



CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NEWSLETTER



A Message From The Chairman



Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! We're glad that you're checking this out. We all want to stay abreast of current issues and upcoming events. We're interested in knowing about legislation or policies elected officials are working on and how it might affect us and our families. We want to be well-informed and engaged citizens, but we struggle with the sheer volume of information coming at us everyday.

We know how hard it is to sort reliable news from "alternative facts," to keep up with the latest political developments, and to make sure that our voices are heard. But we have learned, painfully, particularly over the last four years, that a very steep price is paid when we fail speak up or to hold our elected officials accountable. We want to help.

This newsletter will provide updates on issues of concern, legislative happenings, and upcoming events. You'll find links here to our website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed as well as links to other resources that will help you to be more fully informed about pressing issues. We'll let you know about opportunities to help tackle local problems or participate in discussions and webinars as information becomes available.

We worked hard to elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and to re-elect Senator Gary Peters in 2020. This year we will be working even harder to lay the groundwork for electing more Democrats to the Michigan legislature and for helping re-elect Governor Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, and Attorney General Dana Nessel in 2022. It will take all of us working together to be successful. We can do it!

*Yours in solidarity,
Eric Schlenkermann
Chair*



A Citizens Request for Action on the Climate Crisis

It has become impossible to ignore the extreme weather events occurring all over the world that reflect a changing climate. The increasing frequency, variety and severity of these weather events are unpredictable and so pose dangers to local, state and national economies as well as to public health and safety. Climate scientists warn us that we must reduce greenhouse gases as quickly as possible to prevent even more severe and devastating climate disruptions.

This is not a partisan issue. Regardless of what one believes are the causes, it is imperative that people come together to discuss the issue and find ways to turn the tide. But the first step lies with our leaders--our elected officials, heads of companies, city planners, and so on. We need them to publicly accept the existence of the problem and their responsibility to help us all do our part to meet the challenge before us. We all have a vital stake in saving our environment.

Citizens concerned about climate change are invited to read, sign onto and share this [petition](#), which will be submitted the week of March 22, 2021. If you live in another area, please feel free to copy and adapt these materials for use where you live.

March 2021

[Sign the petition](#)

Under the Dome

Legislative Update for Clinton County Democrats



Governor Whitmer Urges Legislature to Pass Michigan COVID Recovery Plan

Governor Gretchen Whitmer's third State of the State address announced a series of bold actions to grow our economy and get things done for the people of Michigan.

Whitmer called on the Michigan Legislature to work with her to pass the Michigan COVID Recovery plan focused on distributing vaccines, getting our kids back on track, supporting small businesses, and jumpstarting our economy. The governor's plan will support small businesses long after the pandemic is over. The governor's MI COVID Recovery Plan includes a call on the Michigan Legislature to permanently extend unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks.

In her speech, the governor also announced Michigan Back to Work, a bold plan to help us grow our economy and get Michiganders back on their feet. Over the next year, the Whitmer Administration will announce initiatives and projects big and small – from tech, mobility and manufacturing growth, to clean energy and road construction. This will protect, grow, and create more good paying jobs.

"This year is about fixing the damn road ahead – finding common ground to grow our economy and get families and businesses back on their feet," said Whitmer.



"The Michigan Back to Work plan that I'm announcing today will help us do just that. We will leverage all of the resources of state government to rebuild our economy back better, harnessing every economic tool at our disposal and working with leaders in state government, business, and beyond to create an environment where entrepreneurs can create more good-paying jobs for all Michiganders.

This is how we can jumpstart our economy and help families and business owners thrive in our state.

"Governor Whitmer also called on the Michigan legislature to work with her to provide local communities more options to fix local roads and bridges, announced the MI Classroom Heroes grants of up to \$500 each for teachers and support staff and called on the legislature to pass Good Jobs for Michigan legislation to retain and grow our businesses and create jobs.

House Democrats: Republicans Leave Millions of Michigan's COVID-19 Recovery Dollars in Washington, D.C.

House Democratic Leader Donna Lesinski has called out House Republicans for leaving millions of Michigan taxpayer dollars in Washington, D.C. instead of bringing all those dollars home and putting them to immediate use for small businesses, workers, families and schools.

A recent vote in the House allocated \$3.5 billion of federal funds but left another \$1.5 billion unspent.

“Today’s vote in the House left millions of Michigan taxpayer dollars sitting in a bank in Washington, D.C.,” Lasinski said. “House Democrats know Michiganders need help now – not next month or next quarter.”

House Democrats were stalled by Republicans in their attempts to amend the bills so that all of Michigan’s federal stimulus money would come back home, including:

- \$90 million for vaccine distribution throughout Michigan so we can get more shots into people’s arms
- \$575 million to expand COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and lab capacity
- \$2.1 billion in food assistance
- \$661 million to help with rental assistance and winter utility bills
- \$2 billion for Michigan’s public schools
- \$270 million for small-business relief
- Language that would extend unemployment assistance from 20 to 26 weeks



Timothy Hughes

March 2021

Hughes has worked around the State Capitol for almost 50 years. Before retirement, he was Communications Director for the Senate Democratic Caucus, Legislative Director for the Michigan AFL-CIO, Governor Jennifer Granholm and Michigan UAW-CAP.

The Citizens’ Corner

Do you shy away from politics, or maybe feel that politics isn’t “your thing,” or feel you’ve fulfilled your “civic duty” after casting your vote every two or four years, or that you know so little about legislative matters and governing that you have little to offer? If some of those thoughts sound familiar, then Clinton County Dems want to make you an offer.

Because you are a citizen who has a voice and a vote, we are inviting you to help us speak to elected officials. Together, our voices can and will make a difference – at all levels of government— but we have to use them. That will be the purpose of Citizens’ Corner.

This section of the newsletter will be about us, as Citizens, and the role we play in the hierarchy of governing. Our goal is to educate and inform Clinton County Democrats on legislation important to us and how we can engage elected officials.

In the end, after reading Citizens’ Corner and understanding how we can impact legislation and policy, we hope you will be motivated to get involved with us in holding our elected officials accountable. Let’s not allow them to ignore us by not being involved. Our voices, together, can and will make a difference!

Please look to future newsletter articles in Citizens’ Corner on how we can be informed and engaged citizens. Stay tuned!

Theresa Kidd