



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Holiday Celebration Potluck

December, 10th | 6pm
Farr Center, 5283 Main St, Onekama
See page 3 for more info!

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Michigan voters collectively passed Proposal 3 in the November 2022 election, effectively codifying abortion rights for people in the state under the Michigan Constitution.

Proposal 3, also known as the Reproductive Freedom for All initiative, is a proposed constitutional amendment that would protect the legal right to abortion and contraceptives in Michigan. The proposal passed with majority support -- 57% for compared to 44% against. The constitutional amendment that is approved by the majority of voters will take effect 45 days after the date of the election in which the proposal passed, which would be around December 23.

The amendment will do the following (as written in the proposal):

- Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;
- Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health;
- Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;
- Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment.

** Excerpt from www.clickondetroit.com article*

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

DEMOCRACY WINS!



John Helge

The polls have closed. The votes have been counted. The people have spoken!

We should express our thanks and appreciation to the local, regional, and state-wide candidates who did not get the most votes on Tuesday. They all ran good campaigns that were focused on meeting and listening to the challenges and issues that were most meaningful to their voters. They all made their opponents engage with the voters and work harder to win. By the way, all the local and regional candidates that finished as runners-up have graciously conceded to the winners. This is the way it should be done in a true democracy where the vote tally is the voice of the people and the deciding factor.

Congratulations should then be given to those who ended up with the most votes. Hopefully they will accept the reality that they will be expected to actively participate in a government that serves all the people in their districts not just those who may have voted for them or those that have pledged allegiance to their political party or their cult leader. This realization is what true representative democracy is all about! All voters should now be actively engaged in monitoring the action or inaction of those they voted for and holding them accountable to working for the greater good for all people that they represent.

I had the opportunity to observe our democracy in action on election day as I visited the polling places in Manistee County. At every location I observed our friends and neighbors serving as dedicated poll workers who diligently followed the rules and best practices to make the voting process safe, secure, and fair for the 13,280 Manistee County voters who participated in this election. The township and city clerks did an outstanding job training their poll workers and supporting them with the resources they needed to effectively do their important jobs. I also saw voters patiently standing in line to take their turn casting their votes. Many young parents had their children along to experience the voting process which is another good sign that our fragile democracy has a bright future! Due to excellent preparation, planning, the availability of absentee ballots, and early in-person voting the lines were typically not more than 30 minutes long. Everyone who showed up got a ballot and saw their vote counted!

On a state-wide and national level, it was gratifying to see voters reject candidates who were willing to embrace the endorsement of an egotistical, bullying cult leader who threatened to abolish our democratic form of government. The disgraced former President now has the additional legacy of backing over 330 losing candidates in 2022 as well as losing the White House, the Senate, and the House in 2020. This week's election results more than anything else should help the Republican Party decide to return to normality and reject the lunacy of the past six years. This "recovering Republican Party" may not find it easy to win in the future. There are new organizations, new connections, new voters, and new efforts to remake this country better than it has ever been. The failed efforts of the MAGA radicals to suppress voting, gerrymander the country, spread wild conspiracy theories, and take away our right to choose our leaders indicates we voters are far more powerful than we may have believed we were!

Finally, Proposal 3 passed in Michigan with a significant margin. This amendment to the Michigan constitution will simply restore a woman's right to choose that she had when Roe v Wade was in precedence over the last 50 years. Michigan women will now be able to consult with and make important and critical reproductive health care decisions with their physicians and both parties will not have to be concerned about repercussions from an outdated or overly restrictive law. This result clearly illustrates the power of truth over lies. Michigan voters

were assailed with deception and misinformation on billboards, yard signs, and religious organization sponsored mailings that condescendingly called Proposal 3 “Too Confusing” and “Too Extreme”. Michigan women and men saw through the flurry of propaganda and sent a strong message to our elected officials that they should not be taken for granted or treated like fools in the future!

Come one – Come all

You're Invited to the Holiday Celebration Potluck



December 10th 2022 | 6:00 pm
Farr Center
5283 Main St,
Onkama, MI 49675



We'll serve Sander's Ham
Share some Wine
Ladle Presbyterian Punch
If you'd bring a dish to pass and your own table service
We'll have a jolly, good time!

ELECTION ANALYSIS

By Rick Schrock

Michigan Democrats created a blue wave in 2022. Michigan gave our Democratic Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General a second term. The GOP kicked out Republican Congressman Peter Meijer because he voted to impeach Trump. Now that seat belongs to a Democrat. Democrats control the Michigan House and Senate for the first time since 1984. This flip happened in part because our neighbor, Betsy Coffia, beat our old St. Rep., Jack O'Malley, in a newly formed district. Democrats have a majority on our Supreme Court. It was a very good year for Michigan Democrats.

Manistee County was different. Not long ago our county was seen as a blue island in a sea of red. While many Trump devotees lost their election bid around the country this year the majority of the Manistee County Republicans decided that no candidate was too extreme or too confused.

Voting patterns in Manistee County have changed in the last decade. We are now seeing more voter engagement in mid-term elections. Straight ticket voting has increased. We have seen increases for both parties, but Manistee County Republicans outperformed us in both turnout and straight party voting.

The Trump Era has benefited the Manistee GOP more than the Democrats. Before Trump we were the exception in NW Michigan. We were as blue as the entire state or more so. No longer.

Before Trump we leaned Democratic. Manistee County was Obama territory. In 2008 Obama won with 58% of the vote and by 54% in 2012. We supported Mark Schauer for Governor rather than Rick Snyder. We supported Debbie Stabenow for Senator.

We saw a shift starting in 2016. In 2016, we rejected Clinton in the primary and instead supported Bernie Sanders. Clinton then lost to Trump in 2016. Biden lost to Trump in 2020 in Manistee County. Traditional Democrats had fallen out of favor in Manistee County as they had in most rural areas of the country.

By 2018 state Democratic candidates that were winning statewide were losing in Manistee County. Gretchen Whitmer, Jocelyn Benson, Dana Nessel, and Debbie Stabenow all lost in Manistee County but carried the state.

Mid-terms had never been strong for Democrats in Manistee County. The typical thinking was more Democrats and their independent allies stayed home during mid-terms while Republicans were more consistent voters. Democrats have focused on mid-term turnout, but so have Republicans. Democrats worked to get their inconsistent supporters to the polls. Republicans worked to get frustrated non-voters to start to participate in elections as new voters. It appears that Trump was the catalyst they needed. The GOP has brought in many new voters to shift the party balance.

Mid-term election turnout has been steadily increasing. In 2010 there were 8865 votes for Governor candidates representing the two major parties. In 2014 the turnout increased a little to 9014. Once we entered the Trump era turnout increased for both parties. In 2018 the turnout jumped to 11,348. In 2022 it grew again to 12,390. This is almost a 40% increase from 2010. Turnout is now at levels previously seen only in Presidential elections.

Straight party voting has changed. In 2014 we had 1966 voters who voted straight GOP. That increased to 2768 in the 2016 Presidential election. This year it exploded to 3973. In 2014 there were 1986 Democratic voters who voted straight ticket. This increased only slightly to 2025 in the 2016 election. This year 2769 Democrats voted straight party.

National and state politics have a huge influence on local turnout. Voters often come to the polls to vote for a few races at the top of the ticket. They keep voting for the same party as they go down the ballot. As a result down ballot office seekers are the victims of political trends far from their district.

County elections particularly suffer from Republican straight ticket voting in the Trump Era. We have fielded some exceptional County Commission candidates who ran excellent campaigns simply to be overwhelmed by people who vote for the party and not the person. The City of Manistee is the most Democratic area in the county. Our two Commissioners representing that area have run so strong in the past that the GOP never even offered challengers this year. Two GOP Commissioners in the county were also unchallenged. There were three more Commission seats contested and the Republicans won all three.

2022 was a good election year for the country and especially for the State of Michigan. In Manistee County we have our work cut out for us.

CHALLENGES IN COUNTY RURAL POLITICS POST TRUMP

By Judy Cunningham

I was hoping for miracles in the Manistee County Commissioners races. For months we canvassed, mailed out postcards, held pop-ups and meet and greets.

What happened? Shirley Madden had a strong showing against Jeff Dontz, only losing by 231 votes in district 5 where Biden got 44% of the vote. Megan Scott lost by 462 and Howard Gimpel lost by 559 votes but Biden got less than 36% of the votes in their districts (3 and 1).

All this effort in local races is due to a new program MCDP started this election cycle to improve our chances of winning local elections. Candidate Recruitment and Support staff stay involved with candidates from recruitment until Election Day -working alongside them through the campaign process.

How can we beat the odds and win in strongly red districts with the numbers so much against us? We've already made plans to stay more involved in communities like Wellston. Megan Scott is interested in staying involved in her Township meetings. We will be more visible and start dialogues with rural voters between elections.

We will make their concerns our concerns.

We had incredible candidates that were perfect for their areas. Megan Scott and her animal rescue farm made a strong impression on voters from her rural area.

Shirley Madden's strong campaign had Jeff Dontz announcing his loss preemptively at Township meetings. Shirley, with all her charms, was the right candidate to take him on.

Howard Gimpel impressed voters with his knowledge and professionalism while speaking, but he had the toughest numbers to overcome.

All three candidates excelled during the Manistee Area Chamber Forum and made us proud of our candidates and proud to be Democrats.

ELECTION ANALYSIS FROM A GEN Z PERSPECTIVE

WE VOTED FOR THE FUTURE: NOW THE REAL WORK BEGINS

By Amanda Babcock, Co-Founder YPANM

Across Michigan, Democrats had a strong showing this election. Not only did the top names on the ticket win reelection, but Props 1, 2, and 3 all soundly passed. Our gains this year in the state legislature and keeping the top names on the ticket are largely due to young people, especially Gen Z, getting out and voting to reinstate their constitutional reproductive rights. As good as winning feels though, this is no time to sit back and relax. We should all take a moment and feel proud of what we've accomplished, absolutely, but the Democrats now control both chambers of our state congress for the first time in 130 years. With this historic opportunity comes a responsibility I hope our elected officials won't take lightly: our future has voted for them, and they have the chance to protect that future. It's tempting to believe that a blue wave has truly come over Michigan and that our leaders won with an overwhelming majority, but a quick look at an election breakdown will remind us that this simply isn't the case.



If we want to keep the majorities here in Michigan, it's critical now more than ever that we put the future of Michiganders first. To that end, as the legislature sets its agenda for the next two years, I would encourage them, and us, to think about how we can get our young voters involved. Now more than ever we need to

recognize the critical role young people have. Generation Z has shown up for this election, and there is no reason we can't make that happen again next time if we continue to work for policies that will last for the next generation: this is the time for our state legislature to dream bigger, work harder, and come back even stronger for the young people who believed in them.

The Young Progressive Activists of Northwest Michigan, founded by Mara Davidson, Rebecca Amidon, and Amanda Babcock, are a group dedicated to holding events to provide education and constructive outreach to Northwest Michigan on progressive ideas. We believe that by continuing to expand knowledge on important issues at the local level, we will create change that will impact every Michigan resident for the better.

BEST POLITICAL PODCASTS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

Keeping up with the news these days can feel like a full-time job. Luckily, political podcasts are here to help, and even better, you can listen to them for free. Podcasting has been growing in popularity, with an estimated 104 million Americans listening monthly. The number of political podcasts alone grew by 1,000 right after the 2016 election. But with more than two million podcasts across all topics to choose from, it can be hard to know what the best podcasts are. You can listen to podcasts using free apps such as: Spotify, iTunes, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, or YouTube.

1. Left, Right & Center
2. The Argument
3. How to Citizen with Baratunde
4. The NPR Politics Podcast
5. Stay Tuned with Preet
6. Self Evident
7. In the Thick
8. NPR's Throughline
9. The Road to Now
10. The United States of Anxiety
11. Pantsuit Politics
12. Government for Grownups



* Excerpt from <https://www.rd.com/article/best-political-podcasts/>

2022 ELECTION SEASON PICTURES





🤡 ELECTION COMICS 🤡



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership issued _____ Membership Category _____

VAN # _____ MDP Expire _____

Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January 1- 2022 - December 31, 2022

Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) membership included for all membership levels

Visit Website: www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Facebook: [Manistee County Democrats](https://www.facebook.com/ManisteeCountyDemocrats)

Please check off three (3) or more categories where you can volunteer your time and skills.

ASSIST CAMPAIGNS

- Make phone calls
- Knock on Doors
- Write Letters
- Train/manage Volunteers
- Compile Mailings
- Absentee Voter Program
- Attend Events
- Deliver Yard Signs
- Pick up Yard Signs
- Get Out The Vote (GOTV)
- Call / text members re: meetings
- Provide Food
- Mobile Office
- Newsletter Committee

ASSIST POLITICAL EVENTS

- Voter Registration Drive
- Annual County Picnic
- Manistee County Fair
- Candidates Meet 'n Greet
- Fundraisers
- March in Parades
- Event Planning
- Poll Watchers
- Work Campaign Office
- Run for Precinct Delegate
- Run for Political Office

ASSIST SERVICE EVENTS

- Feed America Food Truck
- Annual Country Picnic
- Environmental Film Festival
- Blue Tigers
- Holiday Party
- Don Jennings

SERVE ON A COMMITTEE

- Candidate Recruitment
- By-Laws Committee
- Finance Committee
- Membership Committee
- Communications Committee
- Scholarship Commtee
- Campaign Committee
- Editorial Committee

I have campaign / political experience: _____

This yearly membership is for the **MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**. A separate MDP registration is required to vote or run for office at any level of the Democratic Party. Your optional donation to MCDP is greatly appreciated to help defray expenses, operate a campaign office and to support candidates. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

- Grass Roots - \$0
- Young Democrats (ages 18 - 25) - \$5
- Ontario Club \$25 per person
- Erie Club \$50 per person
- Huron Club \$100 per household
- Superior Club \$250 per household
- Michigan Club \$500 per household
- Donation to Blue Tigers
- Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Optional: set up payment plan with your bank or with our internet: manisteecountydemocrats.us

Please return the entire sheet. Your receipt is forthcoming via email or the U.S. mail.

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Other joining member in same household _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PH#() _____ Cell#() _____ Email _____ @ _____

AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK \$ _____

Signature

____/____/ 2022
Date

***** **Make checks payable to Manistee County Democratic Party** *****
Mail to : Manistee County Dems, P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660