If we don't have enough volunteers committed to another 5,000-card campaign, we won't budget for one. When we make these decisions over the next few months, they must be based on what we know, not what we hope for. So, if we have only five known volunteers, and don't know

that there are 25 more people willing to help, we may choose not to do postcards based on incorrect information. We lose a chance to use a tried and true get-out-the-vote strategy, and people who never told us they would help with a postcard campaign feel like we are dropping the ball. No one wins and no one feels good about that.

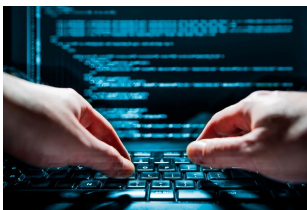
The only way we know who is willing to volunteer is when you show up at meetings and events and let us know about your interests and availability. So, my challenge for you today is to put at least three of the upcoming events in this newsletter on your calendar, attend so we can get to know each other better, and think about what you will commit to in 2026 to help us elect great candidates and improve the lives of all residents of Clinton County. We look forward to your active participation over the next three months!



## CCDP Adopts Resolution on Gaza Conflict

*By Matthew Boak.* At CCDP's August meeting, our membership adopted [A Resolution Calling For An End To The War, And Starvation, In Gaza](#). The conversation on the resolution served as an example of individuals coming together with open minds to

have an engaging discussion, ready to learn and take part in civil, productive dialogue. Thank you to the CCDP member who brought the resolution forward and the voices that worked to refine its language. CCDP leadership is working to share the resolution with state and county party officials and candidates for office. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.



## Phishing Scam Hitting Democratic County Parties: Always Check Email Domain

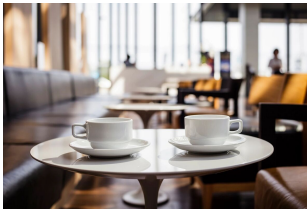
*By Carl Seabold.* As email scams become more common, it's important to take one simple step before trusting a message: look at the email's domain. The domain is the part of the email address that comes after the "@" symbol. For example, in Carl@ClintonCoDems.org, the domain is ClintonCoDems.org. This domain tells you where the email really comes from.

Unfortunately, scammers can make an email look like it's from a familiar name, but the domain will give them away. For instance, you may see something like

ClintonCoDems@gmail.com or Cl1nt0nC0D3ms.org. While those look close, they are not from us. The only domains we use are **@ClintonCoDems.org** and, less often, but still legitimate, **@ClintonCountyDems.org**.

If you see any variation like extra letters, missing words, different spelling, or a free email service like Gmail, Yahoo, or Outlook, it is not an official message from our group. Why does this matter? Because clicking links or opening attachments in a fake email can put your personal information or our group at risk. By taking just a few seconds to confirm the domain, you can protect yourself and our community.

Here's what you can do: before replying, clicking, or downloading, check the "From" address carefully; make sure the domain is exactly ClintonCoDems.org. If something seems off, don't respond. Forward it to us so we can confirm. Verifying the domain goes a long way to keep us safe from scams. Please take the time to look closely. If it doesn't say **@ClintonCoDems.org**, it didn't come from us.



## **Don't Miss Coffee & Conversation on Sept. 16**

Join us at the DeWitt Biggby, 13181 Schavey Road, at 1:00 p.m. for an opportunity to catch up with fellow local Democrats and share what is on your mind

about current events and what we can do here in Clinton County to make a difference. The conversation is always lively and we hope to see you there!



## **Fall Festival Promises Large Crowd - Join Us!**

Join CCDP for its third annual Fall Harvest Festival fundraiser at Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill's Orchard Market, 1995 East Gratiot County Line Road, St. Johns, on Saturday, September 20, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We've already sold more tickets than last

year, so make your plans to attend! This will be a great opportunity to mix and mingle with Democratic elected officials, candidates, and community members, while enjoying delicious apple cider, donuts, and assorted snacks. A delicious treat and beverage are included with the cost of your ticket and hard cider will be available for purchase. [Get your tickets today!](#)



## Join One Million Rising and Be Part of the Resistance

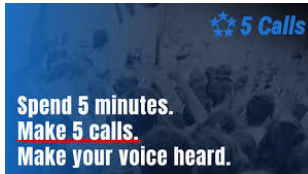
*By Carol Henderson Nicholas. [One Million Rising](#)*  
resistance gatherings aspire to educate voters about authoritarian regimes through online training, in-person meetings, and mobilization of non-cooperation actions to tumble, or at least weaken, the pillars of

society that are succumbing to the current attempt to enable autocracy in our country. The gatherings build on Indivisible's successful No Kings protest and are part of a national effort to train one million people in the strategic logic and practice of non-cooperation as well as the basics of community organizing and campaign design. To organize effectively, local groups plug into a national campaign that teaches a theory of action, based on the pillars of support for civil society. Prominent examples of these pillars are media businesses, institutions of higher education, federal government agencies, and faith groups, all from which MAGA has been extorting compliance. When there is enough noncooperation, a pillar will completely defect or at least be unreliable in the autocrat's aims.

How do we weaken those pillars? Examples are how Dodger Stadium owners refused to allow ICE on their premises, going against law enforcement compliance norms. For a more local example, Avelo Airlines, based out of Detroit Metro Airport, as well as other airports across the country, has a contract with ICE to transport individuals, ordered to leave the U.S., to their home countries or other locations. Let's put some local pressure on these pillars. We weaken them by organizing friends and neighbors, conversing about the state of democracy, and generating active involvement in resistance efforts.

History shows that sustained, broad-based resistance has effectively dislodged authoritarian regimes. During a recent East Lansing One Million Rising gathering, the group discussed and brainstormed ideas about what our local pillars are, who is succumbing to MAGA pressure, and how we can mobilize defiance. What does that look like? Who could we influence, pressure, or persuade to support more noncooperation? We also discussed how important it is to have a group contact list ready for rapid response gathering when situations arise quickly that need a public show of resistance. Per Indivisible, "These gatherings, grassroot volunteers can throw a meaningful wrench into the democracy destroying lie machine. Independent studies prove that we can persuade a lot of people to stop spreading lies with just one strategic message or empathetic conversation."

[Click here](#) for information about the We Say No Kings rally planned for October 18, 2025. Our local group will meet next on Thursday, September 25, and Thursday, October 16, at 6:30 p.m. with locations TBD. Please feel free to reach out to [Carol Nicholas](#) or [Erin Dunbar](#) for details.



## Pick Your Issues, Make Your Voice Heard

*By Monica Goble.* Yes, there's an app and a website for that. **5 Calls** is an easy way to make your voice heard with your elected officials, any hour of the day, with no sign, T-shirt or travel needed. Pick one or more topics you care about from its list. Unsure of the issue's status? It's there: concise, easily perused, and up-to-date as issues and legislation develop. It offers a short message for your call, starting with "Hi, my name is .... I'm a constituent from ... calling to urge [Rep or Senator's name] to vote for/against ..."

The goal of 5 Calls is to encourage people to engage with their government by making five calls a day, leveraging the fact that phone calls to elected officials may have a greater impact than emails or social media messages. Even if you call only once-a-day or a few times a week, 5 Calls makes it easy. No researching is needed. The frequently-updated information is right there, on any current topic of your choosing, along with the phone number to your legislators' offices.

First-time callers may fear they'll be quizzed or interrogated, but you only need to offer your opinion and provide basic information, like name and city. If my call is answered, it makes me think on my feet (or one can simply read from the script provided). Thankfully the staffer answering calls is there to listen, not challenge. And calling after-hours usually connects you with voicemail. If you haven't already done so, consider bookmarking the website or downloading the app and make calling a habit. Our officials are used to people saying nothing. They need to know we're paying attention.

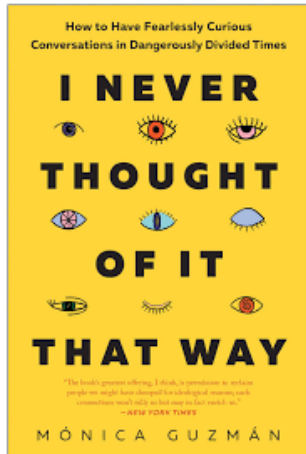


## Volunteers Needed!

*By Matthew Boak.* CCDP needs you to help with its last trash cleanups of the season. Our carpool lot cleanup will take place on Sunday, September 21, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at 5900 S. Williams Road, St. Johns. Once this lot is cleaned, we will move south to



the carpool lot located at 2377 E. Round Lake Road, DeWitt. Our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup will take place on Sunday, September 28, at 8:30 a.m. We will meet at 7585 W. Grand River Highway, Watertown Township. Safety vests and trash bags will be provided for both events. Participants are responsible for bringing gloves, water, etc. If you plan to attend, please help us keep track of our volunteers by [sending an RSVP](#). Thank you in advance for helping us do our part to care for the environment in Clinton County!



## Join Our October Common Read Experience

CCDP's third Common Read will take place on October 15 at 7:00 p.m. our office, 105 W. Railroad Street, St. Johns. We will discuss *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Monica Guzman. Goodreads notes that Guzman, the liberal daughter of Mexican immigrants who voted for Donald Trump, examines how to bridge our current political divide using curiosity. "Partisanship is up, trust is down, and our social media feeds make us sure we're right and everyone else is ignorant (or worse). But avoiding one another is hurting our relationships and our society. In this timely, personal guide, Guzman, the chief storyteller for the national cross-partisan depolarization organization Braver Angels, takes you to the real front lines of a crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt—broken conversations among confounded people." Buy your copy today from your favorite local bookstore or independent online retailer and [RSVP today!](#)



## Summer Parade Wrap-Up

This summer was a busy one for CCDP. We took part in three parades in Clinton County: the St. Johns Mint Festival Parade, the DeWitt Ox Roast Parade, and the Ovid Carriage Days Parade. We had a great crew of volunteers who came out to help us engage with each community and pass out our new yard signs to parade watchers along each route. We distributed nearly 140 signs between the three parades.

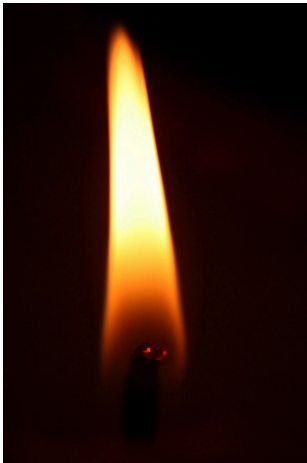
We offer special thanks to the Shiawassee County Democratic Party, who we teamed up with in Ovid, along with Representative Penelope Tsernoglou, who

walked with us. The Shiawassee Dems allowed us to join their Spirit Wagon and we even won “Best Walking Unit” and earned a blue ribbon! Here’s to a successful summer raising awareness for Democrats across the county. We are already looking forward to getting out again next summer!



## Special Thanks!

We send a special thank you to Tess Miller for lending us a wagon for use at parades and pride events this summer! It was a great help in moving our event materials and signs. Thank you so much!



## In Memoriam

Our condolences to long time members Howard and Eileen Heideman on the passing of their son, [David Jacob Heideman](#), in August at the age of 44. In addition to his parents, David leaves behind two children, a nephew, sister, and good friends.



## Upcoming Events

September 14 - [Indivisible September Monthly Meeting](#): 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Downtown Lansing Capital Area District Library Auditorium.

September 15 - [Attorney General Candidate Forum](#):

Virtual event hosted by The People's Coalition, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

September 16 - Coffee and Conversation: 1:00 p.m., Biggby, 13181 Schavey Road, DeWitt.

September 18 - No Kings Mobilization Kick Off Call, 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. [Sign up here](#).

September 20 - CCDP Fall Harvest Festival: Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill's Orchard Market, 1174 West Gratiot County Line Road, St. Johns, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by [clicking here](#).

September 21 - CCDP Carpool Lot Cleanup, 10:00 a.m., 5900 S. Williams Road, St. Johns. Once this lot is cleaned, we will move south to the carpool lot

located at 2377 E. Round Lake Road, DeWitt. [RSVP here](#).

September 26 - Virtual Community Conversation with Senator Sam Singh: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. [RSVP here](#).

September 28 - Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 7585 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing. [RSVP here](#).

October 2 - CCDP Membership Meeting: DeWitt City Hall, 414 E. Main Street, DeWitt. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

October 15 - CCDP Common Read: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., CCDP Office, 105 W. Railroad Street, St. Johns. [RSVP here](#).

October 18 - Second "No Kings" National Protest.

November 6 - CCDP Membership Meeting: Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street, St. Johns. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m, with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

November 13 - Pints and Politics: 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., Jimmy's Pub, 6830 Chandler Road, East Lansing. Buy your own beverage and chat about political happenings!

December 4 - CCDP Membership Meeting: DeWitt City Hall, 414 E. Main Street, DeWitt. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.



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