

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



April 2024

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." - Thomas Jefferson



Let's Turn Out the Vote in 2024

*Taken from a penetrating article by Tim Hughes. Read the **full piece on our website**.* If someone tells you they're not voting this year because their vote doesn't make a difference, set them straight. As we are all painfully aware, in 2016 Hillary Clinton lost the

Electoral College vote to Donald Trump (306-232) despite winning the popular vote by 3,868,519 votes.

The key to Trump's victory was a little under 80,000 votes in three states out of almost 130,000,000 votes cast nationwide. Trump won by 10,704 here in Michigan, (16 electoral votes) 22,177 in Wisconsin (10 electoral votes) and 46,765 in Pennsylvania (20 electoral votes). If Hillary had increased her vote total by just 1% in each of these 3 states, 46 electoral votes would have shifted from Trump to Clinton, resulting in a 278-260 electoral vote victory for Hillary.

All it takes is voting. And recent Democratic-led changes in the state law and Constitution have made it extremely easy to cast a vote in our state. Expanded absentee voting, early voting and expanded usage of drop boxes take away any excuse someone might have for not voting. And the stakes are high this November. Biden or Trump for President. Likely Slotkin or Rogers for an open US Senate seat. Hertel or Barrett for Congress in the 7th District. And your

vote...or that of your uncertain friend...can make the difference.



Don't Forget the Down Ballot Races

CCDP Vice Chair Matthew Boak did a deep dive on voting trends over the last few elections. Here are a few highlights, and be sure to read **his entire blog post on our website** for more great information.

According to the Clinton County Clerk's office, at the time of the November 2020 General Election, there were 62,530 registered voters in the county, with a turnout of 48,216 – a 77.11 percent turnout, 6.6 percent higher than Michigan's turnout and 10.5 percent more than the national rate. For the 2022 midterm elections, the Clinton County Clerk's office reported that 41,506 individuals voted out of 58,080 registered voters – a 71.46 percent turnout, certainly a record in recent years. Great job showing up, Clinton County!

However, down ballot turnout is lacking. 20,664 voters in Clinton County cast a vote for Governor Whitmer in 2022, while only 19,424 voters cast a vote for Elissa Slotkin in the 7th Congressional District Race – a 6 percent decrease. Further down the ballot, 3,290 Democrats who lived in the area encompassing the County Commission's 6th district cast a ballot for Governor Whitmer. Democrats only cast 2,897 votes for the local County Commissioner race – a 11.9 percent voter turnout decrease between the two races.

Please complete your entire ballot when you head to the polls this August and November, and encourage those you know to do the same!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



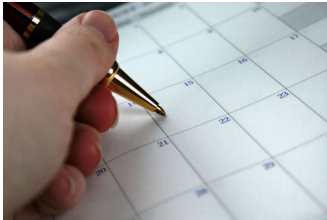
Adopt-A-Highway Date Change

We've had a scheduling change and our Adopt-A-Highway clean up will now take place on Saturday, April 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 7585 West Grand

River Highway in Watertown Township. We will provide MDOT safety vests and trash bags. Help us do our part to keep Clinton County beautiful! Questions? Contact **Matthew Boak**.

Filing Deadline Approaching

It's not too late to file as a candidate for other offices.



Nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for partisan and nonpartisan candidates are due Tuesday, April 23, at 4:00 p.m., although you may file to run for office without a nominating petition. If you are considering running for local office and aren't able to circulate your petition before the

deadline, you can still file your candidacy by paying a fee, normally \$100. Learn more about **election and campaign deadlines** as well as **candidate filing procedures**.

CCDP is currently seeking an individual to run for the District 1 seat on the Clinton County Board of Commissioners, which consists of Duplain, Ovid, and Victor Townships, as well as the northern half of Greenbush Township. Are you interested, or do you know someone who might be? If so, please contact **the Candidate Recruitment Committee** right away.



Annual Banquet Tickets Available

CCDP's Spring Banquet is quickly approaching! We will gather on Friday, May 3, at The Emerald Golf Course, 2300 W Maple Rapids Road, in St. Johns. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to purchase your tickets on **ActBlue**. by April 24. Can't make it to the event but still want to

support CCDP? You can donate in lieu of purchasing a ticket through the link, too.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we are pleased to announce that we will once again host a crowd favorite - the CCDP Silent Auction! We are accepting your donations of products, services, and handmade items. Previous donations have included quilts, gift baskets, spa services, memorabilia, gift cards, etc. For more information, or to arrange a donation, email CCDP Chair **Kathie Elliott**.

Our dynamic speaker line up includes keynotes from U.S. Congressional candidate Curtis Hertel and State Senator Mallory McMorrow. We will also be joined by State Senator Sam Singh and State Representatives Emily Dievendorf and Penelope Tsernoglou to help fire us up for the election season ahead. We look forward to seeing you there!

Considering a School Board



Position?

By Kathie Elliott. One of the most consequential decisions any community member can make is to run for their local school board. School board members influence student learning, safety, and mental health; which in turn impacts the stability and well-being of families and communities. The ability to discern the resources and opportunities that students will need in order to meet graduation requirements, AND to thrive beyond their public school education, is an incredible responsibility.

Every election cycle, Michigan public school boards have at least two non-partisan school board member positions open on the November ballot. Deliberative bodies like school districts benefit from a variety of viewpoints and experiences, provided board members can place data, administrative recommendations, and student needs above their own self-interest. Republicans are recruiting school board candidates that adhere to a far right ideology - well beyond what is needed to make decisions based on thoughtful discourse and careful consideration. YES, this includes Clinton County!

Children in Clinton County need school board members who will stand up for their right to prepare for the world that awaits them in a safe, caring, and affirming learning environment. We implore you to attend one or more school board meetings in the next few months, listen to and watch your board members, and speak to them if you have any questions about their priorities and qualifications to make decisions on behalf of the children in your school district.

Visit the **RESA webpage** and scroll down to the bottom for Clinton County School District pages containing information about school board members, meeting dates, locations, agendas, and minutes. **Contact CCDP** if you would like to know more about running for school board. The deadline to file your candidacy is July 23 at 4:00 p.m.



CCDP Needs Office Space

Do you have office/retail space in Clinton County that you would donate or rent at a nominal fee? CCDP is exploring the possibility of office or retail space (100-300 sq ft) between the primary and general elections to store and distribute yard signs, engage members and prospective members, host small gatherings, prepare mailings, etc. If you

have, or know of, any space that might be available, please email **Kathie Elliot**.

Even more important than the functional use of the space is the visibility that comes with having a dedicated space for Democrats, like-minded community members, and voters that aren't sure their values and priorities are represented in Clinton County. We want this space to unequivocally demonstrate that there is a strong, vibrant Democratic Party in Clinton County, here to stay and unwavering in our commitment to the democratic values that give voice, opportunity, and security to everyone residing in, working in, and visiting Clinton County. Thank you in advance for any leads!



Join Us May 2 in DeWitt

CCDP's next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 2, at the DeWitt City Hall building, with social time at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Find all of our meeting dates on **our Events Page**.

Come to the May meeting to learn more about serving your neighbors as a **Precinct Delegate**. With the May 7 deadline to have your name on the ballot approaching quickly, former and current Precinct Delegates will be there to answer your questions. We will also have the forms required to file your candidacy, and a notary present to notarize them for you. Not sure you're ready to put your name on the ballot? Talk to us about additional opportunities, like serving as a Precinct Organizer. We hope to see you on May 2!



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