



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

September 20

(3rd Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

DEMS Campaign Office

342 River Street

Officers

Chair

Gary Madden

genie42br@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Laurel Mason

laurele52@charter.net

Secretary

Peg Raddatz

peg.raddatz@gmail.com

Treasurer

Judy Cunningham

jpc4466@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Shirley Madden

HELP ELECT DEMOCRATS!

Manistee came through for Matt Morgan and Kathy Wiejaczka in the Primary! Thank you for your votes and for spreading the word. Manistee had 860 write in votes for Matt Morgan.

Now the real work begins.....we have an incredible slate of candidates - Matt Morgan, Kathy Wiejaczka, Debbie Stabenow, Gretchen Whitmer, Dana Nessel, Jocelyn Benson and our fine County Commission candidates.....but we'll have to work hard to get them elected and representing our values.

Having face-to-face conversations with voters is the most effective way of getting people to vote for our candidates. We knock on doors, and we tell people about our great candidates.....it's fun and we meet good people. This year is especially gratifying.

Will you help? Please? We desperately need change in both Washington and Lansing - and we have candidates who will fight for us. But WE need to fight too - to get them elected!

Peggy Raddatz is organizing Manistee's canvasses, for both campaigns. You can email her at peg.raddatz@gmail.com, or meet her at the Manistee Dems office at 342 River Street on Thursdays at 4:30 pm or Saturdays at 2:00 pm.

Hope you will help get Matt and Kathy and our other terrific candidates elected! Hope to hear from you!

DON JENNINGS

AWARD DINNER

SEPTEMBER 8

RESERVATIONS

EMAIL:

DonJenningsDinner@gmail.com



Gary Madden

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Your help can assure our success on November 6th

The Primary Election is behind us. The Michigan Democratic Party had its' Nominating Convention in Lansing on August 25-26, as we move into the final month of campaigning leading up to this year's mid-term elections. Now we have the Democratic Party's final slate of candidate and a completed platform on which they will run. There will be much hard work ahead of us

to begin taking back our country from the extreme right wing of the Republican Party. The key issue will be in turning out the vote this November. An analysis of the recent primary election in Manistee County revealed that only 32% of the electorate came out to vote and of those, Republicans out voted Democrats by a significant margin. Particularly absent were younger voters. Since younger people tend to be more progressive in their views, they will be a critical factor in November's election.

Research has shown that face-to-face contact is the most effective way to reach voters. This means knocking on doors in our community. This effort has been underway for some time with the Wiejaczka campaign, and is ramping up with the Morgan and Taillard campaigns. Our county party needs to support this effort, since the candidates cannot do it alone. Unfortunately we have had very few volunteers willing to step up and canvass for our candidates.

There is no denying that canvassing is hard work. When we send volunteers out, we give them a list of likely democratic voters called a "turf." The names on the lists have been screened and we only approach voters who have supported democratic candidates. We try to impress upon them the importance of voting and ask for their commitment to vote for the candidate we represent. It usually involves about two hours of walking in our neighborhoods. Since lists are continually updated it is unlikely that a volunteer will receive a hostile reception. Volunteers get to talk to a lot of new people in this way, which can be very satisfying, particularly if you're a people person. You also get great exercise, which will guarantee a good night's sleep.

There are other ways to help other than knocking on doors. We need people to help staff our office downtown. Ericka Kaiser has volunteered to be our Office Manager and can be reached at 989-423-5252 if you can donate some time. Volunteers work in two -hour shifts, six days a week from 12 pm to 4 pm. We want to expand these hours to 6pm on Fridays and Saturdays, if possible. Phone banking is another technique for reaching voters that is also dependent on volunteers. We can also get the word out by passing out literature in the neighborhoods, or hosting a party to introduce the candidates to friends. All of these activities require willing workers. This year a small group of the usual folks will not be enough.

Finally, if you cannot volunteer your time and energy, dedicate yourself to talking to the younger people in your life about the importance of this election cycle. Talk to your children, your grandchildren, friends and neighbors, talk to them about the stakes involved and the need to participate in our system of government by voting. There are no guarantees that America, as we know it, will always prosper and continue as it always has.

So, when you are called by someone in the party asking for some of your time, please pitch in and help. If you do, I guarantee that we will all have something great to celebrate after November 6th. Thanks for supporting the Manistee Democratic Party and thanks for giving your time!



DAVID BERNS
2018 DON JENNINGS
AWARD WINNER

David Berns dedicated his career to fighting for social justice. He leads with kindness and compassion while bringing everyone to the table. He has served in both Democratic and Republican administrations concentrating not on increasing or decreasing spending in human services but rather on investing in better outcomes for children, adults and families. He learned long ago that we all benefit when we create communities that maximize the potential for all.

David received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Public Human Services Association. He was specifically recognized for addressing the inequalities in the nation's child welfare systems resulting from poverty. Several studies have showcased his integration of financial assistance programs as primary prevention supports in child welfare. These efforts resulted in substantial reductions in the need for foster care and the safe reunification of children with their families in Michigan, Colorado and Arizona.

David has been designated as a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers. This is one of the highest honors bestowed in the profession of social work. This award noted his work as the state child welfare director in Michigan. Dave assisted the six graduate schools of social work in Michigan to improve their curriculum in child welfare and to provide opportunities for child welfare workers to obtain their MSW degrees without having to quit their jobs. This resulted in hundreds of DHS child welfare workers obtaining their MSW degrees.

Mr. Berns was selected as the Social Worker of the Year in Colorado for his leadership in welfare reform. Several studies noted his implementation of the TANF program in Colorado Springs as the most humane and successful welfare reform approach in the nation. The effort was based not on punitive mandates but rather on providing the supports necessary for all families to maximize their own self sufficiency.

David Berns moved to Manistee in 2014 when he retired from his position as Director of the Department of Human Services for the District of Columbia. He became the vice chair and then chair of the Manistee County Democratic party. He continues to work on issues of social justice. He is opposed to the ill-conceived work requirements recently added to the Medicaid program. Dave is trying to guide the state toward a more humane implementation of the plan based on supporting people to be successful rather than punishing them when they are unable to obtain employment.

David and Colleen (Tabaczka) Berns have been married for over 50 years. They have two children, (Christine Garrett and Matthew Berns) and five wonderful grandchildren.

Poll: Likely Michigan voters support giving schools more of this

By Lori Higgins *Detroit Free Press*

MICHIGAN — Nearly 70 percent of Michigan residents who participated in a June poll support a plan that would boost school funding, giving backers of that plan some strong ammunition as they look to influence the November elections.

“We need to make school funding an unavoidable issue in the current election cycle and beyond,” said Wanda Cook-Robinson, superintendent of Oakland Schools, the intermediate school district for Oakland County.

Cook-Robinson is a member of the School Finance Research Collaborative, a bipartisan group of business and education experts aiming to ensure fair and equitable funding for schools across the state.

The group, formed in 2017, commissioned a first-of-its-kind study about school funding in Michigan that — when released earlier this year — called for the state to increase the base amount it spends per pupil to \$9,950, an increase of \$1,500.

Additional money was recommended for students who are more costly to educate, including special education students, high-poverty students, English language learners and students enrolled in career and technical education programs.

The base amount doesn’t include transportation, food service and capital costs.

The statewide poll of 601 likely voters in the November general election — conducted from June 12-18 — found the following:

60% of poll participants said they supported the plan when given basic information about it.

Support rose to 67% when participants were given more information, particularly details about how the proposal would benefit the more costly-to-educate students.

70% believe Michigan’s schools are not adequately funded

63% said Michigan’s current school funding system isn’t fair.

Support for fixing Michigan’s school funding system crossed partisan and geographic boundaries.”

(continued on page 5)

Poll: Likely Michigan voters support giving schools more of this

(Continued from page 4)

The poll results, “should be a wake up call to policymakers on both sides of the aisle, and anyone running for elected office,” Cook-Robinson said. She hopes the study and its recommendations will be used “as a road map for a new, fair school funding system.”

“The timing is right now for this to be part of the election dialogue,” said Matt Gillard, CEO of Michigan’s Children and also a member of the school finance group.

Michael Addonizio, professor of education policy studies at Wayne State University and a member of the group, said **the poll results make it clear Michigan residents see the current system as “failing our students.”**

Per-pupil funding varies widely in the state. In metro Detroit, for instance, a number of districts and charter schools received the bottom amount of \$7,631 during the 2017-18 school year and the two highest-funded districts — Birmingham Public Schools and Bloomfield Hills Schools — received slightly more than \$12,000 per pupil.

“Michiganders want a new school funding approach that meets the wide ranging ... unique needs of all students,” Addonizio said.

The Three R’s and the Environment

The Manistee County Democratic Party is launching a new column to help readers learn new ways to reduce their personal impact on the environment. We are asking readers to submit techniques they use to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. We will include selected ideas for publication in future newsletter as a way of education each other on the importance of reducing our environmental footprint.

To begin with let’s explain what the three R’s are:

1. **Reduce:** Put simply, buy only what you NEED. Do you really need that plastic bobble-head figure of you favorite sports figure? Your benefit? You save money!
2. **Reuse:** Find way to reuse or repurpose the things that we buy. If Americans by 10 billions kitchen food storage bags each year and if all of them get rinsed out and reused twice, the number of bags produced will drop to 5 billion; if used three times, it drops to 3.3 billion. You benefit? You same money and you keep plastic out of the landfill.
3. **Recycle:** Only 30% of Americans recycle some of their trash. The benefit of recycling come from knowing that you are taking a first step in reducing your carbon footprint on the planet.

Of course, many of us are already practicing the three R’s. Why not share what you are doing with others? Please submit your ideas via email to Gary Madden at genie42br@mail.com.

Primary Election in Michigan

Submitted by Laurie Mason

Confusion and some disgust over voting in the last Primary Election in Michigan seemed to center around voters being unable to vote for candidates from more than one party. In other words, voters cannot “split their ticket”. This is because Primaries in Michigan are Open Primaries whereas some states have Closed Primaries.

An Open Primary means that voters do not need to register as a member of a particular party. This provides an opportunity to influence election outcomes in the party not of one’s usual choice. Small influence, maybe, but every vote counts!! The terms of participation in primary elections can vary by jurisdiction, political party, and the office of offices up for election.

The purpose of a primary election, open or closed, is to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties in advance of a general election. This occurred in the primary election held on August 7th and was in preparation for the general election, which will be held on November 6, 2018. Also, present on ballots in primary elections, there may be proposals, which have been submitted according to the rules of the jurisdiction. Libertarian Party candidates were present on the primary ballot for the first time in the August election.

Looking ahead to the general election in November- October 9th will be the last date to Register to Vote. October 26th is the final date for candidates to file a Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate. November 3rd at 2:00 pm is the date/time deadline to submit an application for an absentee voter ballot to be received by mail. **If you spend the winter away from the location where you are registered to vote, best to allow plenty of time regardless of the “official” rules.**

Questions? Check out the websites for Voting in Michigan. Great deal of information is available. Next newsletter: Discussion of write-in candidates.

Manistee County Dem's Mobile Office

On Friday, August 17, the Manistee County Dem's Mobile Office made its first appearance in Onekama, from 12 – 4. Gary Madden used his van as the mobile office. The mobile office was parked in front of the Post Office. The banner showing "Manistee County Democrats" was attached to the side of the mobile office. A flag of the United States was attached to the antenna. Yard signs for all the local candidates were displayed on the side of the van. Inside the van was literature on the candidates. Shirley Madden was available to talk with people about membership.

Eight people came by and fill out the membership form. One man came up and asked where he could get registered because he hadn't voted in awhile and now he is definitely getting out to vote. Well, there were also Voter Registration forms in the Mobile Office. He also completed the membership form.

Some members came by to say hello. They were all glad that we were making a presence in Onekama. Cecelia Huebner, Martha Schimke, Val Clements and Dave Wallace stopped by to lend their support. Even Kathy and Kent Wiejaczka stopped by because they were in the area. There were others who drove by and honked as they gave signs of encouragement. Another gentleman and his wife, stopped their car in the street and told us, "Be emphatic" and the rest of that slogan is, "vote Democratic."

Even those people who did not want to stop and talk, saw the Mobile Office and glanced at signs. Our presence was felt and acknowledged by most.

On Friday, September 7, the Manistee County Dem's Mobile Office will be in Wellston from 12:00 – 4:00. It will be parked in front of the Post Office. Those in Wellston, please come by and tell your friends and neighbors to stop by.



2018 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January – December 2018

How you benefit from being a member of the Manistee County DEMS?

- ★ Influence local policy and candidates
- ★ Receive email, phone, and newsletter notifications about upcoming **Democratic** events
- ★ Attend the monthly business meeting featuring Guest Speakers (Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the Dial A Ride Building)
- ★ Volunteer opportunities for specific events such as Parades, County Fair and Blue Tigers

Share your ideas to make the Democrats a relevant voice in our County
 Join our discussion group by signing up on our website
 Go to our WEBSITE at manisteecountydemocrats.us
 Join us on FACEBOOK facebook.com/groups/21048470915534
 Or on TWITTER <https://twitter.com/manisteedems>

-----CUT & SEND BACK BOTTOM PORTION-----
 Please join today and send in a separate membership form for each member of your household

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Other joining members in same household _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

E-mail _____ Send my newsletter by email

2017 Membership Levels Per Individual

- 100 Club - \$100.00
- Gold Club - \$50.00
- Silver Club - \$25.00
- Supporter - \$10.00
- Grassroot Supporter – Count me In – No Charge _____

_____ Amount of Enclosed Check

Please make checks payable to
 Manistee County Democratic Party

Send this completed form along
 with your check to:
 Manistee County Dems
 P.O. Box 65
 Manistee, MI 49660