



# The Beacon Newsletter

May 2021  
Issue #21

## Voter Suppression Bills: Call to Action

As we are all painfully aware, Republicans who peddled the “Big Lie” disputing the 2020 election results are now taking their desperate effort to the next level: pushing voter suppression legislation in battleground states. Searching for information and analysis about the 39 voter suppression bills recently introduced by Michigan’s Senate Republicans, including Sen. Jim Stamas from our District. We need to take action—this protecting voting rights is an essential function of the Iosco County Democratic Party’s mission.



We encourage you to reach out to contact Senator Jim Stamas and Rep. Sue Allor and voice your concerns. Following is a script that you can use to demand that they vote “No”.

*Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in your district in zip code \_\_\_\_\_. I strongly oppose more restrictions to vote. I support*

*what voters in Iosco County approved in 2018 with proposals 2 & 3. I ask you to vote “No” on the proposed voter suppression legislation.*

Sen. Jim Stamas  
517-373-7946

Rep. Sue Allor  
517-373-0833

## MDP Voter Suppression Legislation Analysis

The Michigan Democratic Party has produced a concise handout on the bills and the problems associated with each. The document also identifies the sponsoring legislators. Go to <https://michigandems.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VoterSupBills3.pdf>

Gloria Brooks, Editor



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## ICDP Adopts a Highway in Clean Up Project

### You Might be a Democrat If....

- You fly an American flag
- You consider voting your patriotic duty



On Saturday, May 1st 2021, in honor of Earth Day, thirteen hardy ICDP volunteers cleaned up 16 bags of trash on US-23 through Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program.



### 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", 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.



## Enbridge has it Wrong!

Enbridge has repeatedly used the scare tactic that gasoline in Michigan will skyrocket in price if Line 5 is shutdown. Due to a damaged pipeline support at the Straits of Mackinac, Line 5 was completely shut down by court order on June 19, 2020. On July 7, 2020, the court allowed Enbridge to restart the west segment of Line 5. On September 10, after 83 days<sup>[1]</sup>, the east segment, which transports roughly 50% of the crude and NGLs in Line 5, was also restarted. Prior to the shutdown on June 15, Enbridge came up with dire predictions on the impact of a shut down – even a partial shutdown – regarding the price and supply of gasoline.

*Without Line 5* <sup>[2]</sup>, "the demand for crude oil in Michigan far exceeds its ability to be supplied," Al Monaco, the president and CEO of Enbridge, Inc., told the Free Press editorial board. "There would be a significant impact on supply," and "prices are going way up," along with the volume of trucks and train cars carrying oil" Monaco said.

In the summer of 2020, we had an ideal opportunity to evaluate the impact of a complete shutdown, and a 50% shutdown, of Line 5 on the price of gasoline in Michigan.

What happened? Nothing! Nothing like what Enbridge predicted. Before the shutdown, during the shutdown, and after the shutdown, the price of gasoline closely tracked the national average. On the rare days when the Michigan gasoline price exceeded the national average, it was merely by 2-3 pennies <sup>[3]</sup>.

What about Canada? The price of gasoline in Toronto was NOT affected by the shutdown of Line 5. We are once again hearing dire predictions. Enbridge keeps getting it wrong!

*Gary L. Street, M.S. (Chemical Engineering), P.E., Cheboygan County*

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/state-gives-enbridge-approval-to-restart-east-leg-of-line-5>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/06/27/shut-down-enbridge-line-5-six-things-know/1545053001/>

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.gasbuddy.com/charts>, Nine Month Average Retail Price Chart for the entire U.S. and Michigan.

## Recent Gallup poll shows GOP support fading

A recent Gallup poll showed that Americans are fleeing the GOP in significant numbers following the last administration. Following the January 6, 2021 insurrection, the number of self-identified Republicans rapidly declined the first quarter of 2021. In the recent poll, 40% of Americans identify as Republicans or Republican leaning as compared to 49% who say they are Democrats or independents who lean toward the Democratic Party. That nine-point spread is the largest difference in a decade. Let's continue to engage Americans regardless of party affiliation to support Democratic initiatives and leadership! To read the entire article, go to <https://www.newsandguts.com/gop-support-fades-as-party-grapples-with-trumpism/>.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

### 106th District Activities

The following letter to the editor was published in the Petoskey News Review on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Part of Cheboygan County is included in the 106<sup>th</sup> representative district of Sen. Jim Stamas (Alcona, Alpena, Iosco and Presque Isle counties round out the district).

## Want to Join Clean up Projects?

The Events & Service Committee of the losco County Democratic Party encourages you to join us at the following clean up dates:



### Adopt a Forest:

Sunday, June 27, 10 am—12 noon

Saturday, August 21, 10 am—12 noon



### Adopt a Highway:

Saturday, July 17, 10 am—12 noon

Saturday, October 2, 2—4 pm

## ICDP Celebrates Earth Day by Adopting A Forest



*Members of ICDP at the start of Adopt A Forest project on Saturday, April 24, 2021.*

*Left to Right standing: Michael Brooks; Gloria Brooks; Mike Mayer, Susan Mayer, Sue Duncan; Beth Borowski; Anna Howe; Judy Goodman; Rome Miller, Linda Simmons, and Trish Schmidt*

*Left to right kneeling: Józef Drozdowski; Mary Wright; Gary Dogonski;*

*Larry VonWagoner; Jim Mortimer; Jerry Schmidt*

*Not shown taking our picture: Carole Bleau*

In honor of Earth Day, the losco County Democratic Party Service/ Events Committee organized an Adopt-A-Forest clean-up in four sites in local national and state forests. Nineteen volunteers collectively put in 62 hours of work, cleaning forests in losco County, filling a 20 yard dumpster, provided by Adopt-A-Forest.

ICDP Chair and clean-up organizer, Carole Bleau said, "It feels good to be outside working toward bettering our environment with community members."

There is a scheduled clean-up each month throughout the summer and everyone is welcome to volunteer by con-

tacting the ICDP at 989-402-2512 (see sidebar story to the left of this article).

If you would like to organize your own forest clean-up, go to the Adopt-A-Forest website, [cleanforests.org](http://cleanforests.org). It allows users to either report illegal dumping or to find an illegal dump site to clean. Townships have their own dumping rules so call your township to learn legal dumping procedures.

*Carole Bleau, Chair*

*See additional pictures of Adopt a Forest Day on the back page of The Beacon.*

## My Voice: I'm going to ask. Are You?

I'm going to ask. I'm going to choose to go to the businesses and places where people have been fully vaccinated. For me, the thought of asking started out when I went to the hospital for a medical procedure. After the technician was finished, I realized that I might have had a choice of personnel to do my procedure. So I asked her if I had the right to ask if she had been fully vaccinated. She said that she didn't know. She also didn't say.

People that choose to decline the vaccine for personal, not medical, reasons have the potential to hurt others. So that's why I'm going to ask - for my safety and yours. You should, too. I especially want to ask the nursing home staff, clinic staff and other the hospital staff, the medical staff. We should also ask our beautician, barber, real estate agent and grocery store workers, our children's teachers and coaches. Ask at any business or place where you or your family might spend more than a minute or two inside a building. When we do this, we all work together for the common good and we encourage people to care about the health of other people. It's the right thing to do.



I'll be asking you and I'll ask kindly. But, make no mistake, I'll choose to interact with fully vaccinated people. If you choose not to get a vaccine, I'll decline to do business with you or spend time with you. If I don't have a choice, I'll wear a kn-95 mask to protect myself and others. I see a future where we won't need masks because people have decided to care for one another and for the greater good. My health depends on your health and vice versa. On a personal level, if I need or want to spend time with you indoors for an extended amount of time, that makes your health my business, too. There are always consequences to your choices. I hope the choice you make will be for the good health of your friends and loved ones and neighbors.

*Cindy Schwedler*

## Save the Date For ICDP's Fall Fundraiser

ICDP is planning to host the postponed fundraiser on the River Queen boat on the Au Sable River in Oscoda on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There is still a lot of work to do to ensure Covid safety guidelines are met. Check back to the Beacon for information about tickets; food and speakers.

If you have an idea for a ICDP fundraising activity, please contact Carole Bleau, ICDP chair, at [bleausy@gmail.com](mailto:bleausy@gmail.com) or 989-402-2512.

### 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/>

#### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ioscoCountyDems>

#### Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems](https://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.



## Guest Speaker

Erica Peresman is the Voter Protection Director for the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP). Erica is a lawyer and voting rights activist. She was on the leadership team of Promote the Vote, which got Ballot Proposal 3 passed overwhelmingly by Michigan voters in 2018.

Erica has been active in community organizations since junior high. She currently serves on the board of the Detroit Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC, and mentors at-risk girls at Eastpointe High School through Women of Tomorrow. Erica graduated from the University of Chicago and earned her law degree at Stanford.

Erica shared information about recent voter protection initiatives as a result of the 2020 election.

## Learnings from April's Brew & Stew

The Brew & Stew started with Carole Bleau, ICDP chair, sharing her experiences as a neutral observer during the 2020 election. She informed the meeting attendees that were protesters at Plainfield Township's polling site. Carole was told by a local official that she didn't have the right credentials to be an observer. Erica stated that there is no specific form of credentialing to be an observer; the notice has to be signed by the party chair and list the precinct names (of course since Carole is the ICDP chair, her notice was signed). Erica stated that people often don't know the rules. The MDP has a database that lists all issues that were reported before and after the 2020 election and is summarizing trends. Erica informed the group that there is a manual on appointment rights of challengers and observers available on the SOS website.

Erica reiterated that the 39 voter suppression bills from the Senate Republicans are very disturbing. These bills are a continuation of Republicans' "The Big Lie"; Erica refers to it as the legislative edition. The Republicans were successful in creating doubt and uncertainty re: election fraud. MDP is reminding all of us that none of the filed lawsuits and 250 audits identified any voter irregularities. MDP's messaging on this issue is that there is no problem to be solved, so there's no need for legislation. As a reminder, in 2018 Michiganders passed Proposal 2 & 3 on a 2 to 1 margin. Democrats want people to have more access to voting, not less.

Erica discussed the major themes in the proposed voter suppression bills:

- *Make absentee voting more difficult* because they saw that the Dems utilized this. 5.5 million votes cast in November; 3.1 million were absentee. Three proposed bills make it harder to absentee – prohibits drop boxes open after 5 pm the day before election day. The bills also seek to prohibit SOS sending absentee ballots or having one posted on the SOS website.
- *New ID rules*: would require strict photo ID. Most egregious – if you are voting from home you have to send in a copy of the photo ID with the absentee ballot. No good reason for this because the signature is the security check from the clerks.
- *Election observers' activities*: would allow challengers (limited number) and poll watchers (unlimited) to video and photograph in ballot counting rooms. This is considered an intimidation tactic.
- *Changes to board of canvassers*: Due to aftermath of Wayne County's certification of the 2020 election in which they almost didn't certify the election due to partisan reasons. Proposed bills would increase the number of canvassers in the largest counties (which tend to be Democrat) and require a super majority to pass anything or certify an election.

Erica noted that businesses are speaking out nationally and in Michigan that support people's right to vote and reminding citizens that legislatures shouldn't be interfering with voting rights.

*Continued on next page*



## April Brew & Stew Continued

While the bills will most likely be vetoed by the Governor, the state's constitution says the power to pass laws is with the people of Michigan. If a certain number of signatures 340,000 are obtained, a law can go to the legislature and they have 40 days to pass or not pass legislation. If they pass it, it's not subject to the Governor's veto.

Erica encouraged ICDP to make a lot of noise about this and let people know that this proposed package of legislation is aimed at taking away their voice from the 2018 vote.

A summary of the proposed legislation is posted on the MDP website – follow this link for additional information: <https://michigandems.com/toolkit/content-toolkit-anti-voter-suppression/>.

**Thanks, Erica, for your insights and helping ICDP to take action against these voter suppression activities!**

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*



## Shut Down Line 5 Rally: Lansing & Mackinaw City Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 10:00am - 1:00pm

Join members of the Iosco County Democratic Party as they unite with *Clean Water Action* and the *Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition* in Lansing or Mackinaw City on Thursday, May 13th to send a clear message to Enbridge that they can't violate the law by operating Line 5 without an easement.

On Thursday, May 13th Enbridge will officially be violating Michigan law by continuing to operate the aging and dangerous Line 5 pipeline in our Straits of Mackinac. Regular people are always required to obey the law or face consequences, but Enbridge thinks that their money buys special privileges, including violating Governor Whitmer's lawful shut-down order with impunity.

We aren't just going to sit by quietly while Enbridge keeps our Great Lakes at risk. Michigan residents must continue making our voices heard. On the 13th, we will be physically delivering eviction notices from the people of Michigan at Enbridge locations in Mackinaw City and Lansing. Click on this link to register: <https://cleanwater.salsalabs.org/mi-event-line5-may21/index.html>

# Brew & Stew

## Upcoming Topics

THURSDAY MAY 20, 2021

4—5:30 PM

*Since all of our members who have participated in recent events have been vaccinated, the May 20th Brew & Stew will be held at the Sand Lake Sports Bar in National City in their outdoor seating area. There is no Wi-Fi there so we will not hold a hybrid meeting on Zoom that day.*

### "DEMOCRATS' TO-DO LIST BEFORE THE 2024 ELECTION"

*Join Bob Kennedy as he leads a dialogue about what Democrats need to accomplish before 2024 election.*

Bob was the 2016 Democratic Party Candidate for the 106th State House District, which includes Alcona, Alpena, eastern portions of Cheboygan, and Iosco counties. Bob is a lifelong resident of the region. He attended college in Alpena and served six years in the Army National Guard. Kennedy taught for Oscoda Area Public Schools for 38 years.

# ICDP Committee Roundup

## Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

### MAY

20: Brew & Stew

4—5:30 pm **IN PERSON!**

Sand Lake Sports Bar

3949 Saginaw Street

National City, MI

Outdoor seating area

### JUNE

1: Monthly General

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm on Zoom

17: Brew & Stew

4—5:30 pm

### JULY

6: Monthly General

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm on Zoom

15: Brew & Stew

4—5:30 pm

### AUGUST

3: Monthly General

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm on Zoom

19: Brew & Stew

## Communications — *Cindy Schwedler & Sue Duncan*

Viewpoint on WJKC Radio Date on the Air	ICDP Member
April 12th	Richard Douglass
April 19th	Józef Drozdowski

Newspaper Publication Date	ICDP Writers
April 7th	Bob Kennedy: Line 5 Terry Austin: rebuttal of Republican point of view (POV) Richard Douglass: rebuttal of Science of Masking
April 14th	Carole Bleau: Photo, Donation to the Homeless Shelter Józef Drozdowski: rebuttal of Masking POV
April 21st	Jesse Lyman: Democrat point of view Betty Fahselt: Denmark and Sweden comparison

Letter writing campaign:	Topic	ICDP Writer
Senator Jim Stamas	Voter suppression bills	Deb Carmichael
Senator Jim Stamas	Solar Cap Bill 4236	Carol Bleau Sue Duncan Cindy Schwedler
MI House of Representatives members Jim Haadsma, Donna Lasinski, Mari Manoogian and Ranjee Puri	Solar Cap Bill 4236	ICDP
US Air Force	PFAS	Sue Duncan Cindy Schwedler

## Community Action — *Susan Mayer & Sue Duncan*

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped up to attend board meetings in Alabaster, Baldwin, and Sherman townships. We are still looking for people to attend board meetings in AuSable, Burleigh, East Tawas, Reno, Wilber and Whittemore townships. With the townships receiving American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 money it is important that we are aware of board plans to spend it. Feel free to contact us! Sue Duncan 989-791-5471/[susanduncan12951@gmail.com](mailto:susanduncan12951@gmail.com) or Susan Mayer 440-915-6057/[susanmayer1109@gmail.com](mailto:susanmayer1109@gmail.com).

# ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

## Conservation Committee—*Jim Mortimer*



Will Line 5 be shut down on May 12 as the State's order revoking Enbridge's easement in the Straits of Mackinac requires? The Iosco County Board of Commissioners will not have decided whether they are in favor of the ruling or not by then. We learned at the April meetings of the Commission that there is no consensus on shutting down Line 5. Two board members are interested in protecting our land and lakeshore from the immediate risk of a failure of the 68-year-old twin pipelines crossing the Straits of Mackinac. Others are not saying.

It is difficult to draft a resolution that matches the consensus of the board members. We have tried to deal with questions the board members have on the issue dealing with jobs and the economy. However, some of the board members will not return our calls to understand their thinking on specific points and questions. It is possible some may support Enbridge's position focused on

the construction of a tunnel and benefits of Line 5 energy in MI presented in the April 7 Commission meeting by a representative of Enbridge.

The Iosco County Democratic Party believes this issue is one of wide interest. With four more Lake Huron shore county parties, we convened a non-partisan seminar in January of 2020 in Alpena to learn from the experts on the issue and the Assistant Attorney General what is involved and how the state is attempting to protect us from this risk through legal action. We know that Representative Sue Allor is concerned and supports legal action to deal with it.

We will see what happens on May 13 when the easement is revoked. Legal actions among many interested parties will take time. Meanwhile property owners in counties along the Huron shore directly bare the risk of the pipeline's failure and will speak out about their concerns.

### 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

Józef Drozdowski – **Vice Chair**

drozdow@gmail.com

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

lauriejmiles@yahoo.com

Tom Davidson – **Treasurer**

coffcreek@yahoo.com

Kathleen Davidson – **Trustee**

ekathleen\_davidson@yahoo.com

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

j.mortimer@earthlink.net

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

ccschwedler@gmail.com

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

susanduncan12951@gmail.com

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

susanmayer1109@gmail.com

Duane Brejjak – **Chair, Digital Organizing Committee**

dbrejjak@gmail.com

Monica Peach – **Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**

mluzpeach@gmail.com

## ICDP Ads in Local Newspaper

### Ads

The ads to the right are from the March, April & May editions of the monthly *What's Happenin'* newspaper in Iosco County.

### Not on a Committee Yet?

Now's the time to get involved in ICDP Committee activities. Take a look at the ICDP Leadership & Committee List on Page 9, and reach out to a Chair or Co-Chair in an area you are interested in. It's a great way to see the ICDP values in action and contribute to our community!



**Make a difference in our community!**

Join us at  
[ioscocountydems.org](http://ioscocountydems.org)

**My fellow Americans:**

Ask not what your country can do for you;  
ask what you can do for  
your country.

*John F. Kennedy*

*January 20, 1961*



*Iosco County: \$4.87M*  
*Plainfield Township: \$370K*  
*Oscoda Charter Township:  
\$670K*  
*Grant Township: \$150K*  
*and more!*

**THANK A DEMOCRAT:  
Local Impact from the  
American Rescue Plan**

**\$7.2 Million!**

*Moving our communities  
forward to help us, our  
neighbors and our  
communities thrive!*

Join us at  
[ioscocountydems.org](http://ioscocountydems.org)



Why do Republicans think we  
want them to undo what we  
voted for in 2018?

Iosco County voted 54% and  
58% in favor of 2 laws making  
the voting process fairer and  
easier in Michigan

*A YES vote for the 39  
voter suppression bills  
means your voice is  
silenced and your vote is  
canceled*

**Contact your  
representative to vote NO**

Join us at  
[ioscocountydems.org](http://ioscocountydems.org)

## Michigan's own Gary Peters Most Effective Senator in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

Senator Gary Peters, a Democrat who has served the State of Michigan in the House of Representatives since 2009, and served in the Senate since 2015, was named *the most effective Senator in the 116th Congress* by the nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking in March 2021.

The Center recognized Sen. Peters in its biennial report for effectiveness based on enacting and advancing legislation. During the 2019-2020 legislative year, Sen. Peters passed 10 standalone bills into law, and 14 bills in the Senate. This was more than any other Senator from either party. Most importantly, all of his bills were passed and signed into law with bipartisan support.

The Center for Effective Lawmaking “seeks to advance the generation, communication, and use of new knowledge about the effectiveness of individual lawmakers and U.S. legislative institutions”. Their goal is to see “a Congress comprised of effective lawmakers, strong institutional capacity, and the incentive structure needed to address America’s greatest public policy challenges”.



The Center interviewed Sen. Peters about legislative effectiveness, bipartisanship, bridging House-Senate differences, and more. You can watch the interview here <https://thelawmakers.org/conversations-with-lawmakers/discussing-legislative-effectiveness-with-senator-gary-peters>.

## Spring Art Show in Oscoda

Enjoy the upcoming “Spring Art Show” at the Robert B. Parks Library, 6010 N. Skeel Avenue in Oscoda. The exhibit is featuring 21 area artists, including our own Cindy Schwedler. The opening reception on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 1pm. The show will be a “stroll through” experience since the library is limited to 20 people at a time due to Covid safety guidelines. The opening reception will be catered by the wonderful Sunrise Kava Cafe coffee shop in Oscoda. They will provide goodie bags to take outside or take home to eat. Art will remain on display until June 18<sup>th</sup> so make a plan to get some arts and culture into your summertime activities.

### Editor's Note

Richard Douglass' series on *Healthcare Access in Rural America* will resume in the June edition of *The Beacon*.





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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, & Patsy Mortimer

### Publishing Schedule

#### Articles due:

1st Tuesday of each month

#### Publication Date:

1st Friday after the 1st Tuesday of each month

## ICDP Members Active in Adopt A Forest

ICDP Volunteers Michael Brooks, Judy Goodman, Jim Mortimer, Mary Wright, Judy and Gloria Brooks clean the Kitchen Rd area forest site off of Whittemore Road on April 24, 2021



*"To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people's trash"*

**Bill Nye**

