

Manistee County Democrats:

I apologize that this blog covering yesterday's activities here in Chicago is late in getting to your email inboxes. I was simply too worn-out last night to finish my observations with the details you all deserve! Below you will find my report on Day 2.

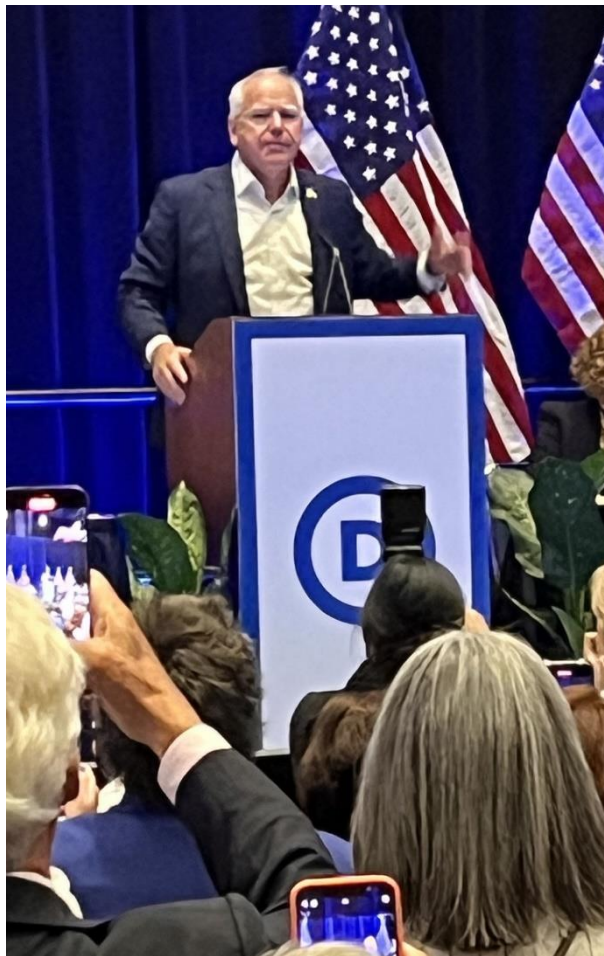
Sleep deprived zombie delegates slowly wandered into the ballroom for breakfast this morning. We heard speakers like Gwen Walz, Secretary Gina Raimondo, Secretary Deb Haaland, NY Governor Kathy Hochul, Maryland governor Wes Moore, US Reps Ro Kahanna and Debbie Dingel. The Michigan delegation is getting a lot of attention due to the combination of our progressive legislative majority and our executive branch triumvirate of strong, capable women. It is also very apparent that Michigan will be a true battleground state that the Harris/Walz campaign must win.



Gwen Walz at the Michigan breakfast

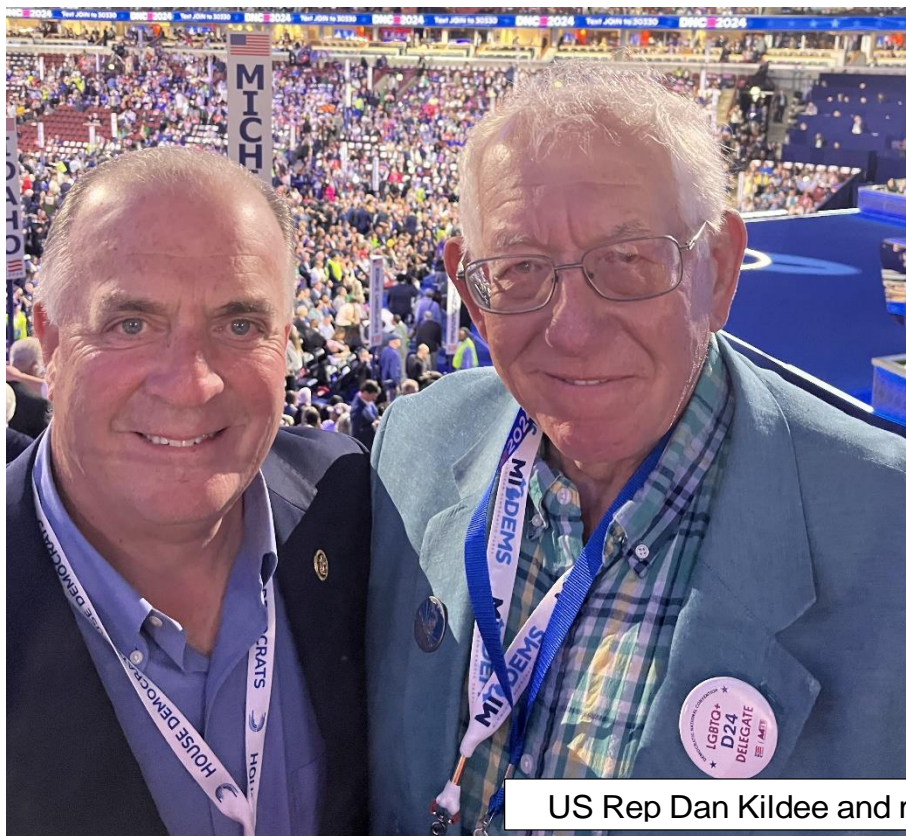
Shuttle bus service was much more efficient today. Its apparent that they got the kinks worked out. The Michigan delegation even arranged dedicated shuttle service for our delegates to prevent having to spend three hours on a bus just to go 1.5 miles in Chicago traffic! I was one of many men welcomed into the Womens' Caucus meeting in a hall that was filled by over 2000 fired up women who are definitely the most active, productive, and vocal base of the DNC. We heard from all the Democrat women state governors as well as Secretaries Granholm, Raimondo, and Haaland. Tim Walz stopped by to acknowledge the important roles women are playing in today's Democratic Party. I then attended the Rural Caucus where we heard from Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear who gave an inspiring speech lauding the importance of rural

voters and how we must work harder to walk the walk by listening and acting on issues that are most important to rural Americans. Hearing him speak so passionately I have a better appreciation for why Kentucky voters re-elected him! He really makes it hard to understand how those same Kentucky voters can also turn around and elect Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell! The panel discussion at the Rural Caucus focused on the importance of developing and sustaining strong local Democratic Party organizations in rural communities. I was happy to learn that many of the proven successful best practices that they were referencing are currently being practiced by the Manistee County Democratic Party. But, I must warn my Executive Committee I have learned some new ideas that I will challenge us to incorporate into our strategic planning process!



Governor Whitmer hosted a big reception prior to the opening gavel. The venue was packed with state and national movers and shakers. She featured her “Fight Like Hell” political action committee and of course her book “True Gretch”. I will be bringing one of her personally signed books that will be available at the Don Jennings Award dinner on Saturday September 21, 2024. Get your tickets online using this link: <https://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/don-jennings-event.html>

The convention floor was filled once again with high energy fueled by joy and hope! I hope you got a chance to see the ceremonial rollcall of the states. It was surreal to have a professional DJ pounding out the tunes that were tied to each state. Michigan was represented by an Eminem track. I saw were once again I appeared on your TV screens during the Michigan report! It was great to have retiring Senator Debbie Stabenow delivering our delegation's votes. We were surprised to be tuned in to hear from Kamala and Tim who were holding a SRO rally in the same arena in Milwaukee where the MAGA cult held their convention last month. THAT was kind of a neat in-your-face moment that must have infuriated the MAGA candidate!. The convention speakers were once again both inspiring and focused on the future. Chants of "We Won't go Back!" broke out several times during the evening. We all felt "the Bern" during Senator Bernie Sanders' speech as he attacked the inequities we experience in social, financial, and environmental justice issues. The night came to a glorious peak with the speeches delivered by Michelle and Barack Obama. It was great to hear Michelle really call out the MAGA cult for their focus on fear and division. She also challenged us to avoid the "Goldilocks syndrome" about a campaign that may experience bumps in the road during the next 77 days. We just need to bear down and get the work done at every level up and down the ballot. Former President Obama was inspirational as always and he too challenged us to work harder because this election will be close and will require the best effort from all of us to save and continue to improve on democracy. All delegates on the floor were waving signs that simply said: VOTE.



US Rep Dan Kildee and me.

Today looks to be another busy day with a big breakfast meeting honoring retirees Senator Debbie Stabenow and US Rep Dan Kildee. There will be more important caucus meetings at McCormick Place and an exciting evening of speakers at the United Center. I am looking forward to hearing from Pete Buttigieg and of course Tim Walz.

Sorry that there are few pictures attached. I am limited in the size of the message.