

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



June 2024

"We are the Democratic Party. We're fighting for a brighter, more equal future: rolling up our sleeves and organizing everywhere to build a better America for all." - Democrats.org



What Have YOU Done for Democracy Lately?

*Excerpted from CCDP President Kathie Elliott's recent blog post which you can **read in its entirety** [**here**](#).* Friends, I have a confession to make. I'm very

worried about the election, worried about where we are headed as a country, and worried that I'm not doing enough - that we are not doing enough to repair and reinforce the foundation of this great noble experiment we call the United States. So, I want to offer you some frank words, which may be difficult to hear, as we enter the final three months of the election cycle. That's right, the final three months. You may think we have five months before the general election. Plenty of time to enjoy a wonderful Michigan summer, and then get serious about protecting democracy after Labor Day. Nothing could be further from the truth. We need to behave as though the election will be won or lost on September 26 when early voting begins.

We can't make excuses about why we don't have time to actively help candidates, participate in get-out-the-vote efforts, support the disenfranchised, and signal your values through conversations and meaningful action. There is no intention to shame anyone, but rather to awaken the sleeping giant within all

of you as we separately, and jointly, make choices that will impact the outcome of this election. To put it bluntly, we have three months to clearly and decisively choose democracy, the rule of law, and the needs of the many above the wants of the few. Our lives the way we know them, and imagine they could be, are singularly balanced on the head of this particular needle.

As an experienced campaigner and office holder there is something I want to share with you that no one running for office is going to say - and they may not even share this opinion, but at this point in the election it's critical for you to hear this message and thoughtfully answer the following question. Are you indulging in democracy, or are you fighting for it? This summer we do not have the luxury of indulging in democracy. We must, with thoughtful, deliberate, and strategic focus, spend our time and resources in the direct pursuit of wins for all Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.



Resource to Share: President Biden's First Term

Curious about what the Biden Administration has accomplished? Kalamazoo County Democrats have a great resource to do just that! From economic strides to environmental advances, it's clear the Biden/Harris ticket has the best interests of the country in mind.

Read more here, and download a pdf to share!



A Message from the Hertel Campaign

Hey everyone! My name is Andrew Irons and I'll be overseeing Curtis Hertel's organizing program this cycle. I'm very excited about this race and the chance to work with all of you as we work together to keep this district blue. We came very close to winning this county for Rep. Slotkin in 2022. The Hertel campaign intends on making that goal of flipping Clinton County blue a reality. To do this, we need to have as many conversations as voters as possible. That means door knocking in communities, phone calls to persuadable voters in more rural communities, and chats with friends and family to make sure they vote for Curtis in November.

To jumpstart our efforts, we'll be having a big event with a very special guest this coming Wednesday, June 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the Lansing area (the location will be shared the day before the event to those who RSVP). At this

event, we'll not only showing our support for Curtis, but we'll also be launching canvassers to go out and door knock across Clinton County. To be a part of this, **RSVP here**. If you can't make this Wednesday's event, you can join us for weekly Clinton County canvasses which will launch from the DeWitt public library, again heading to different parts of the county, every Wednesday at 12:00 noon beginning on June 19. Just **email me** if you'd like to RSVP.

If none of those work for your schedule or you'd like to do other types of volunteering, please feel free to fill out our **general volunteer interest form** to let us know how you can support our campaign. I hope to see you at one of our events very soon!



Tsernoglou Bill Fighting Intimate Deep Fakes Unanimously Passes Committee

By Tim Hughes. The House Criminal Justice Committee unanimously reported out legislation sponsored by State Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D-East Lansing) to fight the nonconsensual

dissemination of AI-generated sexual images. The Protection from Intimate Deep Fakes Act deals with the growing issue of deep fake AI technology creating highly realistic but fake sexual depictions of individuals that are used to harass and extort victims. Under Tsernoglou's bill, individuals who knowingly or recklessly disseminate these images or videos will face fines, imprisonment and civil damages. It also allows victims to seek damages and court-ordered relief, including temporary restraining orders and injunctions to prevent further harm.

The issue gained international notoriety earlier this year when AI-generated fake images of Taylor Swift went viral, leading to legislative efforts in several states to combat deep fake porn. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 40 states have pending deep fake legislation in the 2024 legislative session. At least 20 bills have already been enacted nationwide.

"By passing this bill out of committee, we are sending a clear message that Michigan will not tolerate these invasive and harmful practices," Tsernoglou said. "As AI technology evolves, it is crucial that our laws keep pace to protect our residents from new forms of abuse and exploitation, while reducing malicious behavior and ensuring the right to privacy."



Follow CCDP on Instagram!

We are excited to announce that CCDP is now on Instagram, thanks to the efforts of Vice Chair Matthew Boak. You can find us by searching **@clintoncountymocrats** or by heading to **this link**. We are looking forward to connecting with more folks about the work we do and the importance of being engaged. Help us spread the word and build our social media presence!



June Meeting Speaker Recap - You're Being Called In

By Kathie Elliott. The speaker at our June membership meeting was Andrea Ryan, founder of the **St. Johns Call-In Coalition**, an organization that works to create a safer, healthier, more inclusive community, with a focus on people who identify as LGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and

People with Disabilities. To call-in is the opposite of calling out, pointing out harmful comments or actions with the goal of engaging in conversation about them, rather than “canceling” that person.

The Call-In Coalition has quickly become one of the most visible and active organizations in St. Johns. You may have seen them at their annual St. Johns Pride Festival, which will celebrate its 4th year on August 24. Other sponsored activities include the SJ Call-In Cafe every third week of the month, the UPstanders Club at Briggs Public Library, Community and Youth Workshops, and their newest effort, Third Place, a drop in space for youth hosted in the CCRESA building in St. Johns every Friday from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For a self-paced online training that explores Orientation, LGBTQ+ Core Vocabulary, and Privilege, please **click here**.



First Coffee & Conversation a Success!

Thank you to all of those who joined in our first Coffee and Conversation on June 5. Our wide-ranging discussion covered how to be more visible

with younger voters, the importance of stating our values, how we can support our local candidates, and new ideas to serve in our communities. Watch for an announcement on our new **Instagram** and **Facebook** for the next event - we'll either meet for Coffee and Conversation again, or perhaps we will try Drinks and Dialogue, grabbing a beer at a local brewery. We will get a date on the calendar soon!



Summer Events - We Can't Wait to See You!

July 11 - Monthly Member Meeting: CCDP's next meeting will take place a week later than normal due to the July 4 holiday. We'll meet at the DeWitt City Hall, 414 East Main Street, for social time at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

July 13 - Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: For our second cleanup of the season, we will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Lansing-Northwest Park and Ride Commuter Lot, 7585 West Grand River Highway, Watertown Township. We will provide MDOT reflective vests and trash bags. Please bring gloves, water, and dress for the weather. RSVP by emailing **Matthew Boak**.

August 1 - Monthly Member Meeting: CCDP's August meeting will take place at the courthouse in St. Johns, 100 East State Street, with social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

August 2 - Democrats & Baseball GOTV Kickoff: We will join fellow Democrats from Eaton and Ingham Counties for a night at the Lansing Lugnuts game as we kick off critical Get Out The Vote efforts. Hang out with Democratic friends and elected officials, enjoy an all-you-can-eat ballpark spread, and watch the game from box seats - all for only \$30. **Get your tickets** today!

August 24—St. Johns Pride Fest: CCDP plans to organize volunteers for our August service opportunity. It will take place from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in downtown St. Johns. Event organizers are looking for people to help with planning the event and various tasks before, during, and after. Look for more information soon!



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