

## Manistee County Democrats:

As the Michigan delegation gathered for breakfast today the excitement and the rumors were running wide and deep. Will Taylor Swift and Beyonce make surprise joint appearances on the main stage tonight? Will Mitt Romney take the podium and denounce the MAGA Cult that has kidnapped his party? Will Governor Whitmer bring down the house with her speech tonight? What will Elissa Slotkin say to America about her campaign to replace Debbie Stabenow as Michigan's US Senator?

Every morning during breakfast we have been regaled by the Democratic Party movers and shakers and this morning was no exception. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker reprised his convention speech from last night reminding us that HE was a REAL billionaire who would welcome the opportunity to pay his fair share in taxes as tribute to the opportunity this country has provided his family to achieve financial success. The highlight of the morning as it was on the main convention stage last night was the speech from Michigan's favorite son Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg! He spoke extemporaneously with no notes captivating us all with his message. Governor Whitmer had the final word this morning thanking the Michigan delegation for our energy and engagement during the convention. She finished as she always did this week reminding us to "behave and don't do anything to embarrass the great state of Michigan!" Tim Walz may be America's Dad, but Big Gretch is auditioning to America's MOM!

The big "Dempalooza" political trade show was wrapping up at McCormick Place this afternoon. I have acquired a big bag of swag from all the various exhibitors that will be on display at the Manistee County Dems campaign office on River Street in Manistee. I also hope we can put together a couple of 2024 DNC souvenir baskets for the Don Jennings Award Dinner silent auction fundraiser on Saturday September 21, 2024 at Manistee National Golf Resort. I also checked in for more information and training from the Rural Caucus, the Environmental and Climate Change Caucus, and the Veterans' Caucus. All focused on how Democrats can work to continuously improve actions on these important issues for the greater good of all Americans!

I decided to get to the United Center early this evening anticipating it would be even more packed than previous nights. Once again, I spent more than 2 hours in line waiting to go through metal detectors staffed by Secret Service agents. All shuttle busses were stopped and inspected with bomb sniffing dogs prior to entering the disembarking area. I certainly felt safe with all these levels of security for this event. Convention delegates waiting in line made for great conversations finding out about where we were from and the challenges we all face in promoting and supporting our candidates across the country. Inside the arena the air was electric with anticipation for this important evening. The Michigan contingent was decked out in our "Big Gretch" tee shirts for her convention speech and she hit it out of the park. Elissa Slotkin also did a great job with her speech about her work for the CIA and on the US House Security Council. Kamala Harris's historic acceptance speech was

perfect, and the cascade of balloons and confetti was a fitting end to the convention celebration.

The stage is set, the players are in place, and now we all need to get to work to ensure that Democrat candidates up and down the ballot win in November! I hope you all will join me in getting engaged and doing YOUR part !