

# Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



November 2024



## Compassion, Strength, Resolve

*By Kathie Elliott.* "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." —Viktor Frankl

The days are becoming shorter, the weather colder, and Michigan has certified its election results. We didn't get the results we fought for in all races, but there are still wins to be proud of. For the moment, we have a slight respite, so this is as good a time as any to step back, engage in self-care, and to reflect on your personal beliefs and priorities. We are all, individually and jointly, in that space between stimulus and response, emphasis on response, because we must, and will, respond with strength, compassion and resolve.

The excellent book *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May, would give us permission to sit in this "in between" space for a while, and I hope that you do; and that the work of CCDP calls you out of wintering and back into the world soon. The community we've grown since July hasn't even begun to tap into all of our skills, interests, and common goals. We have so many opportunities here at the local level to make substantial, impactful and long-lasting change, that I encourage you to "think small" for a bit. Be kind to a stranger, attend a CCDP event, join a CCDP committee, and recommit to your favorite local cause. We're on the right track, we are not going back, and we will spend this time of wintering nurturing the seeds of change we planted this fall.

We have so much to share with you (like a new version of the CCDP logo,

pictured here), and so much planned for the next two-year election cycle! You will learn more about how we hope to support you, how we plan to build up our community, and how we will identify and support candidates for office and current officeholders in early 2025. But we have one bit of news we can't keep to ourselves much longer! Please attend our December meeting for a very exciting special announcement, and for officer elections. Our January meeting will be held at Jimmy's Pub and will be a celebration of our work this year, and the community we've built. We can't wait to see you at both!



## Staying Steady in Troubled Times

*By Melany Mack.* Perhaps you, like so many of us, are reeling from the results of the election on November 5 and the looming specter of a second Trump administration. We each need time to process what happened, marshal our energies,

fortify our determination, and renew our commitment to work diligently for the common good. Fortunately, we have a robust network of fellow Democrats in Clinton County who are similarly focused on regaining balance and moving forward, despite the setbacks of the recent election. Stay connected with us through our monthly meetings, newsletters, and social media platforms. We will also regularly share other resources that can help us find ways to ground ourselves for the challenging times ahead.

One of the best resources we've found is *10 ways to be prepared and grounded now that Trump has won* by Daniel Hunter. The author reminds us that authoritarian power—the kind Trump is threatening to wield—is derived from fear, isolation from each other, and exhaustion in the face of the chaos that is Trump's modus operandi. Hunter advises that we must “pay attention to our inner states so we don't perpetuate the autocrat's goals of fear, isolation, and exhaustion, and constant disorientation.” He discusses the importance of trust (in yourself and in others), releasing that which we cannot change, handling fear, envisioning a positive future and more! You'll be glad you took time to read this piece.

Another helpful tool for “strengthening our spirits to resist” is to be found at **Finding Steady Ground**. Here you'll find a list of seven behaviors, listed in the form of a pledge, that will help, among other things, to set boundaries for the news we're consuming and intentionally taking a break from social media.

Rebecca Solnit is one of today's wisest and most inspiring writers. She has written many books (*Hope in the Dark* is one of them) and is a regular

contributor at *The Guardian*. In a **recent article**, Solnit encourages us to lay up supplies of love, care, trust, community, and resolve to enable us to resist the storm of a second Trump administration. It is truly a must-read.

It is easy to feel dejected and hopeless after seeing so many of our fellow Americans choose to return to the highest office in our land a person so wholly incompetent and morally unfit to lead. We can get through this and work for a better world together. Connie Shultz, wife of Sherrod Brown who lost his bid to return to the Senate, intimately knows the sting of defeat and the scourge of discouragement. Yet she offers these wise words to all of us: “Every morning each of us wakes up and answers the same question: Is this the day we give up, or is this the day we show up? Every day that we don’t give up on ourselves is a day we’re working to save our democracy.” Let’s resolve to show up together!



## Potential Chaos in Lane Duck

*By Tim Hughes.* For the past two years, Michigan Democrats have enjoyed a “trifecta” of power with Governor Gretchen Whitmer and a Democratic majority in the House and Senate. This made it possible for Democrats to enact their priorities, even without Republican support. That will change next year after Republicans won a majority in the state House on November 5.

That change of power sets the stage for a potentially lively “Lane Duck” session over the next month or so. “Lane Duck” is the period between the election and the next legislative session, when House Republicans take charge. It is a last chance for Democrats to use their control of the legislative process to enact their priorities.

Some of the potential topics under consideration include reproductive health privacy, banning firearms at polling places, police reform, charter school transparency, legislative ethics reform, expanding the state’s hate crime law, unemployment and worker compensation issues, and a proposal from Governor Whitmer to create a new innovation fund with a research development tax credit. Republicans want to take action to change a court-ordered hike in the minimum wage and worker friendly changes to the state’s sick leave law, but prospects for that are dim.

A key factor in the consideration of the Democratic agenda may be attendance. The Democratic majorities are tenuous. 56 votes are needed to pass a bill in

the House and 20 in the Senate and the Democrats hold exactly that many seats. If one person is missing, they won't be able to pass anything on a party line vote. One Democratic legislator was elected to a Congressional seat and is shuttling between Washington DC and Lansing. A couple of House Democrats are saying they might not attend session if their priorities are not addressed.

"Lame Duck" sessions are frequently characterized by rapid consideration of complex subjects, late night sessions, and frequent flare-ups and hot tempers. The 2024 session may well follow that path. The legislature is currently scheduled to meet for 8 days in December. The Republican-controlled House will start session on January 8, 2025.



## **A Deep Dive into Clinton County's Election Results: What Can We Learn?**

*By Matthew Boak.* The results from this year's Presidential election were not what we were expecting and alerted us to the fact that there is still much work to be done to inform voters of the Democratic Party's message and goals. With that being said, analyzing the results of the election will be key in the months ahead. Let's take a dive into Clinton County's official, canvassed election results.

- Regarding overall voter turnout, there were roughly 2,100 more voters in 2024 than 2020 in Clinton County, but the 2024 turnout represented

a smaller percentage (roughly 1%) of total registered voters than in 2020.

- In 2024, Kamala Harris received roughly 500 more votes than Biden did in 2020, but she still received a smaller percentage of the voter turnout than Biden did (roughly 1%).
- In 2024, Elissa Slotkin performed 0.3% better than Gary

Peters  
did  
in  
2020.

- In 2024, Curtis Hertel received roughly 5% less votes than Slotkin did in 2022 (keep in mind, this was a Presidential election year vs a Midterm election). Analyzing the data between 2024 and 2020 would be difficult, as redistricting had not yet taken place.
- While our non-

incumbent  
Democratic  
County  
Commission  
candidates  
did  
not  
overcome  
their  
challengers,  
we  
maintained  
our  
two  
Democratic  
seats  
with  
Commissioners  
John  
Andrews  
and  
Dwight  
Washington  
getting  
re-  
elected,  
which  
keeps  
our  
county  
board  
Republican  
majority  
at  
5-  
2.  
Dwight's  
Republican  
opponent,  
however,  
has  
requested  
a  
recount,  
which  
will  
take  
place  
in  
early  
December.

For those who'd like to look a bit deeper at the election's results, please visit the **County Clerk's website**. Additional Clinton County data can be found by **clicking here**.



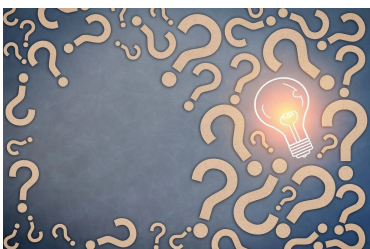
## CCDP Needs Committee Volunteers

*By Ann McCulloch.* If you are like me, you are looking for positive and productive ways to channel your energy post-election. CCDP will be ramping up over the next couple of months to meet the challenges of 2025 and look ahead to 2026. We'd love for you to join us in this work! Whether your interests include growing CCDP's membership, crafting effective messaging, creating community events, ensuring effective fundraising, building on our precinct delegate structure, recruiting candidates, or running for office, chances are that we have a committee engaged in doing just that! Be sure to reach out to have a conversation with CCDP Chair **Kathie Elliott** to see where your talents and CCDP's needs intersect. It will take all of us to build on the hard work of this past election season to position ourselves for future success. We can't wait to hear from you!



## Give to Safe Center This Holiday Season

*By Kathie Elliott.* CCDP is accepting donations on behalf of **SafeCenter**. SafeCenter is CCDP's neighbor in our headquarters space in St. Johns. The vision of SafeCenter is to end domestic violence and sexual assault. They work to accomplish this by advocating for the rights of every person, adult or child, to live in a non-violent environment where individuality and equality are recognized and respected. SafeHouse has **wish list** on Amazon to spark ideas. The office will be open Saturday, November 30, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. if you have items to drop off. Watch for additional office hours to be announced on our Facebook page or bring them to the December meeting!



## Quick Question!

CCDP's Communication and Public Outreach Committee is seeking input on ideas for monthly themes and potential speaker resources. Topics should be of national interest with local

implications. Reach out to **Ann McCulloch** with your suggestions so we can use your input in upcoming strategic planning sessions. Thank you in advance for your good ideas!



## Upcoming Events

**December 5 – CCDP Monthly Meeting:** Join us at the St. Johns County Courthouse for social time at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. Zoom is available.

**December 20 - Virtual Coffee & Conversation with Sen. Sam Singh:** Join Sen. Singh for this virtual event, a great opportunity to connect, share insights, and engage in meaningful discussions. **RSVP here.**

**January 9 – CCDP Monthly Meeting and New Year Celebration:** Save the date! We are excited to meet to kick off the new year at Jimmy's Pub, 16830 Chandler Road, East Lansing. Look for more details and RSVP information to be posted soon!

**January CCDP Coffee and Conversation:** Our next Coffee and Conversation date will be announced in the December newsletter. We look forward to restarting this regular gathering in the new year!



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