

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



May 2024

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



A Bit of Inspiration...

By Kathie Elliott. Greetings! It was energizing and inspiring to see so many Clinton County Democrats and friends at our Spring Banquet on May 3 (see story below) as we joined together to raise money for

the Clinton County Democrats and to be inspired by elected officials and candidates. It is easy to forget how the power of being with like minded people can restore your spirit and resolve.

Within just a few days, however, the St. Johns school bond renewal failed along party lines. I sat with that disappointment, thinking about what that vote denies our children and community: safe buildings, access to important technology, new and improved classroom spaces, refreshed fine arts and extracurricular resources, a much needed early childhood center, etc. and noticed how quickly a high could be offset by a low.

It's from this point of view that I offer encouragement. To be a Democrat is to be an optimist, believing in a brighter future for all. My sincere hope is that you are looking ahead to our next high. The coming months will be busy as we lift our voices and elevate our candidates so that we continue to be represented by leaders who share our values. Your CCDP wants to be a source of energy and inspiration as we approach November. Without each other, it will be hard to sustain the momentum we need to win. Thank you for the ways you already are contributing, and for all of the efforts yet to come!



Bipartisan Student Cardiac Arrest Bill Signed by Governor at NFL Draft

By Tim Hughes. Legislation that would help protect student athletes from sudden cardiac arrest was signed into law by Governor Gretchen Whitmer at the NFL Draft in Detroit. HB 5527 and 5528 would require schools to develop cardiac emergency response plans and provide access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) which are used to deal with cardiac emergencies. Also, high school coaches would be required to maintain valid certification for CPR and the use of AEDs.

The legislation was sponsored by State Reps. John Fitzgerald (D-Wyoming) and Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit) and championed by House Speaker Joe Tate, a former MSU football player and NFL veteran. Present at the bill signing was Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin, who experienced a sudden cardiac arrest during a televised NFL game and was kept alive by trained emergency staff with an AED. Representatives of the NFL also attended and donated 50 AED machines to public schools throughout the state.

“All children should be safe when they participate in school sports,” said Governor Whitmer. “Today, I am proud to sign commonsense, bipartisan bills. By taking proactive measures, we can keep our kids safe while they play.”



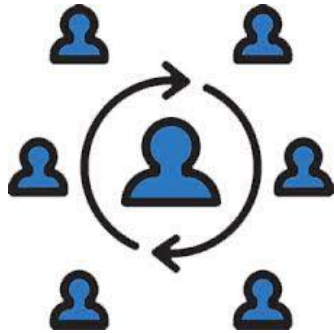
MDP/CCDP Membership - Join Us!

By Rob Mack. One important way to realize the ideals of fairness, justice, and opportunity for all is by working with an organized political party that supports them. Yet, many people who consider themselves to be Democrats have never formally joined the party.

Since becoming a member of the Democratic Party in 1994, I've found membership not only supports the ideals I cherish, it offers opportunities to engage in our community, whether it's volunteering on campaigns, meeting like-minded people, or participating in community improvement. I'm proud to support a party whose platform is based on the core values of fairness, responsibility, and a commitment to the common good and which actively works to ensure that all can live with their basic needs met.

It's very easy to become a member of Michigan Democratic Party, which also automatically includes membership in Clinton County Dems. You can **sign up here**. Membership at the Grassroots level costs \$10 per year, and there are

higher levels for those who are able and want to contribute more. There is also an option to become a member for free. These funds support essential work to promote Democratic candidates. The foundations of our democracy are being severely challenged. Now, more than ever, we need concerned and dedicated individuals actively engaged in the effort to meet this challenge. Please consider becoming a member of the Michigan Democratic Party today!



Think You Can't Make a Difference This Election? Think Again!

By Melany Mack. The 2024 presidential election is only six months away, and we're reminded constantly that it is the most consequential election in our lives. The stakes are incredibly high, the challenge is truly daunting, and it's easy to feel

overwhelmed and powerless. But take heart! There is a simple but powerful way for each one of us to make a difference in local, state, and national elections: **relational organizing**.

What's relational organizing? Simply put, it is about having intentional conversations with someone in your personal network. The most important tools at our disposal are relationships and our willingness to talk with one another about things that matter. This includes family members, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and members of groups we belong to.

People are more likely to take action when asked by someone they trust. Ask the people in your network if they plan to vote. Help them understand how critical it is that they have a plan to vote and that they follow through with it. Make sure those you talk to know about the outstanding Democratic candidates on the ballot, and please remind them to cast a vote in every race, not just the national and state contests. Each of us can do effective relational organizing. Make that list of people in your network and contact them now!

Ready for More? Consider Serving as a Precinct Delegate

By Theresa Kidd. Are you eager to make a difference in Clinton County this election year? Join our committed group of Precinct Delegates! This summer and fall, you can help support strong candidates by encouraging your neighbors to do the same.



A precinct delegate is a local, elected representative of the Democratic Party tasked with reaching out to and mobilizing those in your immediate area to learn more about the issues and candidates and then to go to the polls and vote. This will be a critical role in the 2024 elections, and you can make a difference with your participation.

All registered voters qualify to be precinct delegates. PDs are elected in the August Primary election in even years and serve a two-year term. CCDP will provide support to precinct delegates with training opportunities, assistance with candidate filing

requirements, campaign literature, information on policy issues and updated voting laws, and tools for canvassing. To learn more about getting involved, please email **Theresa Kidd**, Precinct Delegate Chair.



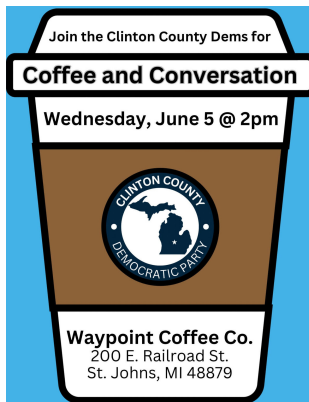
Annual Banquet - Thank You!

By Matthew Boak. We want to extend our thanks to everyone who joined us for our Spring Banquet on May 3! We had over 80 attendees and a fun, full evening of speakers. Thank you to State Senator Mallory McMorrow and our Seventh District

Congressional Candidate Curtis Hertel for Michigan for being our Keynote Speakers and inspiring our attendees to get involved and stay involved. Thank you as well to our Democratic State Legislators who so effectively represent Clinton County for giving remarks – State Representatives Emily Dievendorf and Penelope Tsernoglou, and State Senator Sam Singh. We appreciate all you've done as part of the Democratic majority in the State Legislature! Lastly, thank you to The Emerald Golf Course in St. Johns for serving as our venue. The facilities and staff were amazing and the food was delicious. We created an **album of photos** from the evening. If you have photos you'd like to share, **email them** to us or tag us on Facebook!

Coffees, Cleanups, Meetings & More!

May 21 - What, When, and How to Recycle: We hope to see you at **10:30 a.m.** at the Bath Public Library, 14051 Webster Road, to learn about resources and services available to county residents such as recycling and proper disposal of hazardous



materials and electronics. Clinton County Waste Management and the Bath Public Library are hosting the event, with CCDP providing refreshments!

June 1 - Clinton County Cleanup: Join us from **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon** as we clean up trash at Clinton Lakes County Park and Motz Park. We will meet at 4665 N. DeWitt Road, St. Johns. Trash bags will be provided, but please bring your own heavy pair of gloves. This is a great opportunity to take care of our

local environment and get to know your fellow Clinton County residents. Please email vicechair@clintoncodems.org with any questions.

June 5 - Coffee and Conversation: We are excited to host CCDP's first Coffee and Conversation! We hope to see you at **2:00 p.m.** at Waypoint Coffee, 200 East Railroad Street, St. Johns. Come and converse over your favorite beverage!

June 6 - CCDP Monthly Meeting: CCDP's next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 6, at the Clinton County Courthouse, with **social time at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m.** Can't make it in person? **Ask us** about a Zoom link!



August 2 - An Evening of Baseball

What could be more enjoyable than a summer evening at the ballpark? We will join our fellow

Democrats from Eaton and Ingham Counties for a night at the Lansing Lugnuts game on August 2 as we kick off our 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!**



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