

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



Shout out to the great crew that walked in the St. Johns Mint Festival Parade!

August 2026

"Liberty is endangered if we pause for the passing moment, rest on our achievements, resist the pace of progress. For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." - John F. Kennedy



The Little County That Could

By Kathie Elliott. During this primary season, many of us were actively

campaigning for or contributing to our preferred candidates. It was so exciting and inspiring to see all of the social media posts and feel the enthusiasm! Thank you for everything you are doing to protect democracy, advance legislation and policy that ensures basic human rights, and for demanding that candidates and elected officials operate with decency and integrity for the benefit of those they represent and not for themselves or their inner circle. This is important work!

Going into the primary, we were fortunate to have many qualified and dedicated candidates step forward at the expense of their own and their families' privacy, time, health, and finances. Every candidate offered skills and experiences that would have served us well. Now, our field has been narrowed to one Democrat in each race. The Michigan Democratic Party and all candidates have now called for unity during the remaining days of this race. I know CCDP member and friends will come together as enthusiastically and definitively as with everything else that we commit to. It is one of our greatest strengths.

If your chosen candidates weren't successful, take time to learn more about who is on the ballot from your friends and neighbors, from candidates' web pages and social media, and from the remaining candidates themselves about their readiness to lead and their policy positions. We have a truly talented slate this year! Due to Clinton County's voting history and relative size compared to other counties our candidates are running to represent, we may not have as many candidate events or candidate-driven get-out-the-vote efforts in Clinton County as we would like. This is not a reflection on Clinton County or on the candidates! It's not personal, it's the numbers. If and when we hear a candidate will be in the county, we will notify you, and we ask that you tell us if you hear about candidate events too.

What all of this means for our mighty group of Democrats in Clinton County is that we have to be the "Little County That Could" by delivering the votes. We have to be the local voice of these candidates who are being shuttled from one event to another, trusting that their teams know where they are needed the most. Let's show up for them in big numbers when they swing through. And if they can't send their ground game to us, let's work tirelessly to turn out the votes for them in numbers that make them recognize Clinton County as the emerging blue county that we know we are. So, grab a friend or two and let's get this done!



Congressional District 7 Gathers in Show of Strength and Unity

By Matthew Boak. Michigan 7th Congressional District Democrats, including many CCDP members, came together on August 8 at a Unity Event & Fundraiser in East Lansing to kick off the beginning of the general election campaign to unseat Tom Barrett. Will Lawrence, the winner of the primary who will now run to replace Barrett, was joined by fellow primary candidates Bridget Brink and Matt Maasdam in a strong show of unity and support.

Will discussed the main objective of the next three months: putting together a strong, coordinated campaign to ensure Tom Barrett doesn't return to Congress. It was also inspiring to hear from Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel, State Senate candidate Dr. Rashida Harrison, and State House candidate Harold A. Pope. Many other state and local elected officials were in attendance as well.

There are less than 90 days until the November 3 election. What will you do to help ensure that Democrats are elected up and down the ballot? Let's keep the momentum from Tuesday's primary rolling and put in the work to ensure that we wake up on November 4 to a Blue Wave!



Walk with CCDP in DeWitt and Maple Rapids!

By Ann McCulloch. There is still time to sign up to walk parade routes with CCDP and local Democratic officials and candidates. It truly is a case of the more, the merrier, and a strong turnout shows strength

and momentum! We need big numbers for the DeWitt Ox Roast Parade on August 15 and the Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival Parade on September 19. Bring comfy walking shoes, hats, sunscreen, and water. [Email us](#) to RSVP, and we will share additional information on timing and meet-up locations for each parade. Thank you in advance for committing to this important visibility effort!



County and State Convention Details

By Kathie Elliott. CCDP members will gather for our County Convention on Saturday, August 15, at Reno's North, 16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing, immediately following the DeWitt Ox Roast parade. We will provide a pizza bar for everyone to enjoy with the convention beginning at 1:00 p.m. Members should have received the official call to the County Convention in their inboxes at the end of July. Then, on Saturday, August 29, at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, the Michigan Democratic Party will convene the State Nominating Convention. More details can be found in the [Call to Convention](#). Membership deadlines for both conventions have passed. Please [email us](#) to see if you are eligible to attend.



You Don't Want to Miss Our Fall Harvest Festival!

By Matthew Boak. CCDP is excited to announce its 4th Annual Fall Harvest Festival Fundraiser! Join us on Saturday, September 12, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill's Orchard Market located at 1174 West Gratiot County Line Road, St. Johns. This event is a fun, fall-themed opportunity to come together as Democrats, hear from political candidates and elected officials, enjoy some delicious sweet treats and cider, and pick apples in the orchard. It has become a "can't miss" special treat members and friends look forward to every year. Let's make this gathering the largest yet! Tickets are \$25 per person and can be [purchased here](#). We hope to see you on September 12!



Latest "Under the Dome" Available on CCDP Website

By Ann McCulloch. Be sure to read the latest update from veteran political commentator Tim Hughes which has been published on [CCDP's website](#). This quarter, Tim covers the package of nine bills that were passed by the Michigan House and Senate, stalled by the Republican Speaker of the House, and ultimately vetoed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Michigan Democratic legislators back reintroduction of bills that specifically address affordability issues. Additionally, Tim catches us up on the latest developments with Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D-East Lansing) who is speaking out after a report published by Interlochen Center for the Arts confirms multiple documented cases of sexual abuse. Tsernoglou is renewing her calls for a state investigation.



Getting Comfortable with Canvassing - It's Easier and More Important Than You Might Think!

By Melany Mack. Door-to-door canvassing seems daunting to many people, but it is a skill well worth developing. Afterall, it was this kind of vibrant and vigorous grassroots activism that helped Congressional candidate William Lawrence and Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed win their primary elections. Neither Will nor Abdul accept corporate PAC money, and, given the huge money advantage that Republicans hold over Democrats, it will take even more people knocking doors and engaging voters in good conversations to help them win the general election on November 3.

Canvassing is not as bad as you might think it is! Here are some things to consider if you are wondering about canvassing:

- Anyone who is willing to knock on doors and talk to voters can canvass. It's a skill that can be learned.
- Each conversation you have with voters is an

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community.
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We are gearing up now and making plans to canvass together in these critical weeks before the general election on November 3. There's no time to lose since absentee ballots will be mailed out on September 24 and we need to get information out to as many voters as possible before they begin filling them out. Your help is needed and it will make a difference! Ready to head out and give it a try? I'm serving as the Clinton County contact for the Will Lawrence campaign and we plan to share information about our great Democratic candidates up and down the ballot as we canvass. [Email me](#) to get started!



CCDP As Your "Third Place"

By Shelby Neathammer. During COVID, we focused our energy inward on keeping our health and families safe, which made all of our worlds a little smaller. While COVID did not cause the national loneliness epidemic, it added fuel to an already burning fire. Persistent loneliness can have **adverse impacts** on both physical and mental health. In a time where capitalizing on that disconnection seems to be the theme of national politics, there is a way to combat this feeling with the idea of the “third place.”

A third place is a simple gathering space, outside of work, school, and home, that brings folks together. As noted in this **Unesco article**, “the notion of a ‘third place’ reminds us that human connections need nurturing.” Third places can be anywhere that a community can come together face-to-face consistently, such as a park, a bar, or a coffee shop. The need for third places has increased with our renewed desire for in-person gatherings. The need for third places has increased with the returned desire for in-person gatherings.

Two years ago, CCDP created an office at 105 West Railroad Street in downtown St. Johns to host events, distribute campaign signs/materials, and provide a lending library. It also allowed us to plant our democracy flag in town and say, “Democrats do exist in Clinton County!” It is a space that has been prioritized as a need within the CCDP community and is funded by your generous donations.

With office hours on most Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CCDP's office has become an informal “third place” for Democrats to bring a snack to share, catch up with one another, bring plant clippings to exchange or pantry items to donate, and learn about what is happening in local politics. If you catch yourself feeling down about the current state of our country or feeling worried about an upcoming election, please turn toward your community right here in Clinton County and visit CCDP in downtown St. Johns!

August Office Hours

105 W. Railroad Street
St. Johns, MI 48879



August 13, 4-6pm
August 20, 4-6pm
August 22, 10am-1pm
August 27, 4-6pm

Join us for casual conversation, visit our lending library, purchase a shirt, pick up yard signs, and see our space!



Upcoming Events

August 15 - DeWitt Ox Roast Parade: Stepping off at 10:00 a.m. near downtown DeWitt. To walk with CCDP, [RSVP here](#).

August 15 - CCDP County Convention: Reno's North, 16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing, immediately following the DeWitt Ox Roast parade. Pizza bar will be provided by CCDP with convention beginning at 1:00 p.m.

August 22 - Greater Lansing Food Bank Drive-Thru Food Distribution, St. Johns: Southpoint Mall, 1023 South Old US 27, St. Johns. Volunteers are welcome at 8:00 a.m. Distribution runs from 8:30 - 9:45 a.m. or until all food is distributed. If you, or someone you know, needs a little extra food, you do not need to show proof of

need, nor do you need to reside in Clinton County. You can pick up food for others (up to five families).

August 24 - Community Conversation with Senator Sam Singh:

6:00 - 7:00 p.m., CADL-Haslett Library, 190 Franklin Street, Haslett.

More information can be [found here](#).

August 29 - Michigan Democratic Party State Nominating

Convention: Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing.

Credentialing begins at 7:00 a.m. More details can be found in the

[Call to Convention](#). To meet the deadline to be eligible to vote, an online contribution toward a membership or a free membership application must be submitted by July 30 at 11:59 p.m.

September 3 - CCDP Monthly Meeting: County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room, 100 E. State Street, St. Johns. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

September 12 - Fall Festival Fundraiser: Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill's Orchard Market, 1174 West Gratiot County Line Road, St. Johns, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Tickets [available here](#).

September 19 - Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival Parade:

Step off is at 11:00 a.m. in downtown Maple Rapids. To walk with CCDP, [RSVP here](#).

September 20 - Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: 8:30 a.m., 7585 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided. Volunteers must bring their own gloves and water. [RSVP here](#).

September 26 - Greater Lansing Food Bank Drive-Thru Food

Distribution, St. Johns: Southpoint Mall, 1023 South Old US 27, St. Johns. Volunteers are welcome at 8:00 a.m. Distribution runs from 8:30 - 9:45 a.m. or until all food is distributed. If you, or someone you know, needs a little extra food, you do not need to show proof of need, nor do you need to reside in Clinton County. You can pick up food for others (up to five families).

September 27 - 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. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided. Volunteers must bring their own gloves and water. [RSVP here](#).

**Join CCDP/MDP or Renew Your CCDP/MDP
Membership**



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