



# The Beacon Newsletter

December 2021 Issue #28

## Gov. Whitmer visits Iosco County to address PFAS

Citizens in the Oscoda area and throughout the State of Michigan have continued to take action to protect themselves from toxic Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances PFAS. In the last few months, Need Our Water (NOW) members have helped create a statewide network called Great Lakes PFAS Action Network. You can visit the website at [GLPAN.org](http://GLPAN.org) and join the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network to stay informed and get the tools and resources

the former Wurtsmith AFB. Members in the group participated in a virtual Lobby Day with US Senators and Congresspersons to educate them on PFAS and the issues surrounding it throughout the US. They continue to participate in meetings with local, state and Federal officials to address clean up and protection efforts. One such effort will be a PFAS Exposure Assessment for Oscoda citizens. A highlight of the last few



*Tawas Point Lighthouse:  
the inspiration for ICDP's logo*



*Governor Gretchen Whitmer listens to an update on PFAS at NOW meeting*

we can all use to hold polluters in our communities responsible and seek cleanup solutions. Need Our Water hosted the local premiere of 'No Defense: The United States Military War on Water'. They also hosted a webinar to educate the community on actions taken to address cleanup efforts at and around

months included a visit from Governor Gretchen Whitmer to meet with Need Our Water members to discuss PFAS issues. That day she issued an Executive Directive which will require the state of Michigan to procure PFAS-free products whenever possible.

*Cathy Wusterbarth*

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## 106th District

The Chairs, leadership members, and newsletter editors of the following counties meet monthly to discuss and coordinate information, as well as shared messaging to our respective counties. Attendees are



## 106<sup>th</sup> District Updates

### Alcona County

- Alcona Dems are in the process of filling the recently vacated chair position. They are considering co-chairs and leaving the vice-chair position vacant at this time, and will present this option at the next membership meeting
- Seven members volunteered for the autumn Adopt-a-Highway cleanup of a 3 mile stretch of US 23 in northern Alcona County on November 9.
- In an effort to make the community aware of the Secure MI Vote petition drive the Alcona Dems placed an ad in the local paper encouraging Decline to Sign, as well as providing information on its Facebook page.

### Alpena County

- The ACDP is continuing its annual December of Giving drive, targeting 3 local charities: The Sunrise Centre, the Friendship Room and the Light of Hope Clubhouse. ACDP is collecting donations on Saturday 12/11 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Duck Park in Alpena.
- The ACDP is drafting an End of the Year Report for its membership, outlining 2021 accomplishments and needs going into 2022. They are also planning on drafting a survey for its membership for them to voice their thoughts about what they would/wouldn't like to see happen in 2022. The survey will be anonymous.
- The ACDP has met with the Political Director for Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Her campaign is ramping up and they stressed that they'd like to see the county Parties mobilize, support her fundraising efforts and get out the message that she has been a positive force for all Michiganders.
- Former MI State Representative Joel Sheltroun and now-State Senate candidate for our Senate District, was the guest speaker at the ACDP's November 18 County Committee meeting to discuss his campaign.

### Cheboygan County

- CCDP shared the outcomes from its Township Engagement project from earlier this year. A new communication project for specific populations will launch in 2022 via a series of postcard mailings starting in January. The postcards will be sent to strong Dems, leaning Dems, independents, Gen Z, and Millennials with messaging on how the infrastructure bill will help Cheboygan County. A second mailing will focus on how current representative Jack Bergman opposed all of these activities and will promote Dr. Bob Lorinser's campaign.

### Presque Ile County

- Rachel Goodstein, County Chair attended the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission public hearing in Gaylord on October 25, 2021 and provided public comment.

*Please note: The ICDP report from Carole Bleau is encompassed throughout this newsletter and therefore not reported in this article*

## Rural Caucus Encourages Community Engagement

Did you know that the Michigan Democratic Party has a Rural Caucus, focused on the needs for Rural Voters across the state? At a recent meeting, the group engaged in robust dialogue about the overall focus for communications: **Keep Building on 2020 Success: More Dems on Ballots, More in Office!** Our goal is to help voters see Dems as people who listen, understand others' values and that they will work on issues that reflect these values. Members of the ICDP can assist in this communication strategy by doing the following. Remember - values lead to votes!

- *Strive to communicate community needs and shared values.* For example, Dems are trying to solve real problems – affordable health care, climate, and housing, a living wage, equal justice for all, etc. Each area may have specific concerns upon which we should focus. (For example, Line 5 is a concern for some of us, but not so much for Benton Harbor voters.)
- *People that vote for Democrats live everywhere: we are your neighbors, people like YOU, not urban intelligentsia or extremists.* In conversation – Listen, listen, listen. Stay interested and focused on **issues** that matter to the speaker (your GOP neighbor, family member or friend) Do NOT lecture, diminish their opinion or argue. LISTEN and respond to the concerns that you mutually value. Don't let yourself begin 'educating' the person on the 'real facts' or telling them what they SHOULD believe. Be compassionate and identify yourself as a Dem, softly.... Don't make your declaration the first thing you say. First, build some rapport around shared concerns and values. Reinforce the notion that 'shared values about community concerns helps everyone'.

Sue Duncan

## The 106th needs YOU to help Democratic Candidates!

Grassroots efforts are an important part of the electoral process especially in rural communities. The Parties in the 106<sup>th</sup> District need volunteers willing to volunteer and help candidates with email lists, collaborative design, messaging, etc. To date, we anticipate campaign launches for the following Democrats: Carole Bleau; Marie Fielder; Dr. Bob Lorinser (campaign already launched); Joel Sheltroun; and Cindy Schwedler. In addition, here's a heads up for next summer when college students return to the community, or young adult grandchildren come to stay at the shore. We need college students, home on summer break for "campaign squads" to help with the newsletters for some of the 106<sup>th</sup> District. If you or someone you know has a few hours to donate per month through virtual meetings, calls, and/or computer work, please contact Bob Kennedy at [kennedy4106@gmail.com](mailto:kennedy4106@gmail.com) or 989-724-6192.

### ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

#### Facebook

Public page:

[www.facebook.com/IoscoCountyDems](http://www.facebook.com/IoscoCountyDems)

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/513749385704570/>

#### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/IoscoCountyDems>

#### Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems](http://www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems)

#### On the web:

[www.ioscocoountydems.org](http://www.ioscocoountydems.org)

Please contact Duane Breijak at [dbreijak@gmail.com](mailto:dbreijak@gmail.com) if you have any questions or additions to our social media presence.



## KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO NEEDS SUPPORT?

ICDP has launched a new condolence card initiative. Please inform Gloria Brooks if you learn of the death of an ICDP member or family member. She will bring personalized condolence cards monthly to the General Membership meeting for the attendees to sign.

## Corsair Trail Project a Success

The Iosco County Democratic Party organized a work bee at the Corsair Trails, held on November 8. A group of 11 volunteers worked on the trails for four hours to help get them ready for the upcoming ski season. The hard-working group removed fallen trees and branches and removed brush that had encroached on the trails.

The Corsair Trails, in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, comprise 26 miles of multi-use trails. They are maintained through a partnership between the National Forest Service and the Corsair Trail Council. A variety of hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities are enjoyed by people from all over the state. Volunteer efforts are key to helping to maintain this valuable recreation resource.

*Laurie Miles, Secretary*



## Women's March focus on ATT Anti-Choice Agenda

Hundreds of Women's Marchers and allies circled the Supreme Court recently to make clear that we won't tolerate any attacks on reproductive freedom. The Women's March national organization is taking action to cut off the flow of corporate funds to anti-abortion politicians starting with AT&T. You may be surprised to learn that AT&T is one of the largest corporate backers of the anti-choice extremists who are trying to ban abortion across the country. From Texas to Ohio, the company is bankrolling the lawmakers who are working to have *Roe v. Wade* overturned. WM is asking people to hand-deliver materials at as many AT&T stores as possible to put pressure on their corporate leadership to divest from the anti-abortion political agenda at AT&T stores all over the country. After you sign up, WM will send you a toolkit with everything you'll need to pull this off and make a splash! For more information click on this link.

*Nancy Kort, Utica – guest columnist*



# DECLINE TO sign THE SECURE MI VOTE PETITION

## WHAT IS THE SECURE MI VOTE PETITION?

The "Secure MI Vote" petition is a deceptive effort to silence the voice of the people. **It is not about election security. It's about making it harder to vote and more difficult for clerks to run elections. It's a continuation of the Big Lie that's anti-voter and anti-democracy.**

Michigan already has secure elections and strong, effective voter ID laws that work. We just had the most secure, accessible, high turnout election in our state's history. This is simply a deceitful ploy to change the rules just because some people didn't like the results of the 2020 election.

## WHAT WOULD THE SECURE MI VOTE PETITION DO?

- Require people to disclose partial social security numbers when registering to vote
- Eliminate the option that registered voters currently have to securely verify their identity and vote normally
- Require registered absentee voters to disclose driver's license, personal ID, or partial social security numbers when applying for their ballots
- Throw out the ballots of registered voters (in person and absentee) who can't satisfy these new restrictive identity requirements, unless they go in person to their clerk's office and present acceptable documentation within six days after the election
- Prohibit election officials from making absentee ballot applications available except upon the voter's request
- Ban charitable contributions, including volunteer time, to help administer elections

## ARE THEY TRYING TO GET THIS ON THE BALLOT?

**No.** Signing the petition will not get anything on the ballot for voters to decide. Instead, Republicans are using a loophole in the system to pass their voter suppression agenda without a vote of the people and without it being subject to Governor Whitmer's veto. If they collect petition signatures from fewer than 4% of Michigan voters, their voter suppression package will go straight to the Legislature and will become law.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THIS ANTI-VOTER INITIATIVE?

**Decline to Sign the Secure MI Vote petition**, and tell everyone you know to Decline to Sign it! Paid petition circulators will say anything to get you to sign their petition. Don't fall for their lies! No matter what they say, their goal is not to get a proposal on the ballot, and it's not to "make it easier to vote." Read any petition you're asked to sign, and don't sign one that takes away voting rights.

You can also help by reporting the location of petition circulators to the Protect MI Vote petitioner sighting hotline. Protect MI Vote is a ballot committee opposing the Secure MI Vote petition. They will send field teams to help educate voters about the reasons not to sign the petition, but they need to know where the petition circulators are active. **Anytime you see a petition circulator, call or text 517-481-2165.**



Paid for with regulated funds by Empower MI Vote, 606 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933.

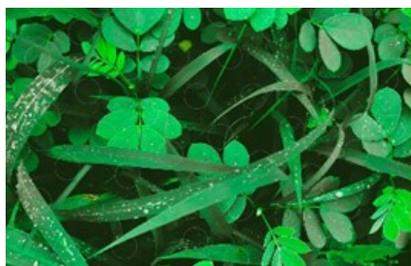
## MIRCC UPDATE

At the Michigan League of Conservation Voters' last meeting, Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director, provided an update regarding the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission, the process they've led thus far and how people can engage in this final 45-day period to comment on the proposed maps was discussed.

The Commission scheduled three in-person meetings during the 45-day comment period that ends December 29<sup>th</sup>. The remaining Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16 at Cadillac Place in Detroit, MI. The Commission is then scheduled to vote on 12/28, 12/29 or 30 (the 30<sup>th</sup> is a state holiday).

Learn more about the group's initiatives at [Michigan League of Conservation Voters](#).

Cathy Wusterbarth



Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point.

~  
C.S. Lewis



This is the latest installment in the ongoing series of *How Can You Fix It...Broke?*, by Richard Douglass, ICDP member. Thanks, Richard, for continuing to share your perspective and experience regarding the historical factors resulting in the lack of access to healthcare in rural communities like Iosco County.

## How Can You Fix It if You Don't Know How It Got Broke? Part 10—*Richard Douglass*

It wasn't that Richard Nixon came into office in 1969 without an agenda that included health care and issues close to his heart. His family experienced tuberculosis deaths and cancer; he was committed to doing something about it before he won the election in November 1968. Nixon's family also faced difficulty with medical bills that were more than they could afford. He had a few other things on his mind, however, with the loudest being our losing effort in Viet Nam and the harbingers of inflation that would soon dwarf any inflationary spiral since WWII. Nixon's principal accomplishment in the public health area was The National Cancer Act of 1971 which broadened the scope and responsibilities of the National Cancer Institute which was originally created within the National Institute of Health in 1937. Medical science regarding cancer and most of what we know today about the immune system has created a brave new world of possibilities for us now, that were faint pipe dreams 50 years ago. We have much for which to be grateful.

But the economic issues that descended upon the United States when we left Viet Nam were not to be ignored any longer. The Medicare architects between 1961 and 1964 decided to model Medicare on the original Blue Cross plans to avoid creating an insurance system from scratch. When the Blue Cross plans were first introduced medical care, and hospitalization were not particularly expensive, and those plans had no clear plans to control spending. Insurance plans modeled after Blue Cross routinely increased premiums to payers when costs increased, and everybody was happy. Premiums were tax deductible for corporations. With no clear cost controls in Medicare, however, we the taxpayers, are the payers. Many critics of the original roadmap for Medicare warned that there would be consequences faced by future generations if cost controls were not included. Of course, the critics were correct.

With the distraction of Viet Nam, including nearly full employment in heavy industry to support the war effort with equipment, military infrastructures and personnel, the steady increase in the Medical Care Cost Index was easy to ignore. We rationalized the situation as filling a need by previously uninsured elderly and poor people. But after we stopped the war effort, we faced a new situation. War production ceased. Now heavy industry, such as drop forge plants around Chicago, tank production in the Detroit suburbs, the end of the military draft left tens of thousands of military age men who were not interested in going to college without an obvious plan. Returning troops found themselves faced with fewer employment possibilities than when they went overseas and many of them suffered from what we now recognize as PTSD as well as a generational high of drug addiction. The economists in every corner of society began to draw our attention to medical care cost inflation that seemed to be modeled after an epidemic growth curve.

In early 1974 Nixon was pushing an expansion of Medicare and his staff were meeting with Senator Ted Kennedy's staff to find a way to accomplish this without it sounding like it was minted by President Truman. But the Watergate scandal ended any efforts that Nixon, and

## Fix It —Cont'd

many quietly supportive Republicans, had to renew and reform Medicare, including mechanisms to address medical care costs.

Enter, stage left, Jimmy Carter. He had several mountains to climb simultaneously and the most apparent to everyone was inflation. Many of us remember our first home mortgage and shake our heads in disbelief. My own first mortgage (1974) was 11.3% for a 30-year period, which after full payment nearly doubled the cost of the house in Ann Arbor's Old West Side. I actually felt like I got a good deal because the same mortgage was offered at 12.5% one week later. In combination with rising unemployment, the loss of lucrative war contracts in the automotive, steel, and other heavy industries, growing Republican anger over Great Society programs initiated by President Johnson, and dismay over Nixon's fall from grace, Jimmy Carter's quiet manner was not up to the task of healing and reassuring that was needed. The Arab Oil Embargo and Carter's national speed limit of 55 MPH were part of his inability to win reelection. The religious revolution in Iran, however, and the sacking of the U.S. Embassy and hostage status of State Department staff made his defeat inevitable.

But during his time in office President Carter did try to do what he could about medical care costs. He was a manager, and his engineering background drew him to the idea of systematic planning. Perhaps he woke up one night and said, "I have an idea! Let's rationally plan the health care system! Let's let hospitals expand only if they can justify the need. Let's decide what medical infrastructure and system growth is necessary based on objective data!" It was a promising idea, but the horse was already out of the barn.

Comprehensive health planning, certificates of need, regional health planning, and legions of highly skilled analysts and a new professional classification of health planners were about as effective at curbing medical care cost inflation as "All the Kings Men" who could not put Humpty Dumpty together again. Without effective cost controls all forms of medical insurance were powerless to effectively curb the forces that drove much of the inflation. Modern technologies, the products of years of research and development, gave us diagnostic tools that were amazing. The costs for building, installing, maintaining, and staffing these tools were also amazing. But "gold standards of care" (thank you Joint Commission, etc.) improved clinical requirements as soon as the standards for diagnosis and treatment improved. Then the costs also could be expected to increase. Some of the health planners went to the "dark side" and hospitals and health care systems created health planning divisions to write proposals for certificates of need that could not fail. The state level civil servants who passed judgement on the proposals were often classmates of the authors. The system's planners knew how to manage a system with data, but few of the costliest expansions were ever denied. New drugs and medical technologies loomed as a futuristic vision of medical care that was more effective against cardiovascular diseases and cancers than ever before. We were grateful. But we had yet as a nation to fully appreciate how

*Continued on page 8*



### Your Feedback is Valued!

Please join the conversation by submitting your response to **"Why Are You a Democrat?"**, **"You Might Be a Democrat If..."**, **"My Voice"**, letter to the Beacon editor, or any other topic you'd like to address for publication in next month's newsletter. Submissions should be 400 words or less. Email Gloria Brooks at [gloriad-brooks@att.net](mailto:gloriad-brooks@att.net) by the 1st of the month.

## Next Month in the Series

- Richard will continue to discuss progress in healthcare, including the Affordable Care Act legislation during President Obama's administration.

## We Love Photos!

If you participate in a ICDP-related activity and have pictures to share, please send them to The Beacon by the 1st of the month for inclusion in the next edition!

## Fix it —Continued

expensive it was getting in America. Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980 and within the next five years he managed to diminish U.S. taxpayers' approval of government and to bring to our attention the increasing costs of health care.

In his inauguration speech in 1983 Ronald Reagan announced his plan to tax health insurance premiums paid by corporations on behalf of their employees. The resulting federal taxes on corporations caused employers to shift the expense to the rank and file. I remember clearly receiving my Wayne State School of Medicine paycheck at Receiving Hospital in Detroit and wondering, "What's this? I don't remember making a 'Contribution to Your Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Plan'." So, I walked down Cass to the university's human resource office to find twenty or more other faculty and staff who were wondering, also, about the "contribution" that they did not remember making. My first installment of shared payment for my health insurance plan was not debilitating. I remember it as \$11.30. One month later it was \$12.48. It always increased from that moment on. Millions of us remember those moments.

Over the next 25 years the cost of medical care, as translated to us by our "contributions" to corporate health insurance plans, became vividly apparent to us. The Crisis in Health Care never really had anything to do with our concerns or complaints about medical services. Those complaints and grievances were on the way, but not yet. The crisis that we recognized then was generated by inflation and we became aware of the persistent cost increases that experts and advocates had been warning about since 1968. If you want to get the attention of the general public hit them in the pocketbook.

Next month I will take us from realization of medical care cost inflation to governmental efforts under the administrations of Reagan and Bush to curb costs. The kicker here is that the health care system had become so sophisticated in finance, organizational design, entrepreneurial strategies, and business models of health care that the meager efforts by the federal government were easily gamed and outsmarted by the players. Between 1984 and 1992 medical costs soared as never before and out-of-pocket expenses for health care became a volatile political issue. During this same time period we became aware that while 80% of the population enjoyed some of the best medical care in the world it was at the expense of the 20% who had nothing but medical indigence.

*Richard Douglass*

# ARP Funds for Iosco County Update

Wondering how Iosco County will be spending the \$4.8 million dollars that was provided by President Biden’s American Rescue Plan? The Iosco County American Rescue Plan Advisory Committee of the County Board of Commissioners met on September 23, 2021. The following expenditures were recommended to the full Board of Commissioners for approval:

## ARP Unrestricted Revenue Funds

1. Purchase of camera upgrades for the Jail and Courthouse with Advanced Satellite Communications in the amount of \$39,650.27.
2. Allow the Road Commission to receive bids for the parking lot project at the Courthouse and Annex.
3. the roofs at the Annex, Courthouse and Jail be replaced, along with the construction of a shed roof over the cement ramp going down to the lower level of the Annex building.
4. Increase the part-time Register of Deeds position to be full-time (35 hours per week) with benefits
5. Purchase of the following equipment for the Jail and the 3 police departments within the county:
  - 700/800 MHz MPSCS Communication System In-Building Enhancement equipment totaling \$34,839.25
  - Anderson Radio Signal Cellular In-Building/Amplifier totaling \$3,662.50
  - 800 MHz Mobile and Portable Radios, APX 6000 for first responder vehicles totaling \$118,491.37
  - Motorola Radios for three police departments, APX 6000 totaling \$62,625.46

- 15 XPR Mobile Radio System Equipment totaling \$33,212.56

## ARP Restricted Revenue Funds

1. Purchase of 28 - 800 MHz 28 mobile radios and 28 - 800 MHz 28 portable radios for all 7 fire departments that serve the county totaling \$176,803.76.
2. Purchase of a new router/access point, video conferencing and eight laptops from NetSource One totaling \$23,038.50. These items to be used by the Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Purchase of Vital Records Management Software system from Fidlar Technologies in the amounts of \$17,500.00 for a one-time installation fee and \$4,500.00 per year for maintenance.
4. Purchase of HVAC/ventilation systems for the County Building, which includes increased filtration and GPS on the mechanical equipment and fan coils totaling \$49,800.00 plus \$2,500.00 per quarter for increased filtration.
5. Purchase of 5 – Lucas CPR Devices, which includes the ProCare Lucas Prevent Services (5 year maintenance plan) totaling \$102,700.35.
6. Purchase and replace all trash receptacles in the hallways and restrooms at the County Building, Annex Building, Sheriff Department and Public Safety Building.



## SEN. PETERS SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) helped



enact the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act — a major investment in Michigan infrastructure, including in our roads and bridges, high-speed internet, electric vehicles and the Great Lakes. This legislation will strengthen our economic security and make our infrastructure more sustainable, resilient, and equitable. Senator Peters attended the bill signing at the White House and was proud to have played a role in helping pass the bill. His office has compiled fact-sheets and more information regarding the package on the Senator’s website. Those can be accessed [https://www.peters.senate.gov/bipartisan\\_infrastructure\\_bill](https://www.peters.senate.gov/bipartisan_infrastructure_bill)

## Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

### DECEMBER

- Saturday 12/11/21 6—9 pm, Annual Holiday Party, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- NO BREW & STEW DUE TO CHRISTMAS

### JANUARY 2022

- Tuesday, 1/11/22 4—5:30 pm: Campaign Committee Meeting open to all members, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Tuesday, 1/4/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 1/27/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday, 2/1/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 2/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

### MARCH

- Tuesday, 3/1/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 3/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

# ICDP Committee Roundup

## Communications Committee—*Cindy Schwedler & Sue Duncan*

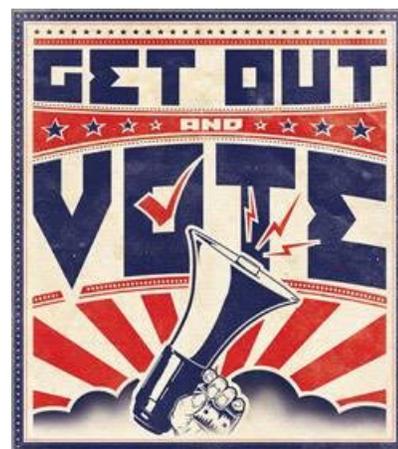
Be sure to tune in to WKJC 104.7FM on your radio, smart speaker or whatever device you use to listen to hear the weekly Viewpoint opinion segment each Monday just after the noon news...about 12:15 PM. Many Democrats have been taping their opinion on a variety of topics to increase the visibility of the ICDP and the issues that are near and dear to us. You will be glad you did!

## Campaign Committee—*Jim Mortimer*

The Michigan Democratic Party is organizing a series of phone bank sessions from now through December 23 that are aimed at recruit Dems up and down the ballot. More information on this initiative is at [https://www.mobilize.us/midems/event/417658/?followup\\_modal\\_context=newsletter](https://www.mobilize.us/midems/event/417658/?followup_modal_context=newsletter).

MDP and the Mobilize operation are doing all of the technical work for this activity. All we need to do to help is pick a time when you can spare an hour or two on their schedule and partake of the training offered on the website link above. I will join a couple of the two-hour sessions. I hope you can find some times that fit your schedule during December. Please let me know if you can participate and provide feedback on the results from your work.

Next year, we will begin the more familiar ways we get out the vote (GOTV). We are working on some post-carding activities which worked well for us in 2018-19; texting activities which reached many potential voters at no cost to us; plus knocking on doors and doing literature drops in the warmer weather months. We will continue support for our candidates who are holding Democratic places on the ballot. We will have a committee meeting at the office in January to work on these details. Please see the meeting information in the *Important Dates* column to the left of this article.



# ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

## Volunteer Opportunities in Iosco County

As Democrats we are interested in solid operation of all levels of our government. One way to support this is to volunteer as a member of Commission Boards and their working teams. Iosco County is now looking for help in the following entities:

### **Planning Commission**

The Iosco County Planning Commission is responsible for the maintenance of the Iosco County Master Plan. It also coordinates the zoning and planning activities of Iosco County's townships and cities, and represents Iosco County regionally relative to zoning and planning concerns. The Planning Commission serves as an advisory board to the Iosco County Board of Commissioners relative to planning and internet concerns. To learn more, view the current master plan is at <https://iosco.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Master-Plan-2013-Draft.pdf>

### **Housing Commission**

The Commission's mission is providing affordable housing to low-income families and individuals in the county. Financial assistance for housing or improvements may be available through the commission. There are two open seats now on this five-member board. Call 989-984-1000 or 989-362-4212 for more information on the Commission.

### **Iosco County Commission on Aging**

The mission of ICCOA is to promote the well-being of seniors living in Iosco County. It provides services, including meals and activities at several centers throughout the county, home-delivered meals, and in-home services, such as homemaking, personal care, and respite services. <http://ioscocoa.org/> Our Vice Chair, Józef Drozdowski, also is Chairperson of the Commission. For more information call him at (989) 305-5914.

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary, at [kmurphy@ioscocounty.org](mailto:kmurphy@ioscocounty.org) Phone 989-362-4212

### **Townships have committees too**

A Planning Commission, Historical Commission, and Parks and Recreation Committee are common. Contact your township Clerk for more information on local committees. There are twelve townships in Iosco County.

*Jim Mortimer, Campaign Chair*



## ICDP Leadership

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

### **ICDP Executive Board Members & Committee Chairs**

Carole Bleau – **Chair; Chair, Bylaws; Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**  
[bleausy@gmail.com](mailto:bleausy@gmail.com)

Józef Drozdowski – **Vice Chair**

[drozadow@gmail.com](mailto:drozadow@gmail.com)

Laurie Miles – **Secretary; Chair, Member Recruitment & Retention Committee**

[lauriejmiles@yahoo.com](mailto:lauriejmiles@yahoo.com)

Tom Davidson – **Treasurer**

[coffcreek@yahoo.com](mailto:coffcreek@yahoo.com)

Kathleen Davidson – **Trustee**

[ekathleen\\_davidson@yahoo.com](mailto:ekathleen_davidson@yahoo.com)

Jim Mortimer – **Trustee; Chair, Campaign and Environmental Committees**

[j.mortimer@earthlink.net](mailto:j.mortimer@earthlink.net)

Cindy Schwedler – **Trustee; Co-Chair, Communications Committee**

[ccschwedler@gmail.com](mailto:ccschwedler@gmail.com)

Sue Duncan – **Co-Chair, Communications; Community Action Committees**

[susanduncan12951@gmail.com](mailto:susanduncan12951@gmail.com)

Susan Mayer – **Co-Chair, Community Action Committee**

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## DR. BOB LORINSER



Dr. Bob Lorinser is the Democratic candidate challenging Jack Bergman to represent candidate for US Congress in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, including Iosco County. Here's Dr. Bob's recent communications regarding the Build Back Better legislation.

Support Dr. Bob's campaign by visiting <https://www.votedrbob.com>, and consider a donation by clicking on this link: [Bob Lorinser — Donate via ActBlue](#)



## Dr. Bob's Take on Build Back Better

One of the primary purposes of a Representative in Congress is to make the lives of those they serve better. Simple. I'm interested in the Congressional Budget Office's cost analysis of the Build it Back Better Framework and I support this critical investment because it will benefit Northern Michigan and the UP. I support its funding not by raising taxes on those making less than \$400,000 and not adding to the deficit, but by increasing revenue by other means. If Congress is unable to find the revenue to support all of these programs, we must prioritize.

Without many programs in the Build Back Better Framework, we won't be able to thrive. My opponent is not a supporter. While the plan is still in negotiations, it strives to:

- Extend the tax credit for childless low-wage workers until we obtain a livable wage for full-time adult employees.
- Implement affordable housing initiatives, including housing, rental, and homeowner assistance programs until the market resolves this crisis with local, state, and federal solutions.
- Expand access to affordable, high-quality education beyond high school, including community college, trade schools, and apprenticeships, followed by job placement and career services for the next generation of a skilled, dedicated, and well-paid workforce.
- Provide small business assistance and development programs to support the creation of additional jobs for hard-working families of Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.
- Provide paid family and medical leave, so citizens can care for loved ones and not be threatened with job loss or financial ruin when our families need us the most. This provision has been most lauded on both sides of the aisle.

I support these programs. Jack Bergman does not. There are also overdue investments in universal childcare, a tax credit for families, and essential Great Lakes environmental protections. Northern Michigan's and the Upper Peninsula's share of these initiatives is substantial. It would fundamentally improve our livelihoods and our future. Jack disagrees. Good-paying jobs, helping local businesses grow, childcare and education – Really, how can anyone argue with that?

*Dr. Bob Lorinser*

To learn more about Dr. Bob's extended thoughts on the Build Back Better framework and Jack Bergman's nay vote, click on this link <https://www.votedrbob.com/post/dr-bob-supports-build-it-back-better-without-raising-taxes-on-working-families-or-adding-to-deficit?emci=390e8a95-b746-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=6e0eed93-d546-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=14722563>

## Office Volunteers Needed!

The ICDP needs volunteers to staff the office during its open hours. You may wonder what you will do when you sign up for a shift. Here's some tasks that we need completed:

- Greet visitors when they stop by the office, asking them to sign in and to sign petitions on the front table, and encouraging exploration of the memorabilia displays
- Invite visitors to become members
- Simple opening or closing procedures including unlock/lock the front and side doors; changing the “Closed” sign to “Open” on the front and side doors/vice versa, and put the sandwich board sign outside on the sidewalk except in inclement weather
- Basic organizational and cleaning tasks including alphabetize nametags, disinfect surfaces and sweep the floor
- Answer phones as needed, and periodically make calls to members when their membership is ready for renewal. We have made important contacts through these calls – they are friendly folks to talk with!
- If a visitor is interested in making a donation, complete the donation process form—directions are located in the Volunteer Kiosk.



There is a Staff Station (aka the podium) where the volunteer sign-in sheet, call logs, and other information is kept. There are also new procedures for accepting donations, expense reimbursement forms, and membership. Please sign into the spiral notebook and read the updates from other volunteers when you start your shift. Shifts are open for most days in January. Stop by or call the office at 989-984-5114 to sign up for a shift. We hope to see you soon!

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## Future Candidate participates in Oscoda Lights Parade

ICDP member Cindy Schwedler is early in her candidacy for a seat on the Iosco County Board of Commissioners. On Saturday, December 4th, Cindy along with her husband and ICDP members Susan Mayer, Richard Douglass, and Cathy Hough walked the parade route. Cindy says, “It was pretty exciting! There was a lot of good energy (amongst the crowd of) more than 1,000 people. Cindy and her crew distributed 300 cards and ran out about 1/3 of the way through the parade route!

### ICDP OFFICE HOURS

Please stop by the ICDP office at 224 Newman Street from Tuesdays—Fridays, 10 am—4 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am—6 pm. Please sign up for shifts (10—1 and 1—4 weekdays or 10—2 and 2—6 on Saturdays). (see article to the left).

*Carole Bleau, Chair*



*Cindy's car ready for the parade*



224 Newman Street  
East Tawas, MI 48730  
989-984-5114

Tuesdays—Fridays 10a-4p  
Saturdays 10a-6p

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](http://www.ioscocountydems.org)

#### ICDP Newsletter

Gloria Brooks, Editor  
Jim Mortimer, Associate Editor

**Special thanks to our proofreaders:**

Carole Bleau & Michael Brooks

#### Articles due:

1st Tuesday of each month to:  
[gloriadbrooks@att.net](mailto:gloriadbrooks@att.net)

#### Publication Date:

1st Friday after the 1st Tuesday of each month

## Holiday Party Saturday December 11, 6—9 pm

Join us tomorrow evening for holiday music, refreshments, white elephant gift exchange game, a special visit from Santa, and a silent auction.

**DECEMBER 11, 2021 SATURDAY 6 PM - 9 PM**  
AT ICDP HEADQUARTERS 224 NEWMAN ST. EAST TAWAS

**Drinks**  
\* Eat \* Drink and Be Merry

**Hor d'oeuvres**

**Desserts**

**White Elephant Gift Exchange/Steal**  
Please bring a wrapped gift with no tag. Santa will distribute the presents.

**Silent Auction Holiday Wear/Ugly Sweaters Music**

**ICDP** IOSCO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
224 NEWMAN ST, EAST TAWAS, MI 48730

## Medicare Advantage—or Disadvantage?

As they reach their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, many adults are learning more about Medicare during the sign up process (enrollment starts not more than 3 months before the milestone birthday). One form of health coverage that has been gaining traction across the country are Medicare Advantage plans. Significant advertising dollars are spent to promote these plans in radio, TV, and online ads. But there's more to know about what Medicare Advantage plans offer, how they are changing the way healthcare is delivered in the US, and what they cover. Bob Kennedy from the Alcona County Dems recently brought up the topic at a 106<sup>th</sup> District Leadership Meeting, and referenced an article by Thomas Hartmann (click here to read the article in its entirety <https://hartmannreport.com/p/time-to-end-the-medicare-advantage>). Succinctly put, Medicare Advantage plans are NOT Medicare. They are plans offered by private insurance companies that seek to limit choice of providers and access to services. Because the plans offer less services they cost less. Subscribers think they are saving money – until they find out what is covered and who they can get services from – usually during a crisis. Nationally, about a third of all Medicare eligible beneficiaries are on Advantage plans; in some states like Colorado that number is closer to 50%. Next month I will share my thoughts on how Medicare Advantage and “Value Based Insurance Design” is upending the home health and hospice provider community. In the meantime – buyer beware!

Gloria Brooks, Editor