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November
2020

#15

Newsletter for Democrats

Welcome to our monthly newsletter

Karen Drozdowska, Secretary, tells us we now have **376 members** in good standing.

Progress in Turning Iosco County Blue

In collaboration with other county parties in the 106th District we set goals for turnout in 2020 elections. For the March Primary we had fewer votes than we estimated, but a greater percentage of the total than Republican voters with Trump virtually unopposed.

March 2020 Presidential Primary

Goal of 50% for Dems – estimated 3,250 votes

Actual of 56% for Dems with 2,911 votes

In November, we had a total increase in the number of voters, but fell short of our goal of 55% by 20%. We still have a Republican-based electorate. However the increase from 2012 and 2016 helps win state-wide races for Dems.

The next four years are an opportunity to find new voters to join our party through our increased membership. Census data show about 21,000 total Iosco voting age residents. How can we bring 5,000 new and non-voters into the Democratic party?

November 2020 Election

Goal of 55% for Dems – estimated 8,250 votes

Actual of 35% for Dems with 5,371 votes for Biden

Trump received 63% of votes – 9,760

15,131 total voters

November 2016 Election

Actual of 32% for Clinton -- 4,344 votes

Actual of 61% for Trump – 8,344 votes

12,688 total voters

November 2012 Election

Actual of 46% for Obama – 6,242 votes

Actual of 54% for Romney – 6,909 votes

13,151 total voters

Get Out The Vote GOTV



This year we distributed 1,000 yard signs, had 4 billboards put up, distributed 100 4' X 8' signs, sent 3,000+ text messages, sent 2,000+ post cards, and distributed 110 Biden t-shirts. Teams of members put in many hours at the office, on the phone and on their computers as well as with pens to reach our neighbors. The high visibility of our office on Newman Street in East Tawas brought us hundreds of new members.

Do we now have more members than the Iosco County Republican Party? Can we mobilize our members to reach out to all voters to turn Iosco County blue by 2024? Maybe we should consider having a permanent office after the virus is under control to support our visibility? Maybe we should organize more public rallies and demonstrations to attract support for our legislators and positions? Now is the time to learn from our experience and connect with the most successful Democratic organizations to lay out our plans for the next four years.

Jim Mortimer—Editor

ICDP County Convention held on November 4

Members who are also members of the Michigan Democratic Party met in a county convention following our Monthly Meeting to elect officers for the party for the next two years.

New officers elected in the Convention are all from Tawas City:

Secretary, **Laurie Miles**
Treasurer, **Tom Davidson**
Trustee, **Kathleen Davidson**

Current board members re-elected are:

Carole Bleau, Chair, Sand Lake
Jozef Drozdowski, Vice Chair, East Tawas
Cindy Schwedler, Trustee, Oscoda
Jim Mortimer, Trustee, Hale

Three current officers had stated they would not stand for re-election.

Treasurer, **Marguerite Schmidt** has worked hard over the past two years to re-build our treasurer function in compliance with Michigan Democratic Party regulations, and led the way on making donations to cover our expenses and support of candidates. She has personally welcomed each new member with a personal letter as well as being a strong team member for canvassing calls, texts and post cards.

Karen Drozdowska has served as Secretary for six years, keeping records of our membership and notes from meetings. She also has organized the operations of our campaign office with a long list of volunteers. Karen says there were 45 members when she started as Secretary. Her experience working at Tawas Point State Park for eleven years helped with our party's administration and growth.

Judy Shuler has served on the Board of Directors as Vice Chair and as a trustee for four years. She pioneered our presence in Facebook and other social media sites, brought a professional presence in our name cards, posters and other promotional materials, and displays. She draws on her experience staffing the Wurtsmith Air Museum and leadership in teachers union groups in our area. Judy will continue to be an active member of our party leading by positive example as we work to increase our presence in the county and the state.

County Commission Resolution on Pandemic Public Safety Policy

Members were surprised to learn that the Iosco County Commission approved a resolution in October calling for impeachment of Governor Whitmer based on public safety policy dealing with the Coronavirus. Several wrote letters to the editors of the papers in Tawas and Oscoda opposing this action.

Below is the letter from Richard Douglas published in the November 11 *Iosco County News Herald* among several from other readers.

Protecting Versus Pandering

On October 21 the Iosco County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to support a resolution originated by the Iosco County Republican Party to request that the Michigan State Legislature begin impeachment proceedings against Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer claiming that the Governor's executive orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19 exceeded her authority. Before the Supreme Court decision about the legal basis for her executive orders two lower courts dismissed legal challenges. Our Governor acted within her authority, within existing law, when she made her executive orders. The Supreme Court declared the legal bases from 1945 and 1976 unconstitutional after the fact.

I question the timing of this Iosco Board action immediately before the November 3 general election. The resolution was not on the Board's agenda, there was no opportunity for response or input from concerned citizens, and it was raised within the context of the Republican Board and on behalf of the Iosco County Republican Party. It is not clear that this was an action of the Iosco County governance or the Iosco County Republican Party. Such obviously partisan behavior is symptomatic of the cultural divide of our state and our nation, it is on the wrong side of history, toxic to traditions of democracy, and it is an insult to our people. I see this action as pandering to the sitting U.S. President who has dropped the ball in every way regarding the response of our nation to COVID-19.

Confronting epidemic disease has always been one of the most fundamental purposes of government and is exercised through the police powers of the state. If our Governor did not take action herself and direct it instead through the administrative public health system it would have taken longer to get programs and policies in place. Our governor saved time, and saved lives, by acting. What Governor Whitmer did was commendable, not impeachable. She was smart enough and bold enough to put the lives of Michigan citizens first.

Richard L. Douglas, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Tawas City, Michigan

We expect this subject will be discussed in the Public Comment portion of the Commission agenda on 11/17. Several members may attend by Zoom.



Events

It was sort of sad to close up our campaign office in East Tawas this month. The location on Newman St. in East Tawas was ideal for attracting new members and distributing yard signs and other materials to voters.

The coronavirus will keep us from scheduling in-person events for several months it appears. For now we will have our events on Zoom.

NOVEMBER

19 Brew and Stew at 4:00 -6:00. Zoom. Topics: Health System Reform with Prof. Don Stanslosky and final vote numbers compared to our goals

DECEMBER

1 Monthly Meeting at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

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

January

5 Monthly Meeting at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

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

ICDP is on Social Media

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/loscoCountyDems

(Public page)

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

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems

Note: ICDP website is temporarily out of service



Members' donations for Senator Peters

In October we worked with Sen. Peters' campaign to offer a 200% matched donation for his campaign. He was facing major donation support for his Republican challenger. The results were impressive: We had 81 donors sign on and a total of \$3,621 contributed. Adding the 200% match, this totaled \$10,863.

Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment Underway

Now is a good time to look at health coverage for you and your family. It is **Open Enrollment time until December 15** for the Affordable Care Act sometimes called "Obamacare".

The ACA has twenty-five plans offered by four insurance carriers in our county. Here is a list of the insurers:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Company (8 plans)

Blue Care Network of Michigan (6 plans)

McLaren Health Plan Community (4 plans)

Priority Health (7 plans)

Open Enrollment is primarily done on the ACA Marketplace website: **HealthCare.gov**. Enrolling in the best plan for an individual or family can be confusing on the HealthCare.gov website. Certified "**assisters**" who will explain the differences among the plans can help individuals and families find the ones that best fit their needs.

Assisters are available by phone or in-person at several places in or near Iosco County. Here is a list: (All phones are 989 area code.)

Sterling Area Health Centers

Ashley Sweet is at any of their three locations: in Hale, West Branch and Sterling, Call 654-2491 x2026

Mid-Michigan Medical Center in West Branch

Pete Jackson is the one to call at 343-3608

Alcona Area Health Centers

Jordan Smith is at two locations: in Oscoda and Lincoln. Call 739-2550 x 1480

On page 4 is a poster reminding folks the open enrollment is underway.

Need Health Coverage?

Visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to sign up for coverage through the

Health Insurance Marketplace



Don't miss out – make sure you're ready to enroll for 2021 coverage by visiting [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Marketplace Open Enrollment is **November 1, 2020 - December 15, 2020**.

You may qualify for coverage through a Marketplace plan, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). You can apply and enroll in Medicaid or CHIP at any time. For more information, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or contact one of the **Assisters** listed on the reverse side of this announcement.

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