

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



August 2024



Message from the Chair

By Kathie Elliott. **When we fight, we win!** What a brilliant reminder that victories cannot occur without the deliberate, sustained effort of a community of like-minded, democracy-loving people. Over the last few weeks, we've been riveted to the national news as an unrivaled personal sacrifice was made by President Joe Biden to end his candidacy. With the nomination of Vice President Kamala Harris and selection of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, we witnessed evidence of the deep bench strength of party leadership. The energy and enthusiasm surging through the party all the way down to our humble, but vibrant, Clinton County Democratic Party has been a joy to experience. And while we must remember that the excitement of the last few weeks is only tempered by the work yet to be done, in this moment, I choose to share a little more joy with you.

For several months, your CCDP Leadership Team has searched for office space to use through the end of the election cycle, and we are excited to share that we have been successful! The growth in CCDP membership, donations, and active volunteers in such a critical, and historic election called us to find an

office location that would make it clear to anyone who doubted that the Democratic Party in Clinton County IS fighting and WILL win! We will win seats on the County Commission and Clinton County Democratic voters will return Representatives Tsernoglou and Dievendorf to the Michigan House. We will elect Curtis Hertel, Jr., as our Congressman, Elissa Slotkin as our new Senator, and deliver Clinton County to the Harris/Walz campaign. We will weep together with joy on November 5 as we turn away the threat to our democracy, and lean into the hope that the Harris/Walz ticket has given us.

And, throughout these next several months, Clinton County residents will be able to visit us at our new office in St. Johns! Thanks to donations from CCDP members, elected officials, and a little bit of good old-fashioned luck, we have found our perfect office location and we can't wait for you to visit us there! **Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 24, 3:00 -7:00 p.m., at 105 W. Railroad Street for the CCDP Open House.** Stop by our headquarters to talk to our officers, members and elected officials. To make sure you have up-to-date information about this and other CCDP events, check **our website** and **social media** daily! We are constantly adding new opportunities for you to be part of this historic election and spend time with other Clinton County Democrats. You won't want to miss a thing, so make sure to spend a few minutes each day checking for news and announcements!



Join Us August 28 for Coffee & Conversation

We had such a great turnout for our inaugural Coffee & Conversation in June in St. Johns that we are hosting another, this time in DeWitt! We will meet at Bigby Coffee, 13181 Schavey Road, on August 28 at 1:00 p.m. for coffee, conversation, and camaraderie. There is an energy in the air, and we want to keep it going!



Adopt and Amend Is in the Dustbin of History

Michigan is one of only 24 states that allow citizens to initiate legislation through the petition process.

Successful petition drives by citizen activists in 2018 would have put a law to raise the minimum wage and to require employers to provide sick leave pay to their workers on the ballot for a vote. Things did not work out as planned because then-Governor Snyder and the Republican-controlled legislature engaged in an “adopt and amend” scheme to keep the proposals off the ballot. Michigan’s Supreme Court recently ruled the actions of Snyder and the Republican legislature unconstitutional. You definitely do not want to miss this **outstanding article by Tim Hughes** providing the backstory on the cynical process that delayed social gains for so many for six years.



Confessions of a First-Time Canvasser

By Shelby Neathammer. I was admittedly nervous when I signed up to canvass for the first time. Most of my day job is communication-based, yet I stumbled over my words when a door was answered. CCDP leadership made me feel safe and adequately prepared, but not knowing what conversations could potentially occur was intimidating. I was also aware that I was approaching people in their homes, where they hopefully feel safe, and an unsolicited knock

could seem like an encroachment, particularly in such divisive times. Yet, everyone I engaged with was polite, including those voting opposite me. I was relieved, but I also recognize that there is a chance that I will only sometimes be received with politeness in the future.

My takeaway is a reminder of my own experience. As a former Republican, I am familiar with the power of having someone offer you a seat at the political discussion table, potentially shifting your perspective. I found that this is a powerful act and practice of love. Of course, we don't have to endure canvassing encounters that place our safety at risk. Still, perhaps by showing up, even messily, we can have a conversation that creates a shift. This shift could eventually become a ripple effect of change or, at the very least, a foundation of respect because we were brave enough to show up.

Remember, political activism occurs at all levels and doesn't have to involve canvassing, but here are some tips for anyone considering signing up: bring water, sunscreen, a hat, good shoes, and a fully charged phone. Have a buddy for safety and some essential talking points. Trust your gut; if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. So, as I continue to find my confidence in canvassing, I will endure the awkwardness of learning something new while finding opportunities to listen and connect with neighbors who might have more in common with me than they think.



Michigan Postcard Project Needs You!

By Monica Martin Gobel. With the many avenues to support Democratic get-out-the-vote efforts, deciding what to explore can be overwhelming. I've found handwriting postcards for the **Michigan Postcard Project** to be one self-contained, energizing and creative option. I can write solo or with people, and on my own schedule. The idea is that handwritten postcards may be less likely to be discarded as junk mail. Maybe my postcard will appear on someone's refrigerator as a reminder to vote.

Postcard projects *do* make a difference, and the Georgia Postcard Project has

led the way. For Georgia's 2020 general election, just under 500,000 postcards were mailed to voters, with an additional 500,000 mailed ahead of the following runoff election, which Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff won, flipping the U.S. Senate. In 2022, GPP wrote 250,000 postcards, helping to re-elect Senator Warnock. The Georgia effort inspired the Michigan Postcard Project, with about 100,000 postcards written thus far. An additional 75,000 are being printed to meet the growing demand.

The pre-printed front of the Michigan postcard has helpful reminders, websites and QR codes addressing the logistics of voting. The flip side's individually-handwritten notes remind the addressee why it matters to "Vote Blue, up and down the ballot." One obtains stacks of 50 postcards and returns them with purchased stamps affixed. Completed postcards should be returned by early September.

Interested in helping? **Fill out the Google form** to get the pickup address of a bin near you. After completing the form, you're sent an email confirming your request. You write and stamp the postcards, returning them to the MPP bin. The MPP team will address and mail the postcards in line with the Michigan Democratic Party's One Campaign plans. The addresses selected are voters who would most benefit.

Rather than stressing about the political landscape, I decided I could sign up and show up. Not knowing where to start, this has been a simple and fun way to hopefully leave a mark.





Yard Signs, Bumper Stickers, and More!

One of the best things you can do to show support for Democrats up and down the ticket is to proudly display a yardsign for your favorite candidate or for CCDP itself. Best of all, we'd be happy to deliver your signs to your door! Please fill out **this Google form** to claim your signs and help us visibly demonstrate strength in numbers across the county, and look for more information on new CCDP merch coming soon!

Also, are you constantly taking kids to events or picking up groceries and running errands? Let your car do the talking! The **Slotkin campaign** and the **Hertel campaign** have bumper stickers available at a reasonable price. This small act will no doubt encourage others to do the same. Order yours today!



Make Your Plans for CCDP's Fall Festival Fundraiser

Join us on September 14 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. as we raise money and awareness for our Democratic candidates for offices up and down the ballot. The event will take place at Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill, 1174 West Gratiot County Line Road, St. Johns. Please note that this property is located approximately three miles west of their US-127 storefront.

Tickets for this event are \$30 per person. Included in your admission is a complimentary beverage and your choice of a delicious sweet treat. Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill hard cider and goods will be available for purchase on site. **Reserve your ticket now** and view additional event information. We had a great crowd and a great time last year and are hoping for the same again. Can't wait to see you there!



Opportunities to Get Involved

August 17 - DeWitt Ox Roast Parade: Join CCDP and Democratic candidates

for elected office as we march in DeWitt's Ox Roast Parade. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. so we can get a group picture. The parade officially kicks off at 10:00 am. If you'd like to walk with CCDP, **RSVP via Mobilize**. Bring any and all Democratic t-shirts, signs, etc., that you'd like to walk with to represent the party.

August 21 - CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: Each Wednesday, CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. **RSVP on Mobilize** for any Wednesday canvasses and you can also sign up for email and text reminders.

August 24 – CCDP Office Grand Opening: Don't miss the grand opening of our office space, 105 W. Railroad Street, in downtown St. Johns! Our open house will take place from 3:00 -7:00 p.m. Members and friends can take a look at our space, hear from candidates and elected officials, and pick up yard signs. Light refreshments will be provided.

August 24 - St. Johns Pride Fest: CCDP will be tabling at the St. Johns Pride Fest from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in downtown St. Johns. You can read more about **Pride Fest**, and stay tuned for specific information on CCDP's plans!

August 24 - MDP State Convention: CCDP is excited to represent you as we gather at 9:00 a.m. to select Presidential Electors and formally nominate Democratic candidates to the November General Election!

August 28 - Coffee and Conversation: We hope to see you at 1:00 p.m at the DeWitt Biggby, located at 13181 Schavey Rd, DeWitt. Come and converse over your favorite beverage!

August 28 - CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: Each Wednesday, CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. **RSVP on Mobilize** for any Wednesday canvasses and you can also sign up for email and text reminders.

September 4 - CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: Each Wednesday, CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. **RSVP on Mobilize** for any Wednesday canvasses and you can also sign up for email and text reminders.

September 5 - CCDP Membership Meeting: The September membership meeting will take place at the DeWitt City Hall, 414 E. Main Street. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

September 11 - CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: Each Wednesday, CCDP

will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. **RSVP on Mobilize** for any Wednesday canvasses and you can also sign up for email and text reminders.

September 14 - Second Annual Fall Harvest Festival Fundraiser: See the above story for details and registration information. We can't wait host you at this fun fall event!



Donate to CCDP Today

Our expanded presence and activity in the county, including supporting local Democratic candidates and giving a voice to all members of the Clinton County community through voter outreach, community forums, and service in elected and appointed positions is made possible by your donations.

This year we have stretched our outreach efforts by identifying candidates for six of the seven county commission seats, creating a robust county commission canvassing campaign that will include collaboration with other campaigns and printing a county commission candidate flier and yard signs.

There is much more to do and your one time or recurring donation will help us maintain our momentum. *Please donate today!*

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