



[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

### Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

September 22th

(4th Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

Headquarters

342 River St

Guest Speaker

Karen Kolb

*News from the Michigan*

*Democratic Convention*

### Officers

Chair- Dave Berns

dberns46@gmail.com

Vice Chair-

Jeanne Butterfield

jbutterfield2@gmail.com

Secretary- Lisa Hamilton

lisamichelle77@yahoo.com

Treasurer-

Judy Cunningham

jpc4466@gmail.com



Alan Marshall

2016

Don Jennings Award

Winner

By unanimous vote, Manistee County Democrats awarded the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award to long time Democrat Alan Marshall. Marshall served ten years on the Manistee City Council and is currently serving on the Manistee County Board of Commissioners. His nomination form stated he is "a true Red, White and Blue Democrat. Alan is always ready to help out and be a spokesperson for those who can't speak for themselves. I know that he has taken concerns from his constituents and has tried to get results for them. The thing about Alan is that even if the complaint doesn't come back with the outcome you want, it's okay. If Alan handled it then you know that everything possible had been done."

Another person stated, " Alan truly cares about people and his community. He is a thoughtful watchdog, and is willing to ask the hard questions when others just want to rubber stamp decisions and go home. He gives of his time and energy generously to so many events and organizations in Manistee County."

Marshall will be stepping down from the political arena and retiring to take life a little easier.

The Don Jennings Award Dinner will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Little River Casino Resort and Conference Center. Social Hour is at 6 pm and Dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are \$60 with a \$5 discount if purchased before September 24<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660, paying online on our website at [Manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://Manisteecountydemocrats.us), or reserving tickets by email at [donjenningsdinner@gmail.com](mailto:donjenningsdinner@gmail.com). For information, call Peggy at 231-510-3726.

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JOSEPH FARM

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# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



## The Many Ways to Help Assure Victory

You may be feeling overwhelmed by all the calls and emails asking for donations to various Democratic campaigns. It is easy to get frustrated with the seemingly endless requests. You know the importance of funding to assure success of our candidates. The stakes are high, so we stretch to meet the financial challenges. Please be patient with all your colleagues pleading for more of your financial resources. They are doing a vital job and they hate having to ask.

Money is vital but we have so much more to offer than just money. To make the greatest contribution, you might consider some of the vital opportunities for local action and leadership.

Staffing our local Dems office is my personal favorite volunteer activity. Many people drop by to get campaign signs, to choose buttons, to obtain bumper stickers and to show their support. Working at the office provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people and to become involved.

Our local, state and federal candidates also need help with phone calls, visiting strong Democratic voters and making sure we get out the vote in November. Behind the scenes opportunities include making campaign buttons, stuffing envelopes, preparing newsletters, working on computers, maintaining the office and preparing for events. There is vital work for all people and for all interests.

This November, Manistee County Dems will elect a new Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary. We are in desperate need of youth enthusiasm, seasoned experience and new ideas. You have great untapped potential that will not be unleashed unless you step forward.

As the campaign season progresses, please be kind and generous to our fellow Democrats asking for your financial support. Money is essential. But your most significant contribution may not be cash. Manistee County needs your time, your energy and your leadership.

By: David Berns, Chair  
Manistee County Democrats

*Call Ellen Somsell to help staff our Headquarters: 231-392-6679*



CONGRESSMAN  
DAN KILDEE TO  
KEYNOTE  
DON JENNINGS AWARD  
DINNER

The keynote speaker for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner is Dan Kildee, Congressman from the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Michigan. Born and raised in Flint, Congressman Dan Kildee is a lifelong Michigan resident who in just his second term in Congress has become a powerful force for Michigan. Congressman Kildee currently serves on the Financial Services Committee, in addition to being Regional Whip.

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee says he's been too busy to think about his political future, but experts say his aggressive response to the water contamination crisis in his hometown of Flint has made him a formidable candidate should he run for governor in 2018. Kildee began complaining about the Flint drinking water crisis before the Snyder administration acknowledged there was a problem in mid-October and at least four months before the governor declared a state of emergency in early January.

The Flint Township Democrat has been a fixture on national cable networks and played a prominent role during the closely watched congressional hearing on the lead exposure of Flint's children. He also gained a national spotlight when he helped secure the release of Flint resident Amir Hekmati from an Iranian prison.

"It's not an exaggeration that Dan Kildee is the man of the hour in Michigan" said Susan Demas, owner and editor of Inside Michigan Politics. "...

Tickets to the Don Jennings Award Dinner can be purchased by mailing a check to Manistee Dems at P.O. 65 Manistee, MI 49660, on our website at [manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://manisteecountydemocrats.us), or by emailing [donjenningsdinner@gmail.com](mailto:donjenningsdinner@gmail.com). Ticket Price is \$60 with a \$5 discount if purchased prior to September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Little River Casino Resort and Conference Center. Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. For information, call Peggy at 510-3726.

## IT IS WRITTEN:

## The Complicated Rules Regarding Write-In Candidates

Write-in candidates face an uphill battle, but every now and then such a campaign succeeds. Recently Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski was elected as a write-in candidate, and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan won his primary election as a write-in. For a longer list of successes, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Write-in\\_candidate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Write-in_candidate).

So it is worth having at least a little information about how the write-in process works. Each state has its own rules for write-ins. Michigan's can be quite confusing in a number of respects. There are differences in the rules applicable to primary and general elections; partisan and nonpartisan races; and single- versus multiple- winner elections. This note will give a simplified explanation of the principles applicable in Michigan.

Declaration of Intent Requirement. A voter can't just write in (by the way, stickers are allowed) the name of anyone. Well, they can, but the vote will not count unless the candidate has filed a Declaration of Intent by the second Friday before the election. But there are a couple of exceptions. Candidates for precinct delegate can file later – indeed they can do so on election day. And if a candidate on the ballot dies or is disqualified after the second Friday before the election, a Declaration of Intent is not required for write-in candidates.

Which Write-In Votes Are Counted? As just noted, a write-in vote will not be counted if it is for a person who has not filed a Declaration of Intent. In addition, the write-in vote must correctly designate the office for which the write-in candidate is running, and, if it is a partisan primary, the party the candidate has specified in the Declaration of Intent.

The name does not have to exactly match what the candidate put on the Declaration of Intent. The controlling Michigan Supreme Court Decision, Petrie v Curtis, 387 Mich 436 (1972), said:

“Where the intent of the voter as expressed by his ballot, when considered in the light of such surrounding circumstances, is not doubtful, the ballot should be counted and allowed for the person intended.”

So the Board of Canvassers may accept a variation in the spelling of a write-in candidate's name if the voter's intent is clear.

To facilitate this, the election inspectors are to record separately the variant spellings, e.g.,

Dave Berns -- County Clerk – Democrat – 16 votes.

Dave Burns -- County Clerk – Democrat – 2 votes.

David Berns -- County Clerk – Democrat – 1 vote.

(continued on next page)

Partisan Elections -Primary Versus General Elections. A write-in candidate for a partisan election must designate the party whose nomination the candidate seeks, and, as noted above, the write-in vote must correctly specify the party. But a write-in candidate in a general election is required to run without party affiliation.

Vote Threshold Requirements. In general elections and non-partisan primaries, there is no minimum number of write-in votes needed to win the election or to advance from the primary to the general election (at which the former "write-in" candidate will be listed on the ballot).

But in partisan primaries there are minimum vote requirements. To advance from the primary to the general election, a candidate must receive the greatest of the following totals:

- a. 10 votes
- b.  $1/15^{\text{th}}$  of 1% (.0015) of the population (based on the latest federal census) of the district from which the officer holder is to be elected. For example, Manistee County has 24,733 people, which means 37 votes are required for a write-in candidate for a county-wide office.
- c.
  1. If the election is one in which a single person is to be elected, 5% of the number of votes cast for all candidates of that party in the race in which a single person is to be elected and the most votes were cast. For example, in the August 2 primary, if I was a Democratic write-in candidate for County Clerk, I would have needed 87 votes – 5% of the total number of votes cast for all Democratic candidates for County Treasurer (1,737 votes, the most in any Democratic race in which one person is to be elected).
  2. If the election is one in which more than one person is to be elected, 5% of the greatest number of votes cast for any candidate seeking the same office as the write-in candidate. So, for example, if I had been a Democratic write-in candidate for Manistee Township Trustee, I would have needed 5% of the votes received by John Dontz, the top vote-getter in that race – that is, 5% of 403 votes, or 20 votes. [Note that the calculation under ¶ b would have been 6 votes -- .0015 times the township's population of 4,064].

An Observation. There are times when no one files for a party's nomination for an office. That happens a lot in township races, but it was also true this year in Manistee County for Clerk, Prosecutor, Register of Deeds, and County Surveyor, as well as several County Commission districts. If a reasonable potential candidate is identified after the filing deadline, it would not be an insurmountable task for that person to run as a write-in for the "vacant" nomination, print up a few hundred stickers, and recruit people to use them, which then puts that candidate on the ballot for the general election. No one seems to have done so this year (there were 193 Republican write-in votes for County Treasurer, but apparently no one person met the Republican threshold of 165 votes), but it is worth keeping in mind for the future.

## Early Absentee Voting is Changing our Elections

It is estimated that in Michigan almost a third of voters will be voting on an absentee ballot in this election. Anyone over 60 can vote absentee. Anyone who would need someone else's help to get to the polls, can vote absentee. Anyone out of town or unavailable to get to the polls, can vote absentee. With so many people voting early, *our candidates need to reach voters by September 24<sup>th</sup>, when absentee ballots become available through township and city clerks.*

Voting absentee is simple. If you are a registered voter, all you do is fill out an application for a ballot and mail it to your Township or City clerk's office. Applications can be picked up at the Democratic Headquarters (342 River St, Manistee), your township/city clerk's office, or download an application online at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot\\_105377\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot_105377_7.pdf).

Applications must be received by your clerk no later than 2 p.m. November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday before the election. Once they receive your signed application form, they will check your signature against your voter registration card and issue you a ballot immediately. If you are already out of town, they will mail your ballot to your temporary address.

After you receive your absentee ballot, you have until 8pm on Election Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>, to complete your ballot and return it to the clerk's office.

In case of a sudden illness or an emergency that will prevent you from getting to the polls, you may request an emergency absentee ballot. Requests must be received by 4pm on Election Day. Your local clerk will have more information about emergency absent voter ballots.

### **Voter Suppression Tactics in Play**

For those who must show up at a poll on November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Snyder Administration has worked hard to put up barriers that will affect urban areas voting more Democratic. The first tactic was the removal of numerous polling sites around the state. The second was the law eliminating straight ticket voting. State Democrats opposed the law, arguing that it would "disenfranchise voters, who become frustrated by long lines and are forced to leave before voting." A federal judge agreed, and the final decision will be made by the U.S. Supreme Court between now and November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The final tactic: Michigan's Republican Secretary of State announced last week that over 900,000 voters had been "purged" from registered voting records, but only 400,000 were due to the death of the voter. Check ahead to confirm that you are still registered.

Check your registration at: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/>

*THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT ELECTION THAN THIS ONE.*



## **Dan Scripps Calls VanderWall's Pledge to Cut \$551 Million from Michigan Schools "Reckless"**

As students across Northwest Michigan return to school following the summer break, education issues are increasingly coming to the fore in the race for State Representative in the 101<sup>st</sup> District.

Democratic candidate Dan Scripps this week criticized Republican Curt VanderWall for signing onto a plan that would cut more than \$550 million in funding from Michigan schools. At issue is VanderWall's support for a proposal from Americans for Prosperity, an advocacy group funded by David and Charles Koch, that would redirect all sales tax paid on gasoline towards road funding. Under Proposal A, approximately 73% of sales tax revenue, including sales tax paid on fuel, goes to support Michigan schools. Michigan currently brings in approximately \$755.0 million in sales tax revenue on gasoline, which provides \$551 million in funding for Michigan schools.

"Our kids deserve better than Curt VanderWall's proposal to cut more than half a billion dollars from Michigan schools," Scripps said. "Local districts are already struggling just to get by, and this irresponsible proposal backed by Curt VanderWall and his special interest allies will lead to more school closings, increased class sizes, and fewer opportunities for local kids."

In contrast, Scripps has made improving funding for local schools a centerpiece of his campaign. During his previous service as State Representative, Scripps voted against every cut to education during some of the most difficult budget times in Michigan history. He also worked across the aisle to form the House School Equity Caucus to address the unfairness in school funding.

"Local students deserve a representative who will tackle the unfairness in school funding that deprives local students of the opportunities they need to succeed," said Scripps. "This reckless proposal to cut an additional \$551 million from Michigan schools would just make things worse."

### **Important Dates**

September 12 – Coffee Hour with Dan Scripps, 1pm at Goody’s Coffee Shop

September 20 – Movie at Headquarters: *“Where to Invade Next”* by Michael Moore. FREE, 6pm, Refreshments

September 24 – Deadline for discount for Don Jennings Tickets

September 26 – Join us at Headquarters for the First Presidential Debate Gather at 8:30pm, Refreshments

September 28 – LWV Dan Scripps vs. Curt Vanderwall Debate at 7:00pm  
Manistee High School Auditorium

October 2 - Country Picnic at Joseph Farm, 3pm, 1171 Kerry Road, Brethren

October 4 – Movie at Headquarters: *“Iron-Jawed Angels”* an inspiring account of the American suffragette movement. FREE, 6pm, Refreshments

October 6 - LWV Local Candidates Forum, Farr Center Onekema 7 pm

October 9 - Join us at Headquarters for 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Debate, 8:30pm

October 11 – Last day to REGISTER TO VOTE for General Election

October 15 – DON JENNINGS DINNER, 6pm, Little River Resort & Casino

October 19 – Join us for Final Presidential Debate, 8:30 pm

November 5 – Deadline to request absentee ballot

NOVEMBER 8 - GENERAL ELECTION 7am-8pm

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### **COUNTRY PICNIC**

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**11171 KERRY ROAD - BRETHREN - FOR INFORMATION, CALL 231-477  
5381**

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