



<https://www.facebook.com/ioscoCountyDems/>

December
2020
#16

PO Box 727, Tawas City, MI 48764.

Welcome to our monthly newsletter

Laurie Miles, Secretary, tells us we now have **389 members** in good standing.

Lavora Barnes, Michigan Democratic Party Chair, spoke to December Brew and Stew



On December 17 Ms. Barnes said we can celebrate our 2020 wins with Joe Biden, Kamala Harris and Senator Gary Peters and many more with pride. 2018 was a starting block with Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Attorney General Nessel and Secretary of State Benson. Now we are ready to stand up to protect them and push back on Republican policies for the next two years. We will focus on the issues important to our voters and help solve Michigan's problems.

Lavora said we need to recruit candidates for the Michigan House and Senate early. We will have new Michigan districts for the 2022 campaign. We also should work on campaigns at the county level and reaching younger voters. National offices are secure.

Ms. Barnes said she enjoyed the discussion with our members and chairs of 106th district parties. She would like to return for another Brew and Stew.

What a guy!

On Dec. 14 I attended a Zoom event by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for people



across the nation who had volunteered to coordinate their campaign work at the "grassroots" level. They took 30 minutes to say thanks and to talk about getting started with a new administration. On a large screen on the side of the set were images of hundreds of the volunteers Zoomed in for the event. What a wonderful positive feeling for all involved, including me.

Points they made among many included:

- ◇ More votes for a presidential winner than ever before
- ◇ A commitment to Health Care for Everyone now that we have been tested by the pandemic—a change from the "Public Option" for the ACA
- ◇ Emphasis on bipartisan initiative. Seven Republican senators have asked Joe if they can work closely with him.
- ◇ 1st 100 day attack on the virus:
 - * 100 days of mask wearing for all
 - * 100 million vaccine shots
 - * All schools open by 100 days

Jim Mortimer—Editor

Carole Bleau Writes to the Press

Chair Carole Bleau addressed the surprising October action by the Iosco County Board of Commissioners calling for impeachment of Governor Whitmer related to public health policy dealing with the pandemic:

This comment is in response to the resolution written by the Iosco County Republican Party Chair and the approval of said resolution by the Iosco County Board of Commissioners recommending the impeachment of Governor Whitmer. Due to Covid-19, these are unprecedented and difficult times for all people no matter political affiliation, with people losing money on their businesses and families unable to pay bills. Although most people recover from Covid-19 perhaps with lasting side effects, thousands of people in Michigan and hundreds of thousands of people in the United States have died from it in the last 8 months. To find the answer to this complicated problem that partisanship cannot solve, we need to find the balance between shutting down and saving lives.

This virus is deadly and people look to elected leaders for advice or guidance in times like these. Do we want to appear to be in the pocket of a particular party? Are our elected officials speaking for our best interests concerning our health and safety? Are they following science or their emotions? I understand that losing money can be devastating because it happened to me in the 2008 housing crisis and like then, we will overcome it. Eventually the economy will come back but the lives lost can never be returned. My specific ask, from my local officials, is to create a bipartisan, proactive Covid-19 resolution, not one that tears a deeper division but one that is thoughtful, inclusive, and compassionate toward the rich and the poor, the republicans, the democrats and the independents so that our county can be united in one voice. Please rescind your impeachment decision and create a diverse Covid-19 Resolution Committee.

Carole Bleau, Grant Township



Trustee Cindy Schwedler Works the Poll



[Her story has been published in the Oscoda Press](#)

I was an election inspector in Oscoda on November 3rd 2020. By law I was required to work with Republicans because I'm a Democrat. As we formed a team and pitched in to work, our political differences became less important than the task at hand. We had an election challenger and we could tell that he followed the rules because the county clerk had sent us all a paper on what an election challenger "can and cannot do". We worked well with each other as people came to our precinct table to be identified and issued a ballot. There were a few mistakes made by the voters, these are called spoiled ballots or over votes, but the percentage of correct ballots was an impressive 98%. People were very careful about filling their ballots out properly.

We learned to handle spoiled ballots properly and to make sure there was paper evidence showing this. Every voter needs to know that they can vote the way they intend to. I truly hope that we were kind and patient enough during this process. I hope that the experience of correcting a ballot won't discourage anyone to vote in the future.

All the counts have to match. By the end of voting at 8:00 PM the Chairperson of the precinct knew there was a slight discrepancy. We were able to reconcile the paper receipts with the electronic poll book. That proved that the tabulating machine was the problem. Retabulation was the corrective measure to take. The clerk and deputy clerk were competent and patient, and when they didn't have an answer, they knew who to call for the correct information. We had to stay together as a team because all of our signatures were required by law on the paperwork at the end of the night (we took an oath to uphold this).

A little after 1:00 AM we finally found that all of the counts matched. Our work was then checked and confirmed by the receiving board and we were released at about 1:30 AM after the paperwork corresponded with every ballot.

Continued on next page

Cindy Schwedler continued

We were kind to each other and laughed a lot. I saw that the election inspectors from other precincts had a similar working experience. We work together well when we need to, especially when there is a big job to accomplish. I like and respect all of the people that I worked with that night and the best part is that I wasn't able to tell if they were a Republican or a Democrat. We didn't talk about that. We talked about our families and our gardens, past work experiences and solving the problem at hand. If you don't believe voting is done fairly, go see for yourself. You could also ask an election inspector, an election challenger or a township clerk.

We encourage more members to plan on working polling places in Iosco County in 2022. Essential training will be available in the months before election day. It is a part of citizenship in our democracy. Editor

Help Fund Oscoda Food Truck

What Can I do? How can I help?

If you are wondering what you can do for our community, I'd like to share an idea that I got from a friend in Oscoda.

There is a great need right now in our community for food. Pastor Erik Hendriks of Oscoda Assembly of God Church spoke at a Rotary meeting about the food truck that he brings to Oscoda every month to the Oscoda High School Bus Garage. He has a crew of volunteers that sort and pack food and load cars. (This giveaway is open to all.)

I had heard that the Rotary was going to ask their members to write a check for \$800 to buy food to fill a truck, I thought that our organization could also do something like that, too.

I spoke to Pastor Hendriks and he said that their costs were covered for food trucks from now until March, but there is a possibility to get a double truck for January. Collecting funds for this project will have to move quickly if we want to help out in January. I will donate the first \$100. **If you are interested, please mail a check to the ICDP treasurer at PO Box 727, Tawas City, MI 48764 with the note "Food Bank Program" on it.**

Hopefully we can write a nice check and present it to the pastor, get ICDP some good publicity and raise the awareness of those in need that there is a food bank program that can help them.

Thanks,

Cindy Schwedler, Events/Service Committee

ICDP is on Social Media

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ioscoCountyDems

(Public page)

Private ICDP Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/513749385704570/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ioscoCountyDems>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ioscocountydems

Note: ICDP website is temporarily out of service

We can help open the US Senate

In October we helped Senator Gary Peters win re-election with donations from our members. We had 81 donors contribute \$3,621. Adding the 200% match, this totaled \$10,863.

Now we have opened links for direct donations to the campaigns of **Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock** for the US Senate in the run-off election in Georgia. This is a very important race which could win two more Democratic seats in the Senate and end Mitch McConnell's power to block legislation backed by Democrats.



Jon Ossoff



Rev. Warnock

Jon Ossoff: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ossoff_ioscodems

Rev. Raphael Warnock: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/iosco>

To donate, click the links above. Any amount is most welcome. Both campaigns will add a 200% match to your donation.

We have invited more Michigan county Democratic parties to join this initiative. We believe it is the best way we can help win the Senate for our party.

Events

December

8 Monthly Meeting at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

17 Brew and Stew 4:00 to 6:00 on Zoom

January

12 Monthly Meeting at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

21 Brew and Stew 4:00 to 6:00 on Zoom

February

9 Monthly Meeting at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

18 Brew and Stew 4:00 to 6:00 on Zoom

New Committees

At our December Monthly Meeting, Carole Bleau led a discussion of our work plans for 2021. With the growth in membership this year, we have the strength to form committees to plan and carry out projects that will improve the visibility and value of our party to the county. Here is the plan. Please give Carole a call to discuss your interests. (810) 875-5282

Bylaws- Update bylaws to include our **new Zoom meeting date as the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30**, add a requisition requirement for funding and add an indigenous peoples statement.

Member Recruitment and Retention- Our **membership renewals are due January 31** and we would like to add a MDP membership form to increase our voting numbers. Keep in mind that according to our bylaws, you must have a current ICDP membership and be a member of the MDP in order to vote, make motions, nominate, be nominated or be elected to an office of this organization. This committee will also Invite election inspectors to join ICDP.

Finance- Support treasurer with campaign finance reports quarterly, attend virtual training in March or May.

Campaign- political organizing, candidate recruiting for local positions (school board, commissioners, township/city), support Georgia runoffs, create democratic principles yard signs.

Digital Organizing- create website, social media

Communications- Write for weekly radio, newspaper, and newsletter to keep democratic issues in the forefront as well as to stay visible for the next two years.

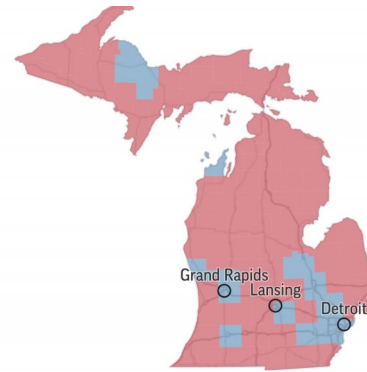
Data Analytics- Update VAN (data entry). We would like to make sure all of our members are listed as democrats in VAN as well as all of the people who took Biden yard signs. This will ensure the people we contact in 2022 will be democrats with up-to-date contact information.

Events/Service- We would like to stay visible in the community by volunteering and supporting vulnerable populations including those who the pandemic has affected financially.

Membership meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 via Zoom and we will host a Zoom **Brew & Stew the third Thursday of each month at 4:00.**

Who is the Winner?

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won outright in eleven of our 83 counties. Donald Trump had more votes in the



other counties but his margin was not enough to carry the state. This means that each county that **increases the percentage of voters** for Democratic state and national level candidates contributes to a victory.

On Page 5 we look at the map through a different lens. The New York Times mapped our counties showing growth in the percentage share of the vote for Dems (blue) and Republicans (red). The length of the arrow marker denotes the amount of increase compared with 2016.

We can see blue arrows in our counties along the Huron shore. However, there are fourteen counties with increases between 5.2% and 9.2%. Increases in our five 106th District counties by comparison were 2% or 3%.

On page 6 is a table comparing the 2020 results with 2016 for our five 106th counties. Total turnout increased for both parties. Roughly 2/3 of the votes are Republican and 1/3 Democrat. We are winners at the state level because our turnout percentage increase is more than the Republicans.

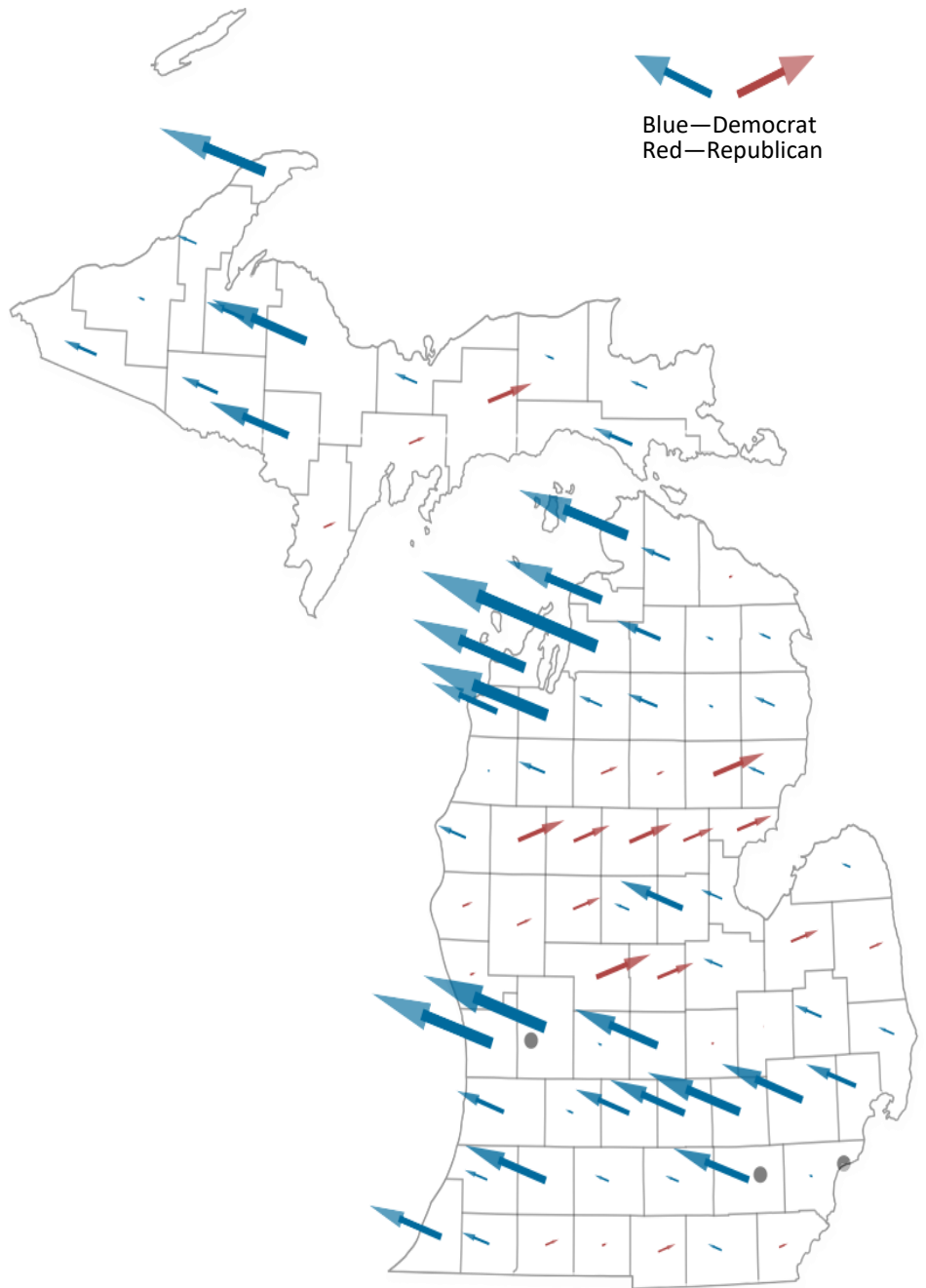
What does this tell us? **We need to learn what the fourteen counties with 5% to 9% increase did to find and stimulate these voters. What actions did they take? How many members shared in the work? How much did it cost?**

Our Campaign Committee will work on this for the next two years. Please let chair, Jim Mortimer, know if you would like to help: j.mortimer@earthlink.net

Top Counties with Gain in Dem Turnout 2016 to 2020

1	Grand Traverse	9.5%
2	Kent	9.2%
3	Ottawa	9.0%
4	Leelanau	8.4%
5	Emmet	8.2%
6	Keweenaw	7.8%
7	Charlevoix	7.2%
8	Livingston	6.9%
9	Marquette	6.9%
10	Clinton	6.1%
11	Kalamazoo	6.0%
12	Antrim	5.9%
13	Oakland	5.9%
14	Washtenaw	5.4%

NY Times Map of Michigan Turnout Gains by County



A county is assigned a blue or red arrow based on the party with the larger percentage gain in votes. The size of the arrow corresponds with the size of the gain.

106th Data 2020 Elections

106th Data 2020 Elections		Nov 2016		Nov 2020		Change from 2016		
County	Party		Voter share %		Voter share %	Votes	% Change	Voter share change
Alcona	Rep	4,201	67	4,848	68	647+	15+	1%+
9,326 Reg.	Dem	1,732	28	2,142	30	419+	24+	2%+
	Total	6,283	57% of Reg	7,102	76% of Reg	1,066+	17+	
Alpena	Rep	9,090	61	10,686	63	1,596+	18+	2%+
23,320 Reg.	Dem	4,877	33	6,000	35	1,123+	23+	2%+
	Total	14,768	63% of Reg	16,969	73% of Reg	2,719+	18+	
Cheboygan	Rep	8,683	64	10,186	64	1,503+	17+	0
21,367 Reg.	Dem	4,302	31	5,437	34	1,135+	26+	3%+
	Total	13,672	64% of Reg	15,868	74% of Reg	2,638	19+	
Iosco	Rep	8,344	61	9,759	63	1,415+	17+	2%+
21,490 Reg.	Dem	4,344	32	5,373	35	1,029+	24+	3%+
	Total	13,595	63% of Reg	15,387	72% of Reg	2,444+	18+	
Presque Isle	Rep	4,486	62	5,342	64	856+	19+	2%+
10,903 Reg.	Dem	2,400	33	2,911	35	511+	21+	2%+
	Total	7,255	67% of Reg	8,406	77% of Reg	1,367+	19+	
Total	Rep	34,804	63	40,821	64	6,017+	17+	1%+
86,406 Reg. (2018)	Dem	17,655	32	21,863	34	4,208+	24+	2%+
	Total	55,573		63,732		8,159+		
% Turnout of Reg.			64%		74%			