

Clinton County Democratic Party Newsletter



October 2024



Democrats *Can* Deliver Clinton County!

By Kathie Elliott. Democrats Deliver! So say our CCDP signs that you see across Clinton County. Those can't be just words, and it's not just those in office that are held to a high standard of citizenship. Everyday people living everyday lives are the true foundation of all that we hold dear.

In this spirit, beyond all the wonderful achievements we've experienced this year - incredible fundraising success and financial support of candidates; membership levels doubling over the last few months, new and engaging programs and activities, and amazing efforts from experienced and new volunteers - there is one more stretch goal I hope you will all share with me, one more dream to cap a year of amazing progress...***delivering Clinton County to Harris/Walz on November 5.***

In 2016, Trump won Clinton County by 5,000 votes. In 2020, that decreased to 3,000 votes. This year, we have the support and momentum to deliver the county to Harris, but we **MUST** all vote, and encourage our friends, family, and neighbors to do the same. Every vote is critical for Democrats because the turnout this year will be high and races will be won by only a few votes. If you can, vote absentee or vote early (the whole ballot!), then use the remaining time before November 5 to join CCDP's get-out-the-vote efforts.

Finally, when you hear people say they aren't voting and will just skip that race, remind them who will be voting - those who govern from fear, division, and self-interest. Only a vote for Harris is a vote against Trump. We can't equivocate.

Let's send the message that Clinton County is a viable and valuable Democratic stronghold in rural Michigan. We will not go back!



Legislature Supports Health Care Unions and Protects Voting Rights

By Tim Hughes. Before recessing for elections, the Michigan Legislature passed significant legislation re-establishing the right of home health care workers to unionize and creating a Michigan Voting Rights Act.

On party-line votes, House Democrats approved SB 790 and 791 that would restore the right of home health care workers to unionize which was taken away in 2012. Democrats in the State Senate, who passed the legislation last June, gave final approval to House changes in the bills and sent them to Governor Gretchen Whitmer's desk.

"Thanks to my partners in the Michigan Legislature, we will finally restore the right of more than 30,000 independent provider home health care workers to collectively bargain for better pay and benefits and start to build out the caregiving infrastructure we need to help Michigan families and care for our neighbors who need day-to-day support," Whitmer said.

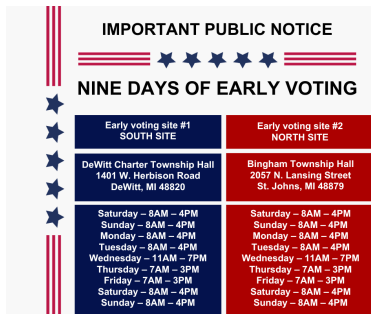
Also, on September 17, National Voter Registration Day, Senate Democrats passed a four-bill package to safeguard rights of qualified voters and reduce barriers to election participation. Drafted in conjunction with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and various voting rights groups, SB 401-404 would prohibit voter suppression and provide penalties for violations, create a nonpartisan voter data base and election research and training institute, require translation of election documents for non-English speaking voters, and enhance assistance for voters with disabilities. The bills were referred to the House Committee on Elections for consideration when the legislature reconvenes on November 6.



Absentee Voting Is Underway - Review CCDP's Ballot Suggestions

After months of deliberation and preparation, it is time to begin casting your vote! Absentee ballots are arriving in households across Clinton County. You can also **request an absentee ballot online**. Be sure to view **CCDP's ballot suggestions**, vote the entire ballot, and brush up on important local

schoolboard races.



Planning to Vote in Person? Don't Forget about Early Voting Options

For those looking to cast their ballot in person, Clinton County is offering nine days of early voting Saturday, October 26 - Sunday, November 3, at two polling sites: DeWitt Charter Township Hall, 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, and

Bingham Township Hall, 2057 N. Lansing Street, St. Johns. Prefer to vote on Election Day, November 5? Find your polling place by **clicking here**.



Down Ballot Races Matter!

By Kathie Elliott. It can be easy to underestimate the importance of local races, to the detriment of our communities, and, believe it or not, the world. When we only vote on the most visible races at the top of the ballot, skipping the rest of the races, our indecision is a decision, and we cede the power to choose who will lead our townships, cities, county, and school boards to the

considerably fewer voters who check those boxes. Top to bottom, front to back, every race, every issue needs your input.

Here's an example of what might **not** have happened if voters had ignored a down-ballot race. In 1974, 24-year old Debbie Stabenow campaigned for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and won that race. Four years later, she was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives. Twelve years later, she became a Michigan State Senator representing the 24th District. Six years later, she was elected to the U.S. Representatives. Finally, in 2001, she began her service as a U.S. Senator. This year, 50 years after that throwaway county race, Sen. Stabenow will retire from elected office, with undisputed, positive impacts felt locally, nationally, and globally because of her service.

Fortunately, that race worked out for Democrats, but we shouldn't sit back and rely on luck when it comes to decisions with the potential to launch a 50-year political career. You never know which elected official may go on to become one of our most powerful national figures, or who may stay in local office leaving their mark closer to home. Let's not leave ANY outcomes this November

to chance - vote the entire ballot to make sure your values are represented at every level!



Coming Soon - GOTV

By Melany Mack. Democrats use a robust on-the-ground strategy to connect with voters and maximize the number of them who will turn out and vote for

Democrats. Early in a campaign, efforts are focused on base building by identifying supporters and persuading undecided voters to support Democratic candidates. Canvassers are often knocking on the doors of people who are independents or lean Republican.

As we move closer to election day, all efforts are targeted to GOTV, shorthand for get out the vote, by contacting known supporters through phone and text banking, door-to-door canvassing, social media, and direct mail. GOTV focuses on asking voters if they have a specific plan (time, place, method) to vote. Will they be voting by mail, early in person, or in person at their polling place on election day?

Postcard efforts like what CCDP has been coordinating are also a powerful way for sharing important voting information and reminders. And relational organizing, sharing your voting plans with your friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers, is another great way to get out the vote as research shows “trusted messengers” are the most effective way to mobilize voters.

CCDP is a grantee of Contest Every Race, an organization dedicated to electing Democrats, and our primary grant activities in the weeks leading up to the November election will be focused on GOTV. Now is the perfect time for YOU to get involved! We need “all hands on deck” to assure a high turnout in November’s election. GOTV’s focus on voters who are supportive of Democratic candidates makes it easy (and often fun!) to have conversations with them. Lauren Marshall, field organizer for the Hertel Campaign in Clinton County would love to hear from you and will help connect you to GOTV actions in our county. **Contact Lauren now** so you can be part of GOTV and help assure a great Democratic turnout in November!

Less Than One Month to Make a Difference!

October 9 – CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass:

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CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. Plan to meet at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Park in DeWitt. Attendees can **RSVP on Mobilize** for this and all future Wednesday canvasses. Attendees also can sign up for email and text reminders/alerts.

October 14 – Coffee and Conversation: We look forward to seeing you at 1:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee, 13181 Schavey Road, DeWitt. Let us know what is on your mind in these last weeks leading up to the election! **RSVP on Mobilize.**

October 16 – CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. Plan to meet at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Park in DeWitt. Attendees can **RSVP on Mobilize** for this and all future Wednesday canvasses.

October 18 – MSU Homecoming Parade: Join Team Hertel, Team Slotkin, the MSU Dems, and the Michigan ONE Campaign as they walk as a group in the MSU Homecoming Parade. All walkers should be there at 5:30 p.m. and the parade starts at 6:00 p.m. **Visit Mobilize** to RSVP and for more information.

October 23 – CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass: CCDP will be canvassing, along with the Curtis Hertel for Congress campaign, for both Curtis and our county commission candidates. Plan to meet at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Park in DeWitt. Attendees can **RSVP on Mobilize** for this and all future Wednesday canvasses.

October 25 – November 5 GOTV Activities: In coordination with the Hertel for Congress campaign, we are starting to prepare for GOTV activities, which will officially begin on Friday, October 25, and will continue until election day. There will be canvasses to engage with voters in Clinton County and ensure that everyone has voting information and a plan to vote. Canvasses will kick off from the home of Rob and Melany Mack in DeWitt. **RSVP and learn more on Mobilize.**

October 30 – Last CCDP/Hertel Wednesday Canvass. 5:30 p.m. from Riverside Park in DeWitt. **RSVP on Mobilize.**

October 31 – An Event So Good, It's Scary: Join us to hand out candy on Clinton Ave, near our office, and enjoy this special St. Johns evening! We will have special office hours as well. More details to come!

November 5—CCDP Election Night Watch Party: This is what we've all been working toward! Join us at UAW Local 925 in St. Johns at 117 W. Walker Street, time TBD. We hope that you will be there on what is sure to be an historic night!

November 7 – CCDP Membership Meeting: The November membership meeting will take place at the DeWitt City Hall, 414 E. Main Street, DeWitt. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. **RSVP on Mobilize.**



Great Turnout at Fall Festival and Adopt-A-Highway!

We want to thank all who came out to our Second Annual Fall Harvest Festival Fundraiser! More than 50 attendees had the opportunity to engage with State Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou, State Sen. Sam Singh, and U.S. House candidate Curtis Hertel. Our group also enjoyed complimentary apple cider, apple cider slushies, delicious baked goods, and apple picking in the orchard. We've created an album with photos from that day. You can **take a look at them here**. Thank you to our gracious host, **Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill**, who made sure we had everything we needed and provided a perfect venue for our event. They recently celebrated 172 years of operation. Please check them out on one of these beautiful fall days!

Also, a big thank you to all those who came out to our final Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of the year! We avoided the rain and the cooler weather was refreshing compared to the heat of our July cleanup. Nine volunteers filled 21 bags of trash from the 1.5 mile portion of Grand River Highway that we adopted last year. We'll be back at it next April!

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, is made possible by your donations. 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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