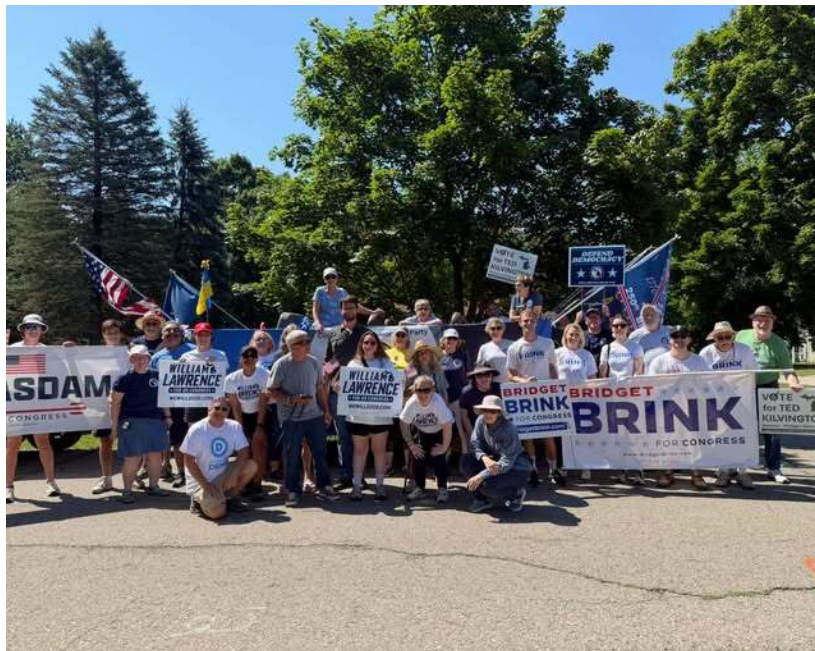


Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



July 2026

"It's not a spectator sport, democracy." - Ken Burns



What a spectacular turnout for the Ovid Carriage Days Festival on July 11! Thanks to everyone who walked with CCDP and the Shiawassee County Dems!



Time to Make Time

By Kathie Elliott. The days are growing shorter while election season heats up, and now is the time for Democrats not only to cast our own ballot in the August 4 primary (never miss a chance to vote - front and back of the ballot!), but to help get out the vote (GOTV). It's the outcome of our elections that has the greatest impact on policy, law, international trade agreements, and national security - all of which have direct ties to our ability to feed and care for the ones we love today and into the future.

This is the unique positioning of our Clinton County Democratic Party - converting beliefs, demonstrations, and frustrations you only share with your most trusted confidants into action at the ballot box. We are asking all of you to make time for this important work! Sadly, we are running a real risk of burning out our current batch of dedicated volunteers or ending some of our recurring events. Neither of these possibilities will serve the membership or Clinton County in the ways we hope to.

The Pareto Principle applied to volunteers holds that 20 percent of dedicated supporters do 80 percent of the work. That's a bit discouraging and really tough on the dedicated supporters. With membership at 215, that would mean over 40 volunteers are actively engaged and we fall far short of that. So, remind yourself, why did you join CCDP, or why do you follow but not join CCDP? In the past, I've encouraged greater participation through these newsletter articles and in meetings to modest effect. I want to help provide context and data to help you understand the heavy weight that only a few volunteers carry and ask you to deliberately allocate time to CCDP to help us complete this important work.

On a weekly basis, approximately 10 key volunteers put in 33 hours of work for basic administration, building networks and collaborations, and staffing the office. If the only thing these volunteers did throughout the year were these weekly tasks, each of them would invest 172 hours annually.

On a monthly basis, approximately 155 volunteer hours go into the same activities, plus our monthly meeting, newsletter, etc. For this, the core group of volunteers is joined by a rotating group of about a dozen volunteers who help with communications, meeting support, or office coverage backup. The core group of 10 volunteers (five percent

of membership - remember the Pareto Principle?) are doing all but approximately 20 hours of work every month. Thank goodness for the volunteers who help with monthly activities!

On an annual basis, it takes nearly 2,300 hours to manage our weekly and monthly administrative and outreach needs, plus the less frequent fundraiser planning, environmental clean ups, parades and pride events, and campaign and community activities. Our 10 key volunteers, and a second group of about a dozen members who regularly step up when asked, are true superheroes, giving so much to the CCDP and community, but at a level that is not sustainable. Remember the Pareto Principle? Those 22 volunteers represent 10 percent of our membership and complete over 85 percent of our annual work.

How can you help? If every member contributed even 10 hours ANNUALLY, we would be able to sustain our current level of activities and take pressure off the overworked volunteers. If every member contributed 15 hours annually, we would also be able to add activities that have been on our “to do” list for years. Today, I’m asking you to do a few things:

1. Read
the
full
newsletter
to
get
acquainted
with
what
we
are
doing,
and
to
honor
the
work
of
our
wonderful
communications
committee.
2. Commit
to
attending

our
August
6
and/or
September
3
meetings.
Put
them
on
your
calendar
now!

3. Purchase
a
ticket
to
our
**Fall
Festival.**

4. Sign
up
to
march
in
one
of
our
remaining
parades.

5. Stop
into
the
office
and
talk
to
volunteers
about
how
to
get
involved.

We strongly urge you to spend a minimum of five hours volunteering with CCDP for the rest of 2026. Here's some suggestions for how to get those hours in: host our monthly meeting, or bring snacks (2.5 hours); walk in a parade (3 hours); train and serve as back-up for office hours (3 hours); write a blog or newsletter article (2 hours); or help with GOTV activities: mailings, canvassing, and sign placement

(2 hours).

It's not only time to make time, it's time to give our most dedicated torchbearers a break! Please join me in thanking, and in supporting, those that have brought us this far. I'm looking forward to seeing how we can come together to meet these critical needs at this most critical time.

QUALIFIED ELECTORS IN MICHIGAN HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE EARLY FOR ALL STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

ALL CLINTON COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS MAY VOTE EARLY AT EITHER THE NORTH OR SOUTH EARLY VOTING CENTER.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

NINE DAYS OF EARLY VOTING

	CLINTON COUNTY EARLY VOTE NORTH SITE	CLINTON COUNTY EARLY VOTE SOUTH SITE
	DeWitt Charter Township Hall 1401 W. Herbison Road DeWitt, MI 48820	Bingham Township Hall 2057 N. Lansing Street St. Johns, MI 48879
DAY	CLINTON COUNTY EARLY VOTE NORTH SITE	CLINTON COUNTY EARLY VOTE SOUTH SITE
Saturday	7/25/20	10/24/20
Sunday	7/26/20	10/25/20
Monday	7/27/20	10/26/20
Tuesday	7/28/20	10/27/20
Wednesday	7/29/20	10/28/20
Thursday	7/30/20	10/29/20
Friday	7/31/20	10/30/20
Saturday	8/1/20	10/31/20
Sunday	8/2/20	11/1/20

August 4 Primary - What You Need to Know

By Ann McCulloch. The August 4 primary election is just a short few weeks away, and many voters are already completing their absentee ballots. As a reminder, **absentee ballots must be received by a voter's local clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted**, with the exception of military and overseas ballots which must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by their local clerk within six days after the election in order to be counted. ***If you are mailing your ballot, please ensure that you give it enough time to be received, and if you are concerned about mail delivery, please take it directly to your local clerk's office.*** There are secure boxes outside the office where you can drop off your ballot, or you can take it inside and hand it directly to staff.

Early voting is also an option in Clinton County. **Nine days of early voting will begin on Saturday, July 25**, at two sites in the county: DeWitt Charter Township Hall, 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt; and Bingham Township Hall, 2057 N. Lansing Street, St. Johns. Early voting will end on Sunday, August 2.

With many important races and ballot proposals county-wide this August, please think about your voting plan now and make sure your family members and friends are doing the same. There is too much at stake in this election to be silent. Your vote ensures that your voice will be heard!



What Is the Separate Tax Limitation Proposal?

By Kathie Elliott. In Clinton County, there is a proposal on the August 4 ballot for **Separate Tax Limitation**. Due to millage rate rollbacks caused by the Headlee amendment, voters will be asked to reauthorize the constitutional millage for the County (5.800 mills), general law townships (1.000 mill), and the intermediate school district (.2000 mill). This proposal has been approved seven times since 1994. The last reauthorization was passed in 2022 and expires at the end of 2026. If you support this measure, be sure you vote yes and talk to your friends and neighbors about it. There is a vocal contingency deliberately mischaracterizing the proposal and urging residents to vote no. So, let's keep our heads high, speak in an informed manner to those in our circles, and support our community and community support systems!



Yes, Even Now, We Can Celebrate 250

By Ann McCulloch. July 4 has come and gone this year, and, for many, the mixed emotions brought about by our current reality and what we should be celebrating are right there at the surface. The ideals of democracy, though not fully realized, are the promise of America; and yet, every day, there are new reminders that the current administration cares little about the foundational principles that all are created equal, that all inherently possess the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Why, then, should we celebrate? If for no other reason, perhaps celebration of what those throughout history have worked tirelessly to preserve can serve as a reminder of what this country could still yet be.

American history is filled with examples large and small of acts of

bravery and dissent that have advanced our democracy from its beginnings in 1776. There is also much for which we should atone. Founding Father Thomas Jefferson seemed to recognize this, as inscribed within the Jefferson Memorial are his words that "laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance." And at our country's most tumultuous time, President Abraham Lincoln reminded all Americans of the unfinished work of human equality. Using his address at Gettysburg, he called for rededication to the task of preserving a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, so that the sacrifices of those who had fought and lost their lives would not be in vain.

Throughout the decades, progress has come in fits and starts, for some, and not for others, leaving much unrealized. Congressman and civil rights activist John Lewis, in [an essay](#) published days after his death in 2020, recognized this painful fact. Still, he inspired readers to remember that "democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

Marking 250 years as a nation offers an opportunity to reflect on our past and present circumstances and imagine what comes next. Celina Stuart, Chief Executive Officer of The League of Women Voters, stated recently in [The Guardian](#) that "our hope is not just to preserve democracy, but to evolve it – to make it more representative, more inclusive and, above all, more resilient...Not something other people do. Something we all do together." So, we come together, we learn, we build, we protest, we dissent, and we remember the human dignity upon which this country was founded. That is something still worth celebrating.



County and State Conventions Coming in August

By Kathie Elliott. CCDP members will gather for our County Convention on 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. Over the next few weeks, members will receive the official call to the County Convention. ***Please note that July 16 is the last day to begin/renew membership to be eligible to vote in the County Convention.*** To join CCDP or to renew your membership, please see the free and contributing options available on the [MDP website](#).

On August 29, at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, the Michigan Democratic Party will convene its State Nominating Convention. Join us then to gain a deeper understanding of MDP's structure and the process for nominating candidates for state-wide positions while spending time with other county, district, and state party members. 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 at the State Nominating Convention, membership applications must be submitted by July 30.



Looking to Get Involved? We've Got You Covered

By Shelby Neathammer. Summer can be a busy season with travel, kids out of school, gardening, and lake days. In Michigan, it's the time of year when we try to soak up as much of the long, warm days of light as we can. This busy season comes with the additional challenge of keeping track of events such as festivals and campaigning. Here is a quick guide to ways to stay engaged with your CCDP community as we all prepare for an intense election season.

■ Join
CCDP
for
parade
season.
If
you
have
not
had
a
chance
to
walk
with
us
yet,
please
join
us
for
the
St.
Johns
Mint
Festival
Parade
on
August
8,
the
DeWitt
Ox
Roast
Parade
on
August
15,
or
the
Maple
Rapids
Lamplighter
Festival
Parade
on
September
19.
Parades
are
a
fun

way
to
connect
with
your
CCDP
friends,
Democrats
from
other
counties,
folks
running
for
office,
and
parade
watchers.
It
is
always
a
joy
to
see
the
kiddos
along
the
route
eager
to
watch
the
many
floats,
fire
trucks,
tractors,
and
opportunities
to
collect
candy!
For
the
adults,
it
is
way
to
connect

with
that
child-
like
wonder
and
show
our
CCDP
pride.
Bring
comfy
walking
shoes,
hats,
sunscreen,
and
water.

**Email
us**

to
RSVP,
and
we
will
share
additional
information
for
each
parade.

- Join
us
at
our
monthly
CCDP
meetings
as
a
fun
way
to
connect
with
other
Clinton
County
Democrats
and
learn

about
volunteer
opportunities
and
important
party
updates.
Our
meetings
offer
a
face-
to-
face
way
to
hear
from
local
elected
officials
and
their
representatives
about
the
important
work
they
are
doing
to
serve
us.
If
you
want
to
meet
candidates
for
office,
CCDP
does
a
great
job
of
securing
speakers
to
help

us
make
informed
decisions
on
who
best
fits
our
needs,
particularly
with
the
August
4
primary
election
just
around
the
corner.
Our
next
monthly
meeting
will
be
on
August
6,
7:00
pm,
at
the
DeWitt
City
Hall,
414
E.
Main
Street,
DeWitt.
Say
hi
to
your
CCDP
friends
during
social
time
before

the
meeting
at
6:30
p.m.

- Looking
for
ways
to
give
back
to
your
Clinton
County
community?
Please
join
us
for
our
parking
lot
and
Adopt-
A-
Highway
cleanup
events
on
July
19,
September
20,
or
September
27.
These
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are
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communal
actions
with
results
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during

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time
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the
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feels
persistently
heavy.
Enjoy
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morning
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with
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company
and
put
into
practice
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Day
values
year-
round.
Once
again,
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shoes,
hats,
sunscreen,
and
water
and
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forget
to
RSVP.

- Another
great
way
to
be
of
service
directly
in
your
community
is

to
assist
at
the
Greater
Lansing
Food
Bank
Drive-
Thru
Food
Distribution
in
St.
Johns
on
August
22,
September
26,
and
October
24,
at
8:00
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Mall,
1023
South
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St.
Johns.
If
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help
or
know
someone
in
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proof
of
need
or
residing
in

Clinton
County
is
not
required
to
receive
assistance.

We hope to see you at one of these great events. We are all stronger when we work together in support of the people and communities around us!



Let's Get Yard Signs Out!

By Kathie Elliott. We have CCDP and candidate yard signs in our office. Come see us at the CCDP Office, 105 W. Railroad Street, St. Johns, during office hours, most Thursdays from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. during the summer and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. You can also [email us](#) to check our inventory or arrange for pick up outside of office hours. We are also collecting names and addresses of people interested in hosting a large sign on property that you own. Locations that are highly visible with a good amount of daily traffic work best. [Email us](#) with questions or to put your property on our list. Thank you in advance for ensuring our great candidates get solid visibility this election season!



Flags Over Clinton County

By Kathie Elliott. Next time you stop by our office, be sure to take a moment to look at our outdoor American flag, courtesy of the [Flags Over Clinton County subscription](#) from the St. Johns Kiwanis Club.

This program is open to businesses, non-profits, and residents, and 100 percent of the proceeds from the \$50 contribution stays in the community to support Kiwanis efforts to enrich the lives of children through scholarships, student of the month programs, and builder's clubs. CCDP is proud to fly the flag and support this worthy program!



Fall Festival Tickets Now Available

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!



Upcoming Events

July 17 - Meet Your One Team Organizer. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at CCDP's office, 105 W. Railroad Street, St. Johns. Clinton County's assigned organizer from the Michigan Democratic Party One Team will meet members and share information on building a base ahead of the midterm elections. [RSVP here](#).

July 19 - 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 Rd, DeWitt. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided. [RSVP here](#).

August 6 - CCDP Monthly 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.

August 8 - St. Johns Mint Festival Parade: Stepping off at 10:00 a.m. in St. Johns. To walk with CCDP, [RSVP here](#).

August 11 - Election Transparency and Voter Education Virtual Town Hall with Rep. Emily Dievendorf: 5:00 -6:00 p.m. [RSVP here](#).

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 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 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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