

Manistee Democrats:

I arrived safely at the Chicago Hilton this afternoon [Aug 18, 2024]. The entire Michigan Delegation (149 delegates) along with delegations from Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, and Montana are rooming here. Many thanks to Phil Knapp for allowing me to park my car in his secure spot at his condo in downtown Chicago saving me \$80/night in parking fees!

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan hosted a great reception at Buddy Guy's Blues Legends bar which is just across the street from the Hilton. All the big hitters from Michigan were there this evening. I had a great conversation with Senator Gary Peters inviting him to include Manistee on his next motorcycle trip through Michigan. Governor Whitmer got the place really rocking with an inspiring speech. Folks were lined up around my table to get the chance to talk to her or get a picture. They even talked to ME while they were waiting to see the Governor! I had some great conversation with many state Reps and Senators who have done such a great job over the past two years getting things done in Lansing for the good of all the people in Michigan. It was also inspiring to see so many younger people in the Michigan delegation. There is a LARGE contingent of college Democrats from UofM, MSU, GVSU, and Wayne State here and believe me, THEY are FIRED-UP!

The DNC hosted all delegates to a party at Navy Pier that featured Chicago-style music and food in a truly amazing venue overlooking Lake Michigan in front of the Chicago skyline. With over 5000 official delegates plus alternates, friends, and family it was jam-packed with people enjoying the common feeling of supporting a winning ticket. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with great Democrats from all over the US at this gathering.

We have a full day tomorrow starting at 7am and I will update you on what I am seeing and experiencing every day during the convention. In the meantime, I hope you will all find a way to get engaged this week to support Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.

John Helge

Chairperson

Manistee County Democratic Party