

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



May 2025

May Office Hours

105 W. Railroad Street
St. Johns, MI 48879



Saturday, May 3-NO OFFICE HOURS
Saturday, May 10, 10am-1pm
Saturday, May 17, 10am-1pm
Saturday, May 24, 10am-1pm
Saturday, May 31-NO OFFICE HOURS

*Pick up yard signs, ask questions,
and see our space!*

Creating and Sustaining Hope

By Kathie Elliott. In this final article on the topics of gratitude, reflection, and hope, I invite you to consider what it means to hope. According to Hope Theory, hope is the belief that your future will be better than the present and that you have the ability to make it happen.

Knowing this readership as I do, I know you want to feel hope, and that there are moments when you do. We're struggling with sustaining hope

because the elements which lead to hope can be fleeting. While we (mostly) believe the future will be better, we have no real sense of the time it will take to reach that state. While we believe in our individual and collective intent to take action to achieve a better future, the rate and degree of legal, ethical, and moral violations we witness daily threaten our ability to think clearly and send us into survival mode. Developing a hopeful state of mind requires that we 1) have goals, 2) believe in our own agency (willpower), and 3) are able to develop pathways to achieving our goals.

Something I've begun to notice over the last few weeks is how my blood pressure seems to lower and my mind seems to sharpen when we have a group of members join us at our Saturday office hours. We're beginning to see a core group of members and allies drop in regularly, allowing us to feel safe, connected and cared for. Being in that space together with you helps me to create goals, feel power/agency, and think clearly so I can discover ways to meet our goals.

Our meetings, our office hours, our banquet....these events with you provide hope. Thank you for creating spaces where we feel like we can take a full, deep breath of air, stretching our bodies and minds after feeling beaten, demoralized, and....small. If you aren't already stopping into our office hours, please do so. You may find, as I do, that a weekly dose of support from fellow Democrats helps affirm your own sanity and prepare for the week ahead. If you watch our social media, or receive our emails, you will also note the increase in events (many of them outdoors) as we move into summer.

Please join us in co-creating and sustaining hope this year, so we can set our goals, celebrate our agency, and create ways to meet these goals. Stay well, stay connected, and seek hope.



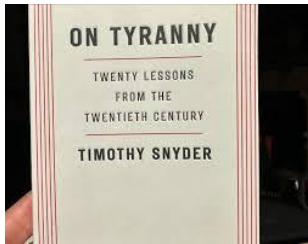
St. Johns Bond Proposal Update

By Matthew Boak. We wish there were positive news to report about the St. Johns Public Schools Special Election that took place on May 6. The bond proposal that sought a \$99.75 million bond (a zero-mill increase) to create an Early Learning Center, update our rural elementary schools, provide safety and security upgrades, create a new transportation center, and so much more, was defeated by a vote of 3,917 to 2,368 (62% to 38%), the unofficial results at the time of this writing, with a voter turnout of 38%.

What was most surprising was the difference in results from this election compared to last year, when a very similar proposal (a zero-mill increase) was defeated at the ballot. Then, the bond proposal was defeated by a vote of 2,205 to 2,096, a difference of only 109 votes. This means the “no” vote contingent gained 1,712 votes between 2024 to 2025, an increase of nearly 78%. The “yes” vote contingent, however, only grew by 272 votes, an increase of only 13%.

This should be concerning for any future millage that asks for support for any of our public institutions. A Lansing news outlet, Gongwer, reported that of all the school bond proposals on the ballot across Michigan on May 6, 48.9% of them failed, meaning a lack of investment for needed upgrades in our schools that the state largely does not provide any funding for.

Our schools need our support now more than ever. Education has been long known as the great equalizer. Let's ensure that we continue to advocate for well-funded schools that provide opportunities for all children.



Join Us July 15 to Discuss *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder

Are you looking for an opportunity to talk about ways we can individually and collectively press back against the wanton destruction and chaos of the

Trump administration? Are you ready for an evening of lively and interesting discussion? Please join us on July 15 at 7:00 p.m. at CCDP's office, 105 West Railroad Street, in St. Johns for our second Common Read book discussion, *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder.

Snyder begins the prologue of this timely and important book by stating that "history does not repeat, but it does instruct." In this short work, he draws on history to offer 20 practical strategies to protect democracy. His emphasis is on the importance of individual action and responsibility, something we all need to grapple with. This is exactly the kind of book that can help us resist our country's lurch toward authoritarianism.

Our first Common Read session in March was well attended with robust and wide-ranging conversation. We expect more of the same as we meet to discuss *On Tyranny*. The book's website describes it as a "call to arms and a guide to resistance, with invaluable ideas for how we can preserve our freedoms in the uncertain times ahead." It promises to be a thought-provoking read.

Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect and can make plans for seating and refreshments. We'll also send out a few discussion questions to think about prior to the meeting. Thank you!



What a Wonderful Spring Banquet!

By Matthew Boak. Thank you to everyone who joined us for CCDP's Spring Banquet Fundraiser on May 2!

We had a crowd of over 100 attendees who were so excited to be together with like-minded members of their community. Lieutenant Governor and Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Garlin Gilchrist provided a fantastic keynote address, and our state legislators and MDP Chair Curtis Hertel all provided a morale boost appropriate for these chaotic and uncertain times.

Our silent auction was a huge success, raising more than \$2,000 which will go towards continued party development and candidate recruitment right here in Clinton County. We offer special thanks to thank the Eagle Eye Golf and

Banquet Center for providing a beautiful venue for our event. From the facilities to the food, it could not have gone more smoothly.

Please browse our [digital photo album](#) of the evening's festivities. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for our third annual Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 20!



CCDP Welcomes Your Blog Submissions!

We've been enjoying the many blog submissions shared by CCDP members over the last couple of months! If you haven't read the latest, don't miss [Tess Miller's recent post](#) on avoiding the blame game as Democrats. If you've been noodling something in the news, or have a perspective you would like to share, consider submitting a blog post. Contact [Ann McCulloch](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

June 5: CCDP Membership Meeting, DeWitt City Hall, 414 East Main Street. 6:30 p.m. social time with meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

June 14: Legislative Lunch Break with State Rep.

Emily Dievendorf, Room 1931, Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 East Jefferson Street, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

June 21: [St. Johns Pride Fest](#), downtown St. Johns.

June 28: [Lansing Pride](#), Old Town, Lansing, 1:00 - 10:00 p.m.

June 29: [DeWitt Pride in the Park](#), Riverside Park, 300 South Bridge Street, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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