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Issue 17

www.ioscocoountydems.org

Monthly Newsletter

Insurrection at the Capitol

Carole Bleau, Chair and Józef Drozdowski, Vice Chair of the Iosco County Democratic Party (ICDP) sent an open letter to leaders of the Iosco County Republican Party on January 14 regarding the Insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 and the continued presidency of Donald J. Trump. The letter requests a response to the immediate removal of the President through resignation, 25th amendment, or impeachment. It also called for expulsion of any Iosco County Republican Party leader or activist involved in the insurrection; the expulsion of State Rep Matt Maddox and of incoming Republican Party co-chair Meshawn Maddox due to their participation in the insurrection, and a ban on guns either open-carry or concealed at the state Capitol, among other actions. We will keep the ICDP membership updated of any response. To see the entire letter, please contact Carole at bleausy@icloud.com.

New Website Launched!

It's here just in time for the Biden-Harris administration! The ICDP website went live on January 12. Check it out here www.ioscocoountydems.org. Special thanks to Duane P. Breijak for his hard work to redesign and launch the website.

Some additional facts about ICDP's online social media presence:

- ◆ Social Media presence: @ioscocoountydems
- ◆ Facebook Likes: 534
- ◆ Instagram Followers: 147
- ◆ Twitter Followers: 31; Following: 238



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Healthcare Access Inequality in Northeast MI

About the Author

This article was written by ICDP member Richard L. Douglass, MPH, PhD of Tawas City, MI

Richard will follow up with additional articles in the monthly newsletter to discuss the five areas

How can you fix it if you don't know how it got broke? This commonsense question was what I was raised with. My family had extremely limited resources in the industrial wasteland of the far south suburbs of Chicago in the 1950's. We couldn't replace things when they were broken or damaged, so we fixed them to serve another day. Car or home repairs, fixing anything from a lawn mower to appliances to work again all came under the “do it yourself” umbrella. In order to do what we needed to do, we had to know what was wrong and why.

When I began my career in public health, epidemiology, gerontology and health policy I drew upon my father's philosophy of living on an extremely limited income. Much of the health care system that we deal with today is beyond what the most hopeful imagination could have conceived a half century ago. There is no doubt that we have available to us the very best medical technology, remarkable pharmaceuticals, and extraordinarily trained medical and nursing professionals. However, that apparently isn't enough.

‘How can you fix it if you don’t know how it got broke?’ Richard Douglass



In the United States today, and particularly in rural America, the benefits of world class medical care are often hard to realize. Rural America, due to migration to urban centers, loss of industries, transition to retirement communities, and the costs associated with health care delivery, is not able to access equitable care for its residents. The healthcare system in Northeastern Michigan suffers from inadequate availability, insufficiently insured communities, modest median incomes and communities that do not attract health care industry investment. We have spotty care delivery from primary care, family medicine, and other medical specialists. Our families experience vulnerability to marginal costs like transportation and hotel accommodations that would allow rural residents to take advantage of medical care in an urban center that might be two or even three hours away from home. The results of insufficient medical care resources and draconian cuts in the public health budgets for the last 40 years, have produced negative health outcomes for northeastern Michigan residents. These outcomes include a high rate of obesity due to unhealthy diets; substance abuse and addiction; and depression associated with isolation. Often there are also delayed diagnoses of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and lack of appropriate care for advanced dementia patients and their families. There is also a significant lack of adequate care and services for those with mental illness.

Healthcare Access Inequality *cont'd from pg. 2*

Why is this happening? Answering "why" is impossible if we don't address and understand how we got into this mess. Consider the following:

1. Medicaid was designed to provide medical care for low-income Americans. The Medicaid Program, however, is administered by each individual state which leads to vast differences in coverage and services. This is a significant difference to how the Medicare program, which provides healthcare for seniors over age 65, is administered. Medicare is a uniform program in each of the 50 states. Why should Medicaid be run differently than Medicare? The program as offered today is far from adequate to insure the poor in our community.
2. How is it that the United States, unlike any other industrialized nation, bases insurance coverage for most citizens based on their employment, as well as the ability or willingness of their employer to purchase insurance from a private health insurance industry? How did that happen? Was it because we wanted to have a superior model within the private sector, or was it more of an accident?
3. Where does the money really come from? Corporate payments for private health insurance for employees are highly deductible as costs of doing business; this makes such investments by the private sector foregone federal tax-based revenues. Medicare is fully funded with tax revenues. Medicare's creation in 1964 set the stage for graduate medical education into specialties; this level of medical education was comparatively rare prior to Medicare. How much of the modern hospital-based system is dependent upon Medicare? What was the American health care system like before Medicare and Medicaid?
4. We are an aging population. With aging comes increases in chronic diseases of all kinds. What is the cost of chronic disease care versus acute medical problems that are most frequently incurred by younger people?
5. It would be fair to say that well over 60% of every dollar spent on health care in the United States comes from the federal government. However, this money is spent within the private sector. How many Americans understand that their health care system, as currently operated, is dramatically dependent on the federal government and federal tax-based resources?

I could offer dozens more important questions to ponder. My point is that we cannot understand how or why health care is not equally available to everyone unless we know how the system evolved. We have major problems to solve regarding most aspects of public health, primary care, tertiary care for chronic diseases and mental illnesses, long-term care, and preventative services that **cannot be addressed unless we know the answers to why and how**. Becoming educated about these basic issues will help us, as communities in need, figure out how to "fix it." This is a challenge to every resident, regardless of party affiliation as Democrats, independents and Republicans, in Northern Michigan as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook

Public page:

[www.facebook.com/
ioscoCountyDems](https://www.facebook.com/ioscoCountyDems)

Private ICDP Facebook
Group:

[https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/513749385704570/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/513749385704570/)

Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/
ioscoCountyDems](https://twitter.com/ioscoCountyDems)

Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/
ioscocountydems](https://www.instagram.com/ioscocountydems)

On the web:

www.ioscocountydems.org

ICDP Committee Roundup

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

January

20: Inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

Coverage starting at 10 am on multiple media channels and streaming online

See information about ICDP group text in the Events & Service Committee update

21: Brew & Stew

4—5:30 pm on Zoom

February

2: Monthly General

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm on Zoom

18: Brew & Stew

4—5:30 pm on Zoom

Communications

Do you have time to speak up? Look in the Oscoda Press and Iosco News Herald for letters to the editor from people that are Iosco Dems. You can also listen to WKJC FM 104.7 after the noon news each Monday to hear them on “Viewpoint”. Letters to the editor can be on your New Year’s To-Do List! Some topics and issues to consider: Poverty, Racism, Sexism, Health Care, Child welfare, COVID-19 and many more...even political!! Are there local/ state/ national issues you’d like to see addressed but don’t feel you’re ready to write about them? Let the Communications Committee know about those topics; perhaps a committee member can tackle that project with you!

Events & Service

The Events/Service Committee met January 5 to discuss helping vulnerable people within the community and increase ICDP visibility by publicizing our efforts. We are compiling agencies to identify potential volunteer opportunities either in person or financially. First up is assisting with a food truck with Pastor Eric Hendricks from Assembly of God Church in Oscoda, as seen in the December newsletter. Our goal is to raise \$800 to give Pastor Hendricks along with an oversized check January 26 to publish in the local newspaper. Anyone willing to donate money to the ICDP, please send donations to ICDP at PO Box 727, Tawas City, MI 48764, with an attached note designating it as a community service donation. Our goal is to continue this effort as we discover community needs.

We will host an Inauguration group text on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. If you are interested in watching the Inauguration in the comfort of your own home with commentary from our ICDP membership, please text Carole at 810-875-5282 with your name and phone number.

Our Brew & Stew will be held the following day, January 21 at 4:00. Our General Membership Meeting will be held the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30, making February 2 our next meeting.

Recruitment & Retention

Membership renewals are due January 31! We already have had a strong response from the initial mailing. We added a Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) membership form to increase our voting numbers. Remember that according to the ICDP 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. Please send your renewals forms today!

Community Action Committee

The Community Action Committee is looking for volunteers to attend local city/ township board meetings and the county board meeting. If you are already attending them, great! Please let us know. If you are interested in starting to attend them, we can help you with contact information and schedule.

We ask that you are willing to attend at least half of the board meetings, report back any actions or concerns from the meetings, and attend the occasional committee meetings.

Please contact Susan Mayer [susanmayer1109@gmail.com, 440-915-6057] or Sue Duncan [susanduncan12951@gmail.com, 988-791-5471]

Executive Board

ICDP Executive Board Members

Carole Bleau – Chair	bleausy@icloud.com
Józef Drozdowski – Vice Chair	jdrozdown@gmail.com
Laurie Miles – Secretary	lauriejmiles@yahoo.com
Tom Davidson – Treasurer	coffcreek@yahoo.com
Kathleen Davidson – Trustee	ekathleen_davidson@yahoo.com
Jim Mortimer – Trustee	j.mortimer@earthlink.net
Cindy Schwedler – Trustee	ccschwedler@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact an Executive Board member with any ideas, questions or information that would help in the work of the party.

County Convention February 2nd 2021

Democratic Electors of Iosco County are hereby notified that in accordance with the direction of the Democratic State Central Committee, the 2021 Spring Convention of the Iosco County Democratic Party will be held virtually on Tuesday, February 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of this Conventions shall be to elect a male Alternate to the State Convention Resolutions Committee, a female Alternate to the State Convention Rules Committee; and to consider resolutions to be forwarded to the State Party . If you need further information, please contact Carol Bleau, the County Chair, by telephone at 810-875-5282.

Spread the word: Food Drive

St. Vincent de Paul in Tawas City has a food pantry with a monthly food give away. At this time there is no paper-work required to participate and all are welcome. It is held from 10 am to 1pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

- ◆ February 17
- ◆ March 17
- ◆ April 21
- ◆ May 19
- ◆ June 16
- ◆ July 21
- ◆ August 18
- ◆ September 15
- ◆ October 20
- ◆ November 17
- ◆ December 15

Face masks and social distancing are required, and hand sanitizer available on site.



Feeding the Community

History Lesson: The 1819 Saginaw Cession

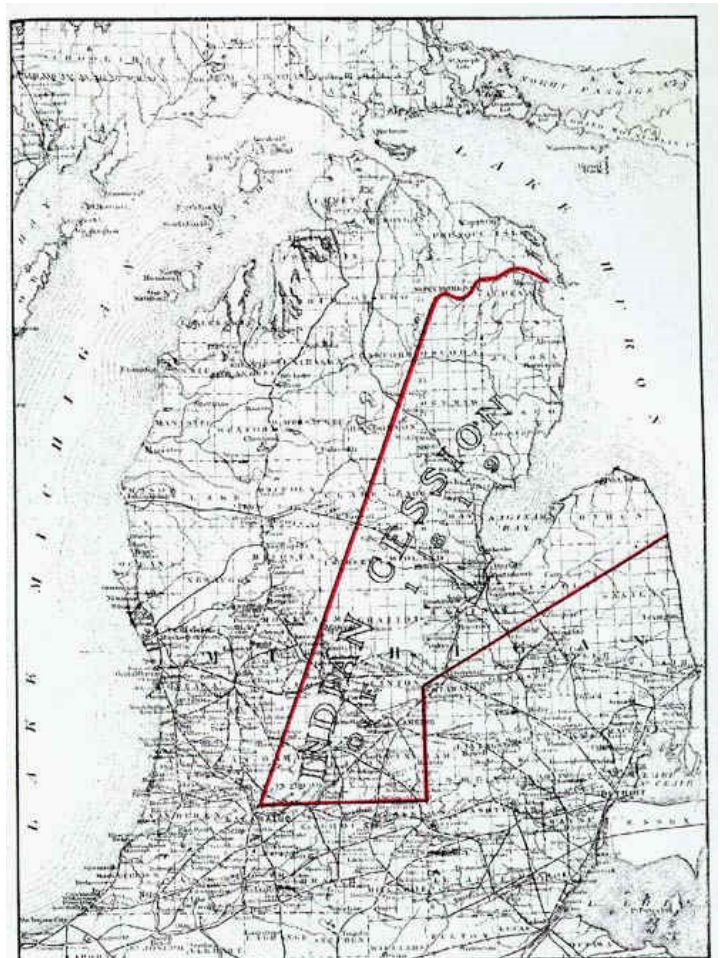
Land hunger found expression in Saginaw Country very soon after the War of 1812, for it became known that it was a center of Indian population, well-watered and with easy access on account of its converging streams---a hunter's and fisherman's paradise. However, an agitation soon arose for a treaty, so in 1818 the government decided what it would lay claim to and formulated a new treaty which was to give to the whites a vast territory covering the most desirable portion of the unceded lands of Michigan.

The Indians present were principally from the Chippewa tribe, but there were also members from the Ottawa tribe, and quite possibly a few members from the Potawatomie. They had come from the headwaters of the Cass, the Flint, the Shiawassee, and "the-River-that-follows-the-Shore" otherwise the Tittabawassee. They had come in their canoes from the Kawkawlin, the Rifle and the Au Gres, from the islands in the bay, from the lowlands of the "Thumb." Here they had gathered to listen to the message of the Great Father. Did they realize that they were about to bargain away their homes, their hunting grounds, their teeming rivers, and their wide domains? It was a tragic hour, but they realized it not. The worst of it all is that not a single important treaty of the government, from the Delaware Treaty of 1778, to the last treaty before 1890 has been faithfully kept by its white signatories.

A careful reading of the Treaty (below), shows much carelessness in its spelling of Indian names. In fact, it is hard to recognize some of them, and it is more than probable that many of the presumed signers never assented to the document, and it is still more likely that not a single Indian who signed, realized what he was bartering away.

Józef Drozdowski

Modified from a 1919 book by Fred Dustin: "The Saginaw Treaty of 1819".



MAP OF LOWER MICHIGAN SHOWING LAND CESSION OF 1819.

"The first mention of SAGINAW in an Indian treaty between the United States and the Indian tribes appears to have been in the "Treaty with the OTTOWAS, etc., 1807" made at Detroit in which "the United States...further stipulates to furnish the said Indians with two blacksmiths, one to reside with the Chippewas at Saguina". By this treaty, the Ottawas, Potawatamies, Wyandots and Chippewas ceded to the United States all that territory in south-east Michigan beginning from a point at "White Rock" on Lake Huron; thence south-westerly to the Meridian Line; thence due south on the Meridian Line to the present State line; thence easterly to the mouth of the Maumee River. This was the first large land cession of Michigan territory, the forerunner of which had been the Treaty of Greenville, in 1795, wherein the Indians had made great concessions in what was then the Northwest Territories."

Why are you a Democrat?

As I was recently unpacking boxes of books as I moved into my new home in South Branch, I came across a book that prompted a chuckle. “Why I’m a Democrat” by Susan Mulcahy (2008) was a book I found enlightening when I first read it. To hear more than 50 Americans articulate their rationale for their political affiliation was inspiring. A diverse group of Americans including Tony Bennet, Min Jin Lee, Isaac Mizrahi, Frank McCourt, and Nora Ephron to name a few answer this question, and their responses are candid and thoughtful, funny and motivating. At the time it made me think how I would answer that question.

Given everything that has transpired in our country in the past 13 years, this question is more relevant than ever. How would you answer it? Send us a paragraph on why you are a Democrat. We will feature responses throughout the year in the newsletter. If you’d like to borrow the book,

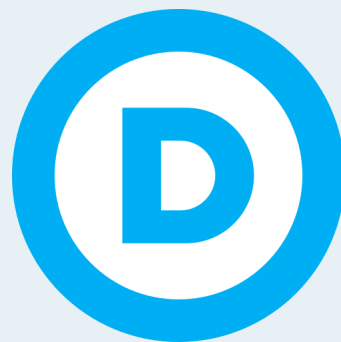


‘10 Reasons I’m a Democrat #6—10: The Supreme Court’ - Nora Ephron, author, playwright, director

I’m a Democrat because...

- ◆ The nuns taught me to care for the poor and others who need help. To me, those most often doing the helping and caring seemed to be Democrats
- ◆ It never occurred to me growing up that I wouldn’t be treated equally because of my gender. That has been a rude awakening. It seems Democrats are more often concerned about equal treatment and opportunity for everyone, regardless of gender, wealth, sexual orientation, and other perceived differences.
- ◆ I was inspired by leaders such as Eleanor Roosevelt, JFK, Maria Shriver, and Barack and Michelle Obama who consistently go above and beyond to help their community. And that community is their town, city, state, country, world, and anyone living with challenges.
- ◆ I believe that if we all had the same access to education, healthcare, housing and food we would be on a more level playing field and would not experience racism, sexism, and poverty.
- ◆ I learned that all of my perceptions were based on my white privilege – it never occurred to me because it never happened to me.

Gloria Brooks, South Branch



Iosco Dems support turning Georgia Senator Members Blue

Using what we learned from our successful support of Senator Gary Peters here in the Fall, we offered to help raise funds for Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock running for the Senate a run-off election in January. It worked again. Nineteen members made contributions ranging from \$10 to \$200 totaling \$1,775. With the 200% match added on, this is \$5,325 for their campaigns. This **Money from Michigan** went directly to the candidates' campaigns, so there is 100% benefit. This looks like a tool we can use to help Dems win key elections anywhere in the US. **Thanks again to all who gave for this race** which has now leveled the balance between Dems and Republicans for the US Senate.



Jon Ossoff



Rev. Raphael Warnock

New Member of our Newsletter Team

Gloria Brooks has joined our party and jumped in to be an active member. She and husband Michael moved to South Branch on Jose Lake in May. However they are not newcomers to the community: Michael's family had a vacation cabin and land dating back to the mid-1950's. Gloria and Michael bought their vacation cabin on Jose Lake 6 years ago. Last year they rebuilt it to be their permanent home. Wasting no time in retirement, she established The Michigan Meatball Company LLC. You may have heard of these new special treats—you can check them out at www.themichiganmeatballcompany.com.

Gloria says she enjoys doing newsletters and we can see she knows what she is doing with the improvements in this one. The newsletter is important to keep members informed, especially while we are unable to hold regular meetings due to COVID-19.

Thank you, Gloria!

Jim Mortimer
Newsletter Editor

Iosco County Democratic Party

PO Box 727

Tawas City, MI 48764

About Us

The Iosco County Democratic Party is a group of passionate Iosco County Democrats who are working together to change our country's leadership throughout the Michigan legislature and in Washington DC. We believe in truth, justice, and the American way.

www.ioscocountydems.org

Interested in attending County Commission board meetings?

We have learned that the Iosco County Commission can play an important role in our plans and expectations.

They act by passing resolutions to spend money, hire staff and manage government functions. Recently we have been alarmed by their approval of a resolution calling for impeachment of Governor Whitmer based on COVID-19 policy. The resolution was drafted by the Iosco County Republican Party. The members of the Commission are all Republicans.

We would like to invite members to attend the regular County Commission meetings. They are scheduled for the

first and third Wednesdays each month starting at 9:30 AM. The Commission is now meeting by Zoom, so it is easy to attend. There are also two parts to the standard agenda for Public Comment.

To attend, go to <https://iosco.net> Look at the column on the right side of the page to find the agenda and Zoom connection instructions.

Contact Jim Mortimer j.mortimer@earthlink.net if you have any questions or comments on the meetings you attend.

ICDP Newsletter

Jim Mortimer, Editor

Gloria Brooks, Associate Editor

Submit articles for next month's edition to either j.mortimer@earthlink.net or gloriadbrooks@att.net by the 15th of the month.



Help us name the newsletter! Send your ideas by February 10, 2021 to:

Jim Mortimer @ j.mortimer@earthlink.net
Gloria Brooks @ gloriadbrooks@att.net